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Revanth Reddy Urges DCC Leaders to Uphold Congress Ideology and Grassroots Connect



Vikarabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Revanth Reddy addressed District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents at the inauguration of their training programme, calling it a timely initiative by the Indian National Congress to strengthen organisational values and leadership at a critical juncture for the country.

ironic. Emphasising that the party believes the soul of India lies in its villages, he said the training programme comes at a time when there are attempts to weaken constitutional principles, making it essential for leaders to stay ideologically grounded.
Revanth Reddy highlighted the legacy of national leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi, noting their sacrifices for the nation. He also referred to the contributions of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, stating that their commitment symbolises the party's tradition of service and sacrifice.

He said the Chief Minister urged DCC presidents not to view their positions as authority posts but as responsibilities to unite party workers and resolve differences. He recalled his own experience of meeting leaders personally to build consensus, which he said helped the party grow from a marginal vote share to a decisive electoral victory in Telangana. He added that digital membership drives and grassroots engagement had strengthened the organisation across constituencies. Revanth Reddy stressed that merit, not favouritism, would guide opportunities within the party and warned against misuse of positions. He said leaders who performed well had been given chances to contest elections or hold public posts, reinforcing a culture of accountability.

Highlighting social justice measures, he noted initiatives such as caste enumeration and steps toward equitable representation, saying these reflected the Congress commitment to inclusive governance. He also pointed to increasing support in successive elections as evidence of growing public trust. Concluding his address, the Chief Minister called for unity and discipline, asserting that the Congress and the nation are deeply intertwined. He urged leaders to focus on public issues, strengthen the party in both Telugu states, and work collectively to ensure continued political growth and democratic values.

Harish Rao Slams Government Over Arrests, Alleges Police Bias

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Harish Rao, former minister and Deputy Floor Leader of the Assembly from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Indian National Congress government, alleging misuse of police machinery and irregularities during local body elections.

Rao made the remarks after visiting 13 BRS workers lodged in remand at the district jail in Sangareddy, who were arrested in connection with recent poll-related incidents. He was accompanied by party legislators and senior leaders, including Chinta Prabhakar and others. Speaking to the media outside the jail, he accused the government of attempting to suppress opposition voices through "illegal cases and intimidation."

Reiterating his party's stance, Rao said the BRS would continue to fight what it described as political vendetta and ensure that democratic norms and legal procedures are upheld across the state.

Taking aim at the state's policing system, Rao questioned whether the "khaki rule book" was being applied impartially and alleged that law enforcement agencies

were acting under political pressure. He also criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing the administration of undermining democratic values while claiming commitment to the Constitution. He also referred to Rahul Gandhi, saying leaders who speak about constitutional principles should respond to developments in the state. The BRS leader alleged that in certain municipalities his party secured a majority but still faced administrative hurdles. Citing incidents in Medak and other towns, he claimed that opposition activists were targeted with serious charges without adequate evidence, while complaints against rival leaders were ignored. He also questioned why alleged violations of the election code by ruling party leaders were not acted upon by authorities.

Revanth Reddy Attends Weddings, Heads to Vikarabad for Congress Training Meet

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had a busy schedule on Saturday, attending multiple family functions in Hyderabad before proceeding to Vikarabad district to participate in a Congress party training programme.
The Chief Minister first attended the wedding of Manasa, daughter of Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Damalapati Srinivas, held at HITEX. He greeted the families and blessed the newlywed couple, wishing them a happy and prosperous married life.
Later, he attended another wedding ceremony in the Financial District, where he blessed Prashanth, son of Telangana High Court judge



Surepalli Nanda. The Chief Minister interacted briefly with guests and conveyed his best wishes to the couple and their families.
Following the engagements, the Chief Minister departed from the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport for his Vikarabad district tour. Accompanying him were ministers D Sridhar Babu and Pongulati Srinivasa Reddy, along with Legislative Council Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy.
The Chief Minister

reached Vikarabad and was accorded a warm welcome by public representatives, party leaders, and senior officials from the erstwhile Rangareddy district. He is scheduled to participate in the inaugural session of training classes for District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, being held at a Haritha Resort in Ananthagiri Hills.
Party sources said the training programme is aimed at strengthening organisational structure

and preparing leaders for upcoming political and public outreach activities. The session will focus on coordination, party strategy, and strengthening grassroots engagement across both states.
Officials said the Chief Minister will review arrangements and interact with party functionaries during the programme. The visit underscores the importance the party leadership is placing on organisational strengthening and coordination between district units.
With a mix of official and personal engagements, the Chief Minister's schedule highlighted both his participation in social events and his focus on party organisational activities, as he continues outreach efforts across districts.

Hyderabad on Course to Become 'Healing Capital': Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Saturday said the State government is taking strategic and long-term measures to transform Hyderabad — already recognised globally for its strong pharmaceutical and life sciences ecosystem — into a "Healing Capital" by seamlessly integrating healthcare with digital innovation, artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics.
Speaking at the valedictory session of the PHUSE APAC Connect 2026 held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre, the Minister noted that healthcare systems worldwide are undergoing rapid transformation. He said the future would be shaped by the convergence of clinical science, real-world evidence and cutting-edge technologies, which together can significantly enhance patient care, research efficiency and policy planning.



City, the expansion of Genome Valley as a global research cluster, the establishment of Young India Skills University, and major investments in digital infrastructure to enable large-scale health data analytics. The government is also working on citizen health profiling, a dedicated medical tourism policy to attract international patients, and the proposed Telangana Life Sciences School to nurture future talent.
The Minister stressed that collaboration across disciplines will be critical to achieving meaningful progress. He said researchers, clinicians,

data scientists and technology companies must work together on shared platforms to accelerate innovation and ensure that breakthroughs translate into affordable and accessible healthcare for all sections of society. According to him, such partnerships will not only improve public health outcomes but also position the State as a global destination for healthcare innovation and investment.
Reiterating the government's commitment to supporting research and industry partnerships, Sridhar Babu invited global institutions and companies to collab-

orate with Telangana in tackling emerging healthcare challenges. He expressed confidence that sustained collaboration would help create high-skill jobs, boost investments and strengthen the State's reputation as a leader in next-generation healthcare solutions.
PHUSE Board Chairman Stephen Bamford, Life Sciences Director Sarvesh Singh, IT Advisor Sai Krishna and several international delegates attended the event, which concluded with a call for deeper global cooperation to shape the future of healthcare from Hyderabad.

KTR Criticises Youth Congress Protest at AI Summit

New Delhi, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Saturday strongly condemned the protests staged by Youth Congress activists at the India AI Impact Summit-2026, stating that such actions undermine the dignity of international forums and could adversely affect India's global reputation.
Responding to the incident, KTR said interna-



holders. Turning such events into platforms for political demonstrations, he said, sends a wrong message to investors, researchers and delegates attending from across the world.
He remarked that while dissent and political disagreements are part of a healthy democracy, they should be expressed through appropriate channels and not during high-profile global gatherings. According to him, protests at such venues risk shifting at-

tention away from substantive discussions and may create an impression of instability or lack of consensus, which could impact investor confidence.
KTR also termed the timing of the protest "unfortunate," noting that the demonstration reportedly took place while Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was speaking at the summit. He said such disruptions dilute the focus of the event, which is aimed at

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Congress Launches 10-Day Leadership Camp at Ananthagiri

Vikarabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
A 10-day special training camp for District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana began on Saturday at Ananthagiri in Vikarabad district as part of the "Sanghatan Srujan Abhiyan" programme, aimed at strengthening organisational capacity and leadership skills within the party.

The camp was inaugurated in the presence of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who attended as the chief guest. Senior party leaders from both states participated in the inaugural session, underscoring the importance of organisational preparedness ahead of future political challenges.



Sachin Sawant, State ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Ponnam Prabhakar, and Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy were also in attendance, along with government adviser Vem Narendra Reddy and MLA Ram Mohan Reddy, among others.

The programme is being organised under the guidance of the Sanghatan Srujan initiative leadership, with coordination by organising secretary Vamsi Chand Reddy and oversight from senior party functionaries. Over the next ten days, participants will undergo intensive sessions covering leadership development, public policy engagement, grassroots mobilisation, media management, and electoral strategy.

Party leaders said the camp is designed to equip district-level leadership with the skills required to effectively address public issues and strengthen the party structure from the grassroots level. They emphasised that structured training initiatives were essential for building cohesive teams and ensuring consistent communication of party ideology.

Speakers at the event expressed confidence that the initiative would help further consolidate the Congress organisation in both Telugu-speaking states by fostering coordination between leaders and promoting a shared vision for future political engagement. They noted that such programmes also provide a platform for emerging leaders to interact with senior leadership and gain insights into governance and policy priorities.

Tummala Nageswara Rao Announces Extension of Cotton Procurement Till February-End

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao announced that cotton procurement operations across the state will continue until the end of February, offering significant relief to farmers who are yet to bring their produce to market. The extension follows a request from the state government to ensure that farmers do not suffer losses due to delayed crop arrivals.



The minister said the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) agreed to the extension after the state explained that cotton cultivation began late this season, resulting in a delay in harvesting and market arrivals. He also noted that the issue was taken up with Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, urging them to support the state's appeal so that farmers could receive fair prices under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism. As per official data, cotton was cultivated on 45.32 lakh acres in the state this season, with production estimated at 28.29 lakh metric tonnes. So far, CCI has procured 16.15

lakh metric tonnes worth 12,823 crore from about 8,80,053 farmers. Additionally, around 2.24 lakh metric tonnes of lower-grade cotton were purchased through market channels. However, officials estimate that nearly 9.99 lakh metric tonnes of cotton still remain with farmers, highlighting the need to keep procurement centres operational. The minister also referred to the Centre's "Kapas Kisan" initiative, which initially faced resistance but is now helping streamline the procurement process. Through the app-based system, farmers can schedule their

sales, avoid long queues, and sell produce at nearby centres in a transparent manner. He further highlighted the state government's mobile urea booking application, introduced to ensure timely fertiliser supply and prevent black marketing. According to the minister, the initiative has improved transparency and helped regulate fertiliser distribution across districts. Farmers had expressed concern after reports suggested that procurement centres might close before all produce reached the markets, raising fears that they would be

forced to sell to private traders at lower prices. In response, the minister urged CCI to continue procurement for an additional 30 days to ensure that every farmer gets the opportunity to sell at MSP. He said the extension until February-end would provide much-needed relief and urged farmers to utilise the extended window by bringing their cotton to the nearest CCI procurement centres. Reaffirming the government's commitment, he stated that protecting farmers' interests remains a top priority and that all necessary support will continue to be provided.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy Seeks 3 Lakh Rural Houses from Centre

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has formally requested the Union government to allocate three lakh rural houses to the state during the current financial year, highlighting a substantial housing shortfall across villages. The demand was raised as part of the state's broader strategy to accelerate welfare measures and ensure housing access for economically weaker sections.



The minister met Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Hyderabad and submitted a detailed memorandum outlining the urgent need for additional housing units. He emphasised that a large number of eligible families in rural areas continue to live in inadequate or temporary structures, making timely support from the Centre crucial. According to the minister, rural housing construction witnessed limited progress over the last decade, creating

a significant backlog. He said the present government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has been consistently pursuing the issue with the Centre for the past two years, seeking adequate allocations to bridge the gap. He appealed for three lakh houses this year and an additional two lakh units in the next financial year to systematically clear pending requirements. Highlighting the state's own initiatives, the minister said Telangana has already sanctioned close to four lakh houses under its flagship Indiramma housing programme this

year. The government aims to cover all eligible beneficiaries within the next three years, and central support would significantly enhance the pace and scale of construction. He also pointed out that Telangana did not participate in the earlier phase of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme, which resulted in the absence of legacy beneficiary data. After joining PMAY-G 2.0, the state undertook extensive surveys using the Awaas+ mobile application to identify deserving households. The exercise reportedly identified about 11.57

lakh eligible rural families in need of housing assistance. The minister stressed that secure housing is a fundamental component of social welfare and rural development. He reiterated that the state government is committed to providing permanent homes to the poor and expressed optimism that the Centre would respond positively to the request. Approval of the proposed allocation, he said, would not only improve living standards but also generate employment and stimulate local economic activity across rural Telangana.

Ponnam Prabhakar Slams Centre Over 'Exclusion' at AI Summit

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday criticised the Union government over the conduct of the Bharat AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi, alleging that the Centre failed to extend due respect and invitations to opposition leaders. He asserted that the summit was an international event organised by the Government of India and not a programme belonging to any particular political party.



Speaking to the media, the minister said India represents collective leadership and cannot be reduced to any single individual, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He argued that opposition leaders should have been formally invited and treated with dignity at an event meant to showcase the country's technological progress to the world. Prabhakar pointed out that when Telangana hosted the Vision 2047 Bharat Summit, leaders across political lines were invited, including senior BJP figures G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, as well as former Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao. He said such inclusiveness

reflects the spirit of cooperative federalism necessary for national development. The minister clarified that the Congress party had no intention of obstructing the AI summit but was disappointed with what he described as the Centre's "narrow approach" in handling the event. According to him, international forums should demonstrate unity among Indian leaders rather than political divisions. Citing earlier instances, Prabhakar alleged that opposition leaders have repeatedly faced

protocol issues, referring to seating arrangements at national events. He said such actions send the wrong signal globally and undermine democratic values. The minister also defended Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, stating that he is not driven by positions or titles but by public service. He recalled the sacrifices made by the Gandhi family, saying their contributions to the nation remain significant. Emphasising India's tradition of unity in diversity, Prabhakar urged

the Union government to adopt a broader and more inclusive outlook in national and international engagements. He said political differences should be addressed in Parliament and elections, not during global events where the country's collective image is at stake. The minister expressed hope that the Centre would reassess its approach and ensure that future international platforms reflect India's democratic ethos and unity, strengthening the country's standing on the global stage.

Seethakka Highlights Telangana's Women-Led Growth at National Financial Literacy Summit

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Seethakka highlighted the state's progress in women's economic empowerment while addressing the National Financial Literacy Conference, stating that the financial advancement of women is central to Telangana's development model.



In her keynote address, the minister said the state government is successfully implementing the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme to strengthen women's economic independence. She emphasised that enabling women to participate actively in the economy not only improves household incomes but also accelerates overall economic growth. According to Seethakka, nearly 4.668 million women are progressing financially through about 437,000 self-help groups (SHGs) across the state. She credited the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for prioritising women's empowerment and creating policies that expand their economic opportunities. The minister said the government has facilitated bank credit worth 35,435 crore to women's

groups over the last two years, helping them launch businesses and strengthen livelihoods. Under the Indira Mahila Shakti initiative alone, women's groups have established around 205,000 micro-enterprises, she noted. Seethakka also announced that interest worth 1,121 crore on loans taken by women's self-help groups has been waived since the present government assumed office. To provide financial security, the state is implementing loan insurance and accident insurance coverage for SHG members, she added. Highlighting innovative livelihood models, the minister said women's groups are being

encouraged to manage revenue-generating ventures such as RTC rental buses, petrol bunkers and solar plants to ensure stable incomes. She pointed out that women's collectives earned profits of around 3.5 crore during the recent Sammakka Saralamma Jatara with government support. Quoting the vision of B R Ambedkar, Seethakka said society progresses economically only when women achieve financial growth. She noted that women's participation in India's GDP currently stands at about 18 percent, compared to roughly 40 percent in developed nations, underlining the need for greater inclusion.

She called for stronger collaboration between the Centre, states and banking institutions to further accelerate women's empowerment initiatives. Union Minister Pemasani Chandrasekar praised Seethakka's address, saying her speech clearly reflected the transformative impact of women-centric policies and the importance of financial inclusion in driving inclusive growth. The conference concluded with a renewed emphasis on strengthening financial literacy and expanding institutional support to ensure more women become active contributors to the country's economic expansion.

BJP MLA Rakesh Reddy's Sharp Remarks Against CM Revanth

Medchal, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Tension prevailed in Medchal after Armoor BJP MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy made sharp remarks against Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and staged a protest following police intervention. The incident occurred when the MLA was stopped by Medchal police while travelling to meet a fellow legislator.

According to sources, the MLA was on his way from Hyderabad to Kamareddy to visit BJP MLA Katiyally Venkata Ramana Reddy, who was reportedly injured during a clash between Congress and BJP leaders near his camp

office. Police intercepted Rakesh Reddy near National Highway 44, in front of a police station, preventing him from proceeding further.

Angered by the move, the Armoor MLA questioned the police action, alleging that he was being stopped despite going to express solidarity with a colleague who had allegedly faced an attack. He stepped out of his vehicle and staged a protest on the road, leading to a brief tense situation at the spot. Supporters gathered, and traffic movement slowed as police attempted to pacify the protesting leader.

During the protest,

Rakesh Reddy strongly criticised the state government and the Chief Minister. He warned that once the Bharatiya Janata Party comes to power in Telangana, he would ensure that Revanth Reddy is arrested "in the same Medchal streets" by the same police personnel. His remarks triggered sharp reactions from political observers, further escalating the political rhetoric between the ruling party and the opposition.

Police later shifted the MLA to the station to defuse the situation and restore normalcy. Officials said the action was taken as a precautionary measure to prevent any

law-and-order issues. The episode comes amid heightened political tensions between the BJP and the ruling Indian National Congress in Telangana, with leaders from both sides trading accusations over recent clashes and law-and-order concerns.

Political analysts note that such confrontations reflect the increasingly heated political climate in the state, especially as parties intensify their public outreach and criticism of each other. Meanwhile, authorities maintained that maintaining peace and preventing escalation remained their priority.



BJP Condemns Arrest of Party Workers in Banswada: Ramchander Rao

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao strongly condemned the arrest of party workers in Banswada, alleging that police action against those staging a peaceful protest undermines democratic rights.

In a statement issued on Friday, Rao said the Bharatiya Janata Party views the arrests as "highly unfortunate," stressing that expressing dissent through peaceful protest is a fundamental democratic right. He alleged that detaining party workers without justification reflects an attempt to suppress voices of opposition.

The controversy reportedly began at a Reliance Mart outlet where a devotional song dedicated to Goddess Durga was played. According to the BJP leader, an employee belonging to another faith objected to the song, which later escalated into tensions in the area. Rao cited reports claiming that



stones were allegedly thrown by a group during the incident, creating fear among local residents.

Emphasising the need for communal harmony, Rao said the BJP believes mutual respect among communities is essential for maintaining social peace. He added that no individual or group should take the law into their own hands under any circumstances.

At the same time, he accused the state government of acting with bias and targeting

members of the Hindu community, while failing to ensure impartial enforcement of law and order. Rao alleged that police action appeared selective and urged authorities to avoid what he termed "vindictive measures."

The BJP leader said the focus should instead be on identifying those responsible for violence and initiating strict legal action against them, irrespective of their background. He warned that perceived partiality in handling such incidents could erode

public trust and weaken democratic values. Rao demanded the immediate release of BJP workers who were detained during the protest and called for a fair and transparent investigation into the incident. He reiterated that maintaining law and order requires equal protection for all citizens and impartial policing. The party said it would continue to raise the issue until justice is ensured and urged the government to act responsibly to restore confidence among the public.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Calls Sangathan Srujan a Historic Step for Organisational Strength

Vikarabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee and Member of the Legislative Council, described the Sangathan Srujan programme as a historic initiative aimed at strengthening organisational structure and nurturing quality leadership within the party.

Addressing party leaders and workers in Vikarabad, Goud said the training initiative would play a crucial role in instilling Congress ideology among cadres and preparing them for future political challenges. He emphasised that organisational reforms are essential for bringing about meaningful change across the country and noted that the process of selecting new District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents marked only the beginning of a broader transformation.

Highlighting the importance of continuous learning, Goud remarked that leadership development requires

constant training and self-improvement. He recalled past training camps that helped shape party leaders and said similar initiatives would strengthen the party at grassroots level. He urged leaders to adhere to the guidelines of the All India Congress Committee and work collectively to build a strong organisational network.

Goud credited Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for restoring public confidence in the Congress and said the party came to power by connecting with people's aspirations. He claimed that several guarantees announced at public meetings had already been implemented and asserted that the government was steering the state towards development and welfare.

Taking a swipe at the previous administration led by K Chandrashekar Rao, he alleged that the state's finances had been weakened earlier but were now being stabilised through coordinated efforts of the present leadership. He also



said the Congress had secured strong public support in local body elections, winning a significant share of municipal and panchayat seats.

Goud called on party workers to focus on booth-level strengthening and to make effective use of social media for outreach while maintaining discipline. He noted that the Sangathan Srujan programme had already been conducted successfully in multiple states and ex-

pressed confidence that it would further energise the party in Telangana.

The TPCC chief also said the Congress remains committed to inclusive governance and social harmony, asserting that national unity and democratic values would be strengthened through organisational consolidation. He concluded by urging party cadres to work with dedication to ensure continued public trust and future electoral success.

Harish Rao Calls for Stronger Support to Farmers at Raithu Badi Agri Show

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau
Former minister T Harish Rao on Friday stressed the need for greater technological support and policy protection for farmers while addressing the Raithu Badi Agri Show held at NTR Stadium in Hyderabad. He attended the event as the chief guest and spoke extensively on the challenges faced by the farming community and the measures required to make agriculture more sustainable and profitable.

Rao lauded agricultural educator Rander Reddy, noting that his Raithu Badi platform has reached over three million subscribers across South India and has been playing a key role in spreading awareness about various crops and modern farming practices.

Highlighting Telangana's agricultural progress, Rao said the state has emerged as one of the leading producers of paddy in the country due to improved irrigation infrastructure. He credited former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao for initiatives such as



large-scale irrigation projects and tank restoration, which helped transform drought-prone regions into productive agricultural zones. The former minister pointed out that oil palm cultivation, once limited largely to coastal regions, has expanded in Telangana, particularly in Siddipet district, where it is being cultivated across nearly 12,000 acres. He added that such diversification has helped enhance farmers' incomes and reduce dependence on traditional crops. Rao emphasised that labour shortages have become

a major concern in rural areas, with farmers increasingly relying on migrant workers from states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. To address this, he said, the government must promote farm mechanisation by providing subsidies on agricultural equipment and facilitating access to modern technology.

Expressing concern over trade policies, Rao warned that certain international agreements and reduced import duties on commodities such as palm oil could adversely affect domestic farmers by lowering market prices. He

urged the Union government to clarify the long-term benefits of such decisions and ensure that local producers are protected from unfair competition.

He also called on the state government to release financial assistance to farmers on time and adopt more inclusive policies that consider issues like delays in land documentation. Concluding his address, Rao said farmers need both economic security and policy stability, and urged authorities to prioritise agriculture as a key driver of rural prosperity.

RS Praveen Kumar Accuses Government of Targeting BRS Workers After Jail Visit

Hyderabad, February 14, 2026 | TPN Bureau
K. Kavitha, president of Telangana Jagruthi, on Saturday launched a sharp critique of the state government while reiterating her organisation's commitment to social empowerment and cultural preservation. Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad, she accused the ruling establishment of failing to effectively implement key promises and said several sections of society were still waiting for meaningful relief.

Kavitha stated that governance should prioritise inclusive development and social justice, asserting that policy decisions must reflect the aspirations of ordinary citizens. She alleged that issues concerning welfare delivery, employment opportunities, and support for marginalised communities were not receiving adequate attention. According to her, there was a growing need for transparent governance and accountability to restore public confidence.

Highlighting the role of Telangana Jagruthi,



Kavitha said the organisation would intensify its outreach programmes across districts, focusing on youth engagement, women's empowerment, and the promotion of Telangana's cultural heritage. She emphasised that Jagruthi would continue to act as a bridge between civil society and policymakers by bringing grassroots concerns into the public discourse.

She also stressed that constructive criticism was essential in a democracy and should be viewed as an opportunity to improve governance rather than as political confrontation. Kavitha called on intellectuals, activists, and community leaders to

actively participate in discussions on development priorities and social equity.

Referring to the broader political climate, she observed that public awareness and civic participation were increasing in the state. She said this shift underscored the importance of responsive leadership and inclusive policymaking. Kavitha added that her organisation would host a series of cultural and awareness programmes in the coming months to strengthen community engagement and encourage dialogue on pressing social issues.

The Jagruthi chief concluded by reaffirming her commitment to public causes, stating

that the organisation's future initiatives would be shaped by feedback gathered during its statewide interactions. She expressed confidence that sustained engagement with communities would help address local challenges and contribute to more equitable development.

Her remarks come at a time of heightened political activity in Telangana, with parties and social organisations stepping up their outreach efforts following recent civic developments. Observers say Kavitha's continued public engagements signal her intent to remain an influential voice in the state's socio-political landscape.

Honour for Kinnera Maestro Mogulayya

LB Nagar, February 21 | TPN Bureau

Renowned folk artist and Padma Shri awardee Darshanam Mogulayya was felicitated by the LB Nagar police after he was recently conferred an honorary doctorate, recognising his lifelong contribution to preserving the rare 12-step Kinnera musical tradition.

LB Nagar Police Inspector praised Mogulayya as a cultural torchbearer who introduced the unique Kinnera art form — considered one of the rarest

musical traditions of Telangana — to audiences across the country and beyond. The honour ceremony took place when the artist visited the LB Nagar Police Station on Friday, where officials extended a warm reception.

Mogulayya was recently awarded an honorary doctorate by Global Human Peace University in Chennai in recognition of his efforts to revive and popularise the fading art. The 12-step Kinnera, a traditional string in-



strument associated with Telangana's folk heritage, had long been on the verge of extinction. Through decades of performances, work-

shops, and cultural outreach, Mogulayya played a pivotal role in bringing the instrument back into public consciousness.

During the felicitation, the Inspector draped Mogulayya with a ceremonial shawl and congratulated him on the prestigious recognition. He noted that the artist's dedication has not only safeguarded a cultural treasure but also brought pride to both the state and the nation. "Artists like Mogulayya keep our traditions alive and inspire

future generations to value their roots," he said.

Speaking briefly at the event, Mogulayya expressed gratitude for the honour and reiterated his commitment to promoting Kinnera music among young learners. He emphasised the importance of institutional support and community participation in preserving traditional art forms.

Cultural observers say such recognitions play a crucial role in highlighting indigenous art practices that

often struggle for visibility in the modern entertainment landscape. Mogulayya's journey — from performing in rural settings to receiving national honours and now an honorary doctorate — is widely seen as a testament to perseverance and passion for heritage preservation.

The felicitation concluded with police personnel and local well-wishers extending their congratulations, turning the occasion into a celebration of Telangana's rich folk legacy and the enduring im-

AAP Backs Madhu Park Ridge Residents Amid Project Concerns

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has come out in support of residents of Madhu Park Ridge Apartments, who have raised serious concerns over a proposed development linked to the Musi river beautification initiative. The residents fear that their homes may face demolition if the project moves forward in its current form, prompting them to seek the party's intervention and protection. According to AAP leaders, the state government has proposed installing a massive statue of Mahatma Gandhi as part of the Gandhi Sarovar plan, reportedly with an estimated expenditure of around 5,000 crore. Residents allege that the proposal involves clearing their residential complex to make way for the project, which has triggered anxiety among families about losing their homes and livelihoods. The party clarified that it is not opposed to the installation of a statue honouring Mahatma Gandhi or to development projects in general. However, it strongly objected to any initiative that



would displace economically vulnerable residents or leave families without proper rehabilitation. Leaders stressed that if the government intends to build the statue, it should identify an alternative site that does not affect existing residential communities.

AAP also urged the government to act with sensitivity, pointing out that the present period is crucial for students in the locality who are preparing for examinations. Any demolition notices or enforcement action at this time, they said, could create unnecessary panic and distress among families and children. Invoking Gandhi's principles of social justice, welfare of the poor, and non-violence, party leaders argued that removing families from their homes contradicts the very ideals the statue seeks to represent. They called on the government to revisit and

revise the Detailed Project Report (DPR) to ensure that the interests of local residents are protected and that development does not come at the cost of human displacement.

Telangana AAP president Hema Sudarshan Jilloju, working president Burra Ramu Goud, and state leader Prashanth Raj reiterated that the party would continue to stand with the affected families. They warned that if any injustice occurs, AAP would not hesitate to launch democratic protests to protect residents' rights. Local residents have demanded consultations with officials to find a balanced solution that safeguards both development goals and housing security. Observers note that the issue underscores the broader challenge of ensuring inclusive urban development while protecting vulnerable communities.

Strict Sanitation Drive in Dundigal



Quthbullapur, February 21 | TPN Bureau

Authorities launched a special sanitation drive in Dundigal Circle-59 on Friday, issuing a stern warning to residents and businesses that penalties will be imposed on those found littering or violating waste-management rules. The initiative was personally supervised by Zonal Commissioner Sandeep Kumar Jha, who conducted an early-morning inspection across key stretches of the locality.

During the visit, the Commissioner directed officials to ensure that main roads, junctions,

and public spaces remain clean at all times. He inspected the area from Bahadurpally crossroads to the Dulpally ending point, reviewing sanitation conditions and instructing field staff to intensify monitoring. Authorities were told to prevent encroachments on footpaths and maintain clear pedestrian access along both sides of the roads.

Emphasising community participation, officials urged residents to segregate waste at source by separating wet and dry garbage. Households were advised to hand over segre-

gated waste to sanitation vehicles arriving at their doorsteps rather than dumping trash in open areas. The Commissioner cautioned that strict fines would be levied on violators who fail to comply with municipal rules.

As part of the drive, officials were also instructed to clear overgrown shrubs and unwanted vegetation along road margins to improve hygiene and visibility. Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) identified in the circle will be removed permanently through targeted measures, ensuring that habitual dumping spots

are eliminated.

The inspection also focused on enforcing the ban on single-use plastics. Shops, hotels, and other commercial establishments were clearly instructed not to use or distribute such materials. Officials said surprise checks will be conducted to ensure compliance, and enforcement teams will take action against defaulters.

The programme witnessed participation from several senior officials, including Dundigal Deputy Commissioner N. Venkateswara Nayak, Solid Waste Management DEE An-

vesh Reddy, AEE Ashok Kumar, ACP Srinivas, Environment Engineer Satvik, along with sanitation field assistants and circle staff.

Civic authorities said the drive is part of a broader effort to strengthen urban cleanliness and public health standards in the Quthbullapur zone. With stricter monitoring and public cooperation, officials expressed confidence that Dundigal can set an example in maintaining sustainable sanitation practices and keeping public spaces free from litter and encroachments.

Notice Row Rocks Gandimaisamma Double Bedroom Colony

Quthbullapur, February 21 | TPN Bureau

Tension gripped the Gandimaisamma double bedroom housing colony after several residents alleged they had received notices warning of possible cancellation of their allotted homes. Worried families, under the leadership of local BJP representatives, met Eatala Rajender, Member of Parliament from Malkajgiri, seeking intervention and relief.

According to residents,



individuals claiming to represent the Collector's office visited the colony and issued notices stating that

some beneficiaries allegedly owned other properties, vehicles, or utility connections, making them ineligible for the government housing scheme. The sudden development created panic among families, many of whom say the double bedroom unit is their only shelter.

Emotions ran high during the meeting, with several women breaking down while narrating their plight. One resident said she had just begun to feel secure after moving into

the house, only to be shaken by the threat of cancellation. Another woman explained that she had purchased a car through a loan to run a taxi for livelihood, but officials cited the vehicle as a reason for disqualification. Residents also claimed that a woman, distressed over the situation, had attempted self-harm but was saved by neighbours.

Responding to the complaints, MP Eatala Rajender reportedly spoke to district officials over the phone and

assured residents that their grievances would be examined. He said a detailed inquiry would be conducted to ensure that genuine beneficiaries do not face injustice and urged families not to panic.

Local BJP leaders alleged that the issue was being politicised. Dundigal Circle BJP president Peesari Krishna Reddy described the notices as unfair, pointing out that residents had been living in the houses

for nearly three years and regularly paying electricity and other charges. He accused the ruling Indian National Congress of attempting to create fear for political gain and termed the episode a "political drama."

Leaders also highlighted the lack of basic infrastructure in the colony, including drinking water supply, drainage, street lighting, and allocation of shop spaces, saying residents continue to face hardships despite being allotted houses.

Police Extend Compassionate Support to Young Man in Distress Quthbullapur, February

21 | TPN Bureau

Demonstrating that policing goes beyond enforcing the law, personnel from the Jeedimetla Police Station provided timely assistance to a 26-year-old young man experiencing mental health issues, reflecting the Telangana Police's commitment to social responsibility and community care.

According to officials, the young man's parents approached the police seeking help as his behaviour had become difficult to manage due

to his condition. Responding immediately, officers brought him to the station, where they ensured his safety and conducted preliminary counselling to calm him down and understand the situation better. After assessing his condition, the police determined that he required professional medical attention without delay.

The officers then transported him in a police vehicle to the government mental health facility at Erragadda.

They coordinated with hospital authorities and completed the admission formalities, ensuring that the young man was placed under the care of medical professionals for further evaluation and treatment. Police also requested the doctors to provide the necessary care so that he could recover at the earliest.

Officials said the initiative was carried out in line with the directions of Ramesh Reddy, who has been encouraging officers to actively

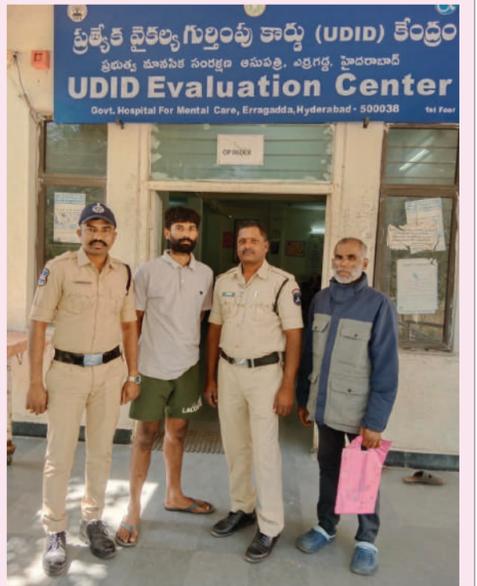
engage in community welfare initiatives. Circle Inspector Gaddam Mallesham stated that the police department remains committed to supporting citizens in distress and responding with empathy during emergencies.

Family members of the young man expressed heartfelt gratitude to the police for their humane approach and swift response. They said the officers' intervention provided them with much-needed relief during a stressful

time and ensured that their family member received professional help promptly. Local residents and community members also appreciated the police for their compassionate action, noting that such gestures help build trust between the public and law enforcement agencies. They said the incident highlights the importance of community-oriented policing, where officers act as both protectors and support systems for citizens.

Police officials reiterated that people should not hesitate to seek assistance in situations involving personal or family crises, assuring that the department will continue to respond with sensitivity and care.

The incident stands as a strong example of empathetic policing, showing how timely intervention and coordination with healthcare services can make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and their families.



Dasoju Sravan Alleges Irregularities in Local Body Polls

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau

Dasoju Sravan, Member of the Legislative Council from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), on Friday alleged serious irregularities in the conduct of local body elections in Telangana, claiming that democratic processes were being undermined by the state machinery.

Addressing the media in Hyderabad, Sravan said the principle of "free and fair elections" was being compromised, alleging that certain officials were functioning in a manner that benefited the ruling establishment. He remarked that institutions entrusted with safeguarding democratic norms must act impartially and warned that any deviation from neutrality could erode public trust.

Referring to developments in Ibrahimpat-

nam, the MLC claimed that despite his party holding a clear numerical strength in the municipal council, the process to finalise the leadership had been delayed. He stated that a councillor elected on a BRS ticket had skipped a previous meeting, and alleged that instead of internal party action, complaints were filed by rival political leaders, which complicated the situation.

Sravan further alleged that after councillors completed their oath-taking and the election of the municipal chairperson was concluded, police intervention stalled the subsequent proceedings. He also claimed that directions issued later by the High Court had not been implemented fully, raising questions about administrative consistency and adherence to legal



processes.

The BRS leader pointed to similar developments in other municipalities, including Kathanpalli and Thorrur, where he alleged that opposition representatives were facing legal cases. He also referred to the arrest of former legislator Balk Suman, who he said had been lodged in jail in Adilabad, and claimed that adequate facilities were not being provided,

though there was no immediate official confirmation of the allegation.

Demanding swift action, Sravan called on authorities to immediately announce the chairperson in Ibrahimpatnam and conduct the pending vice-chairperson election, while completing similar processes in other civic bodies without delay. He argued that attempts to influence outcomes in munic-

ipalities where the opposition holds an advantage would weaken democratic credibility. Reiterating his party's position, Sravan said the BRS would continue to raise concerns over what it described as administrative bias and urged officials to ensure transparency, neutrality, and strict adherence to democratic procedures to restore public confidence in the electoral system.

DA Case Filed Against Agriculture Official in Nagarkurnool

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau

A case of disproportionate assets has been registered against Sundari Kiran Kumar, Assistant Director of the Agriculture Department in the Kalwakurthy division of Nagarkurnool district, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) said on Saturday.

According to officials, searches are being conducted at seven locations linked to the officer, including premises in Hyderabad, Tukkuguda, and his native village Ponugode in Garidipally mandal of Suryapet district, besides other places in the region.

The ACB stated that the case was registered following allegations that the official had accumulated assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Preliminary searches reportedly revealed extensive immovable and movable properties.

Investigators identified agricultural lands spanning nearly 100 acres, around 10 open plots, five hous-



es and flats, four four-wheeler vehicles and five tractors. In addition, officials are examining investments and other financial holdings linked to the officer and his family members. Authorities estimated the registered value of the properties at about 15 crore, while the current market value is believed to be close to 50 crore. Officials said the figures are tentative and subject to further verification and valuation as the investigation progresses.

The searches are part of a broader vigilance drive to detect and curb corruption within public services. ACB teams are continuing to scruti-

nise documents, bank records and property details to establish the extent of the alleged disproportionate assets.

Officials added that a comprehensive report will be prepared after the completion of searches and analysis of seized material. Further legal action, including prosecution under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, will be initiated based on the findings.

The bureau reiterated its commitment to ensuring transparency and accountability in government departments, urging citizens to report corruption through official channels.

Harish Rao Slams Government After School Locked Over Unpaid Rent



Siddipet, February 21 | TPN Bureau

Senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and former minister T. Harish Rao on Saturday criticised the state government after a government primary school in Jabbapur village of Wargal mandal, Siddipet district, was reportedly locked by the building owner due to non-payment of rent,

forcing students to sit on the road for classes.

In a strongly worded statement, Harish Rao described the incident as a "grim reflection" of the condition of the education system under the present administration. According to him, children who should have been studying inside classrooms were seen sitting on the roadside holding placards

and raising slogans demanding justice. He questioned whether the government was aware of the situation and accused it of failing to prioritise basic educational needs. Targeting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the former minister said the education department was directly under the Chief Minister's supervision and that repeated inci-

dents linked to the sector indicated administrative lapses. He asked the government to take responsibility and ensure such situations do not recur, suggesting that if the department could not be effectively managed, alternative arrangements should be considered.

Harish Rao also criticised what he termed "misplaced priorities," alleging that while substantial funds were being allocated for new government facilities and large projects, the administration had failed to clear basic dues such as school building rent. He argued that ensuring uninterrupted schooling and proper facilities for children should be treated as a fundamental responsibility.

The BRS leader further called on the government to immediately resolve the issue in Jabbapur, pay pending dues, and provide a permanent solution so that

students could continue their education without disruption. He emphasised that incidents affecting schoolchildren undermine public confidence and urged authorities to respond swiftly.

There was no immediate official response from the state government regarding the allegations. Local officials, however, were said to be reviewing the situation and exploring interim arrangements to ensure classes continue without interruption.

The episode has triggered political reactions in the district, with opposition leaders demanding accountability while education activists have called for systemic measures to prevent similar incidents across the state. As the issue gains attention, parents and residents are hoping for a quick resolution so that normal schooling can resume at the earliest.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Slams BJYM Call, Questions Trade Policies

Hyderabad, February 21 | TPN Bureau

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Member of Parliament from Bhuvanagiri, on Saturday strongly criticised the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) for reportedly calling for protests targeting Congress offices nationwide and the residence of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Speaking to the media, Chamala said such confrontational programmes undermine democratic traditions and political decorum. He emphasised that ideological differences should be resolved through debate and dialogue rather than through attempts to lay siege to political offices or leaders' homes. According to him, these actions only create unnecessary tension and distract from substantive public issues.

Referring to the recent AI summit held in the national capital, the MP clarified that the Congress party was not opposed to technological progress or international engagement. However, he alleged that certain decisions linked to global trade negotiations could adversely impact Indian farmers, youth, and small



industries if adequate safeguards were not ensured. He said the party's stance was focused on protecting domestic economic interests while supporting innovation and growth.

Chamala also spoke about the protest staged by Youth Congress activists during the summit, stating that it was intended to draw attention to concerns over employment opportunities and agricultural security. He said the demonstration reflected anxiety among sections of society who fear that policy decisions may not sufficiently prioritise their welfare.

Criticising the economic approach of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chamala alleged that the Union government was focusing more on global image-building than on addressing ground-level challenges such as unemployment and

income insecurity. He argued that while international partnerships are important, they must translate into tangible benefits for ordinary citizens.

The MP further called for a comprehensive review of trade agreements to ensure they are balanced and transparent. He said any initiative that genuinely generates jobs, strengthens domestic industries, and benefits farmers would receive constructive support from the Congress party.

Chamala concluded by urging the Centre to engage in wider consultations with stakeholders before finalising major policy decisions. He said inclusive policymaking and open discussion would help build public confidence and ensure that economic growth remains equitable and sustainable across the country.

Factory Blaze Reported in Aiza

Aiza, February 21 | TPN Bureau

A major fire broke out on Saturday in Aiza town of Jogulamba Gadwal district, triggering panic among residents after flames engulfed a factory located along the road leading to Raichur. According to preliminary reports, the blaze is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit.

The incident occurred at a drip irrigation project manufacturing unit where large quantities of plastic pipes, raw materials and machinery were stored. Witnesses said thick plumes of smoke and towering flames could be seen from a distance, prompting workers and nearby residents to rush to safety.

Local authorities said the fire spread rapidly due to the presence of highly combustible plastic materials inside the premises. Employees evacuated the building as soon as the fire was noticed, and no casualties were reported as of the latest information. However, significant property damage is feared, with most of the



stored equipment and materials believed to have been gutted.

Fire and emergency services personnel reached the spot soon after receiving alerts and launched an intensive firefighting operation. After sustained efforts, firefighters managed to bring the flames under control, preventing the blaze from spreading to adjacent structures. Of-

ficials said cooling operations continued for some time to ensure that the fire did not reignite.

Preliminary findings indicate that an electrical short circuit may have triggered the fire, though a detailed inquiry is expected to ascertain the exact cause and assess the extent of losses. District officials said a report will be pre-

pared after a comprehensive inspection of the site. The incident caused temporary disruption along the Aiza-Raichur route as emergency vehicles and curious onlookers gathered near the factory premises. Police personnel were deployed to regulate traffic and maintain order.

Authorities have advised industrial units in

the region to review their electrical safety measures and ensure compliance with fire safety norms to prevent similar incidents. Meanwhile, local residents expressed relief that the situation was brought under control without loss of life, even as concerns remain over the scale of property damage caused by the blaze.

KTR Criticises Youth Congress Protest at AI Summit

FROM PAGE 1

fostering collaboration in artificial intelligence, digital innovation and future technologies. Highlighting the importance of decorum, the BRS leader urged political parties and youth organisations to maintain restraint on global stages. He said India has increasingly positioned itself as a destination for major technology and policy summits, and preserving a professional environment is crucial to strengthening the country's credi-

bility. The summit has brought together policymakers, industry leaders, academics and technology experts to deliberate on the role of artificial intelligence in governance, economic growth and social development. KTR said discussions at such platforms should remain constructive and forward-looking, focusing on opportunities and partnerships rather than political messaging. His remarks come amid a wider political debate over the protests, with leaders

from different parties expressing contrasting views on whether demonstrations at international events are appropriate. While some defended the protest as a form of democratic expression, others echoed concerns about the potential impact on India's image. KTR reiterated that political discourse must continue, but stressed that national interest and global perception should remain paramount when India hosts international events of strategic importance.

Why Donald Trump Softened Tariffs: The Real Story Behind the India–United States Deal

The recent shift in the United States' tariff stance toward India may appear sudden, but beneath the surface lies a carefully negotiated strategic recalibration. What seems like a legal and political setback for Donald Trump is, in reality, part of a broader geopolitical and economic bargain—one in which both India and the United States found strong reasons to adjust their positions.

A Legal Setback That Triggered a Policy Shift

The turning point came when the US Supreme Court curtailed the use of sweeping tariffs imposed under emergency powers. The ruling limited the executive branch's ability to unilaterally enforce such trade measures without legislative backing. While this appeared to weaken Trump's aggressive tariff strategy, it did not dismantle it entirely.

Instead, it forced a rethink. The administration quickly adapted, signaling that while the legal route had changed, the broader trade relationship with India would remain intact. This response revealed that the tariff policy was never just about law—it was deeply tied to negotiation strategy.

India's Growing Strategic Importance

India's role in this equation extends far beyond trade figures. In recent years, it has become a crucial partner for the United States in areas such as supply chain diversification, defense cooperation, and regional stability in Asia.

One of the most significant factors influencing the tariff rollback was India's willingness to respond to US geopolitical concerns. In particular, India adjusted its approach to energy sourcing in ways that aligned more closely with American expectations. This move carried weight because it addressed a major point of friction in bilateral relations.

By making calculated concessions in areas important to Washington, India strengthened its negotiating position. It became harder for the US to justify maintaining extremely high tariffs on a partner that was increasingly



aligning with its broader strategic goals.

Tariffs as a Tool of Pressure

Trump's use of tariffs has consistently been about leverage rather than purely economic protection. Tariffs were deployed to push countries into negotiations, often tied to issues beyond trade—such as defense purchases, market access, or geopolitical alignment. India experienced this pressure firsthand. At one stage, tariffs on Indian goods rose sharply, affecting exports and creating economic strain. However, instead of escalating the conflict, India chose a more measured response.

New Delhi focused on negotiation—offering selective concessions, reducing certain trade barriers, and increasing imports from the United States. This approach avoided a full-scale trade war while keeping diplomatic channels open.

Over time, this strategy proved

effective. By the time legal constraints emerged in the US, much of the actual bargaining had already taken place behind closed doors.

The Hidden Bargain

What appears as a sudden softening of tariffs is better understood as the outcome of a quiet, multi-layered agreement.

India made key adjustments, including:

- Lowering some trade restrictions
- Expanding imports from the US
- Aligning more closely with US geopolitical concerns
- In return, the United States:
 - Reduced tariff pressure
 - Maintained a stable trade framework
 - Reinforced strategic cooperation with India

Even after the legal setback, the US ensured that a more limited

tariff structure remained in place. This shows that the intention was not to abandon tariffs completely, but to recalibrate them in a way that balanced legal limits with strategic goals.

Why the US Couldn't Push Further

Timing played a critical role in shaping the outcome. The global economic environment has made strong partnerships more valuable than ever. India is not just a large market—it is also an emerging manufacturing hub and a key player in regional geopolitics.

Pushing India too hard risked unintended consequences. It could have driven New Delhi to deepen ties with other global partners, reducing American influence in the process.

India had already begun diversifying its trade relationships, strengthening its position in global markets. This reduced its vulnerability and gave it greater bar-

gaining power in negotiations with the US.

For Washington, maintaining a cooperative relationship became more important than sustaining maximum tariff pressure.

Bringing Stability Back to Trade For India, one of the biggest gains from this episode is increased predictability. Frequent tariff changes had created uncertainty for exporters and investors, making long-term planning difficult.

With stronger institutional checks in place, there is now greater confidence that US trade policy will be more stable and less subject to sudden shifts. This benefits businesses on both sides, encouraging investment and smoother trade flows.

Stability, in this context, is as valuable as tariff reductions.

A Tactical Adjustment, Not a Defeat

It would be misleading to interpret the shift as a clear defeat for

Trump. Instead, it represents a tactical adjustment to changing circumstances.

By scaling back tariffs, the United States achieved several objectives:

- Preserved its influence in negotiations
- Strengthened ties with a key partner
- Avoided economic disruption

At the same time, India secured meaningful relief without escalating tensions or entering a damaging trade conflict.

Both sides managed to protect their core interests, which is why the outcome can be seen as a mutual win.

The Road Ahead

The India–US trade relationship is now entering a more balanced phase. While disagreements will continue, they are likely to be managed through negotiation rather than confrontation.

Tariffs will remain a tool, but their use will be more measured and strategic. Legal constraints, economic realities, and geopolitical priorities will shape how both countries approach future disputes.

For India, this episode highlights the value of strategic patience and flexibility. For the United States, it underscores the limits of unilateral economic pressure in a complex global landscape.

Conclusion

The easing of tariff tensions was not simply the result of a court ruling or a sudden policy reversal. It was the outcome of careful negotiation, shifting geopolitical priorities, and mutual dependence.

Donald Trump did not simply retreat—he recalibrated. Faced with legal constraints and strategic realities, the United States adjusted its approach. At the same time, India leveraged its growing importance to secure a more favorable outcome.

This episode reflects a broader truth about global trade today: it is shaped not just by economics, but by diplomacy, strategy, and the need for balance.

AI and Power: How Technology Is Reshaping the Alliance Between State and Capital

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence is often discussed in terms of jobs, innovation, and economic growth. But a deeper and more consequential transformation is underway—one that is fundamentally altering the relationship between governments and big corporations. As political thinker Pratap Bhanu Mehta argues, AI is not just a technological shift; it is reorganising how power is structured between the state and capital.

Two Competing Explanations for Global Change

To understand this transformation, it is useful to begin with a broader question: why has globalisation faced such a strong backlash in recent years?

One common explanation focuses on inequality. According to this view, globalisation created wealth but distributed it unevenly. Job losses, wage stagnation, and social insecurity led to political discontent. The solution, therefore, lies in better redistribution and stronger welfare systems.

However, an alternative and more structural explanation points to changes within capitalism itself. Technological evolution—especially the rise of AI—has altered the incentives and behaviour of capital. This suggests that the global order is not just politically contested but economically transforming from within.

From Global Mobility to Territorial Anchoring

In the era of industrial globalisation, corporations benefited from mobility. They could shift production across countries, exploit wage differences, and maintain leverage over governments by threatening to relocate. This flexibility al-

lowed capital to operate relatively independently of the state.

AI is changing this dynamic. Unlike traditional industries, advanced AI systems require enormous infrastructure—data centres, semiconductor facilities, energy resources, and highly skilled talent. These are not easily movable assets.

As a result, major technology firms are becoming more territorially anchored. They depend on specific jurisdictions for resources, regulation, and security. This reduces their ability to “exit” and increases their reliance on the state.

In effect, capital is becoming less global and more tied to national systems.

The Rise of Infrastructure-Like Tech Giants

Another key shift lies in the nature of leading corporations. Technology companies are no longer “light” platforms operating in a borderless digital space. Instead, they increasingly resemble infrastructure monopolies of the early 20th century.

Their operations are vertically integrated and capital-intensive. They control not just software, but also hardware, data ecosystems, and energy consumption. This transformation brings them closer to sectors like utilities or transportation—areas historically intertwined with state power.

This convergence creates a new kind of partnership: one where governments and corporations depend on each other at a structural level.

Blurring the Line Between Markets and Control

AI is also reshaping how markets themselves function. Traditionally, markets relied



on decentralised decision-making, with prices acting as signals of supply and demand.

In an AI-driven system, this logic begins to change. Algorithms can predict behaviour, personalise pricing, and allocate resources in real time. Information itself becomes the basis of economic coordination.

But such systems cannot operate in a vacuum. They require access to vast amounts of data, legal permissions, and regulatory frameworks—all of which are controlled or influenced by the state.

This creates a powerful feedback loop:

- Corporations collect and process data
- Governments provide regulatory access and legitimacy
- Both gain increased capacity for monitoring

and control. The result is a merging of economic and political power in ways that were previously less visible.

Surveillance and the New Symbiosis

One of the most striking consequences of this transformation is the convergence of commercial and governmental surveillance.

Digital platforms already collect massive amounts of user data for commercial purposes. When aligned with state interests, this data can also enhance governance, security, and social control.

This does not necessarily imply overt authoritarianism, but it does signal a shift toward systems where control, monitoring, and influence become more central features of both economic and political life.

The relationship between state and capital is no longer

one of distance or tension—it is increasingly one of collaboration.

The Shift Toward Techno-Nationalism

AI is also redefining global competition. In the past, countries competed for market access and manufacturing dominance. Today, the focus has shifted to technological sovereignty.

Control over semiconductors, cloud infrastructure, rare earth resources, and advanced AI models has become strategically critical. Governments are investing heavily in these areas, often in partnership with major corporations.

This has given rise to what can be described as a techno-nationalist order—where national power is closely tied to technological capability.

Implications for Countries Like India

For countries such as India, this transformation presents both opportunities and challenges.

The key question is no longer just about regulation or market reform. It is about whether the state and domestic capital can work together effectively at scale.

Competing in the AI-driven global order requires:

- Strong state capacity
- Technological investment
- Coordination with large firms

Without this alignment, countries risk falling behind in a world where power is increasingly defined by control over technology.

At the same time, this model raises concerns about inequality and concentration of power. If a small number of firms dominate critical infrastructure, and if they are closely aligned with the state, the potential for imbalance increases.

An Uncertain Future

Despite these trends, the transformation is not absolute. Traditional markets, labour dynamics, and global interdependence still matter. The world is not moving toward a single, uniform system.

However, the direction of change is clear. The boundaries between public and private power are becoming more blurred. National interests are shaping economic decisions more directly. And technology is at the centre of this shift.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence is not just a tool of innovation—it is a force that is reshaping the foundations of political economy. It is changing how corporations operate, how governments exert power, and how the two interact.

The emerging order is neither purely market-driven nor fully state-controlled. Instead, it represents a hybrid system where state and capital are increasingly intertwined.

As we focus on the possibilities of AI, it is crucial to recognise this deeper transformation. The real story is not just about smarter machines, but about a reconfiguration of power—one that will define the future of economies and societies alike.

Demand for Accountability Intensifies After Ajit Pawar Plane Crash

Political tensions in Maharashtra have escalated after Rohit Pawar demanded the resignation of the Union Civil Aviation Minister following the fatal plane crash that claimed the life of his uncle, Ajit Pawar.

Rohit Pawar has raised serious concerns about the integrity of the ongoing investigation, suggesting that the probe may not be fully impartial. He has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to step in and ensure that an independent and transparent inquiry is conducted.

Concerns Over Investigation Process

At the core of the controversy are questions surrounding the credibility and independence of the agencies involved in the probe. Rohit Pawar has pointed out possible conflicts of interest and questioned whether the investigators have the necessary expertise to thoroughly examine all aspects of the crash.

He also highlighted issues related to key evidence, particularly the cockpit voice recorder, which reportedly suffered damage during the incident. According to him, incomplete or compromised data could hinder efforts to uncover the true cause of the crash.

Call for Ministerial Resignation

In a significant political move, Rohit Pawar has called for the Civil Aviation Minister to step down while the investigation is underway. He argued that such a step would help maintain public confidence and eliminate any perception of bias in the inquiry process.



He has also formally appealed for a fresh, independent probe, stressing that transparency is crucial given the high-profile nature of the tragedy. Additionally, he hinted at the possibility of deeper issues, including potential links between the aircraft operator and influential individuals.

The Tragic Incident

The crash occurred in January 2026 near Baramati in Maharashtra, when a chartered aircraft carrying Ajit Pawar went down during landing. The plane reportedly lost control before bursting into flames, resulting in the deaths of all onboard.

Ajit Pawar, a prominent political leader, was traveling to attend official engagements at the time. His sudden demise sent shockwaves across the state and created a significant

void in Maharashtra's political landscape.

Growing Political Pressure

Since the accident, demands for a more detailed and transparent investigation have been growing. Several leaders and observers have raised concerns about aircraft maintenance, safety checks, and pilot credentials.

Rohit Pawar has been among the most vocal, insisting that all angles must be thoroughly examined. His statements reflect a broader sense of unease within political circles and the public regarding the official handling of the case.

Debate on Accountability and Transparency

The issue has now evolved into a wider debate about accountability in aviation safety and governance. Critics argue

that investigations into such incidents must be free from any influence, especially when they involve prominent figures.

By demanding a minister's resignation, Rohit Pawar has elevated the matter to a national level, emphasizing the importance of maintaining trust in institutional processes.

What Comes Next
As the investigation continues, pressure is mounting on authorities to ensure a fair and comprehensive probe. The coming weeks are expected to be crucial in determining whether further action will be taken.

For now, the tragedy remains both a personal loss and a politically sensitive issue, with its outcome likely to have lasting implications for governance and public confidence.

Political Storm Around Vijay Deepens Amid CBI Probe and BJP Rebuttal

A fresh political controversy has emerged in Tamil Nadu as actor-turned-politician Vijay finds himself at the center of a debate involving allegations of political pressure and an ongoing probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The issue gained momentum after Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), Vijay's political party, claimed that the investigation was being used as a tool to exert pressure on its leader. The party hinted that the timing and nature of the probe raised concerns about possible political motives behind the move.

Allegations of Political Targeting

Leaders within TVK suggested that the probe was not merely a routine investigation but could be an attempt to influence Vijay's growing political presence. As a relatively new entrant in politics, Vijay has been attracting attention across Tamil Nadu, and his party has been positioning itself as an alternative force in the state.

The allegations reflect a broader concern often raised by opposition parties—that



central agencies are being used selectively against political figures who challenge the ruling establishment.

BJP Rejects Claims

Responding strongly, the Bharatiya Janata Party dismissed the accusations as baseless. Party leaders questioned how such claims could be made without evidence, asserting that investigative agencies operate independently and follow due legal processes.

The BJP maintained that linking the probe to political

pressure was an attempt to create unnecessary controversy and divert attention from the facts of the case. According to the party, no individual is above the law, and any investigation should be allowed to proceed without interference or speculation.

Rising Political Stakes

The controversy comes at a time when Vijay's political journey is being closely watched. His entry into politics has generated significant interest, particularly among younger voters, and has the

potential to reshape political dynamics in Tamil Nadu.

With this backdrop, any legal or investigative action involving him is likely to attract heightened scrutiny and trigger political reactions.

Debate Over Agencies and Politics

The episode has once again sparked debate over the role and independence of central investigative agencies in India. Critics argue that such probes can sometimes be perceived as politically influenced, while supporters insist that institutions must be allowed to function without being drawn into political narratives.

What Lies Ahead

As the investigation continues, the situation remains fluid. The outcome of the probe and the responses from political stakeholders will play a crucial role in shaping public perception.

For now, the issue highlights the intersection of politics and law enforcement, with both sides firmly holding their ground in a rapidly intensifying political landscape.

Rahul Gandhi Appears in Bhiwandi Court in RSS Defamation Case, Submits Fresh Bail Bond

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appeared before a court in Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, in connection with a defamation case linked to his alleged remarks about the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). During the hearing, Gandhi submitted a fresh bail bond along with a new guarantor, ensuring compliance with legal requirements in the ongoing proceedings.

The case stems from comments Gandhi reportedly made several years ago, which were interpreted as defamatory towards the RSS. The complaint was filed by a local party worker, leading to legal action and subsequent court appearances. Over time, the matter has seen multiple hearings, procedural delays, and legal formalities, reflecting the complexity often associated with defamation cases involving political figures.

Gandhi's latest court visit was primarily procedural. His



legal team informed the court about the need to submit a new bail bond, replacing the earlier one due to technical reasons. A new guarantor was also presented to satisfy the court's conditions. The court accepted the submissions, allowing the case to proceed without disruption.

The Congress leader has consistently denied any

wrongdoing, maintaining that his statements were either misinterpreted or taken out of context. His lawyers have argued that the remarks fall within the ambit of political speech and should not be treated as criminal defamation. They have also emphasized the importance of safeguarding freedom of expression, particularly in

political discourse.

On the other hand, the complainant has insisted that Gandhi's statements were damaging to the reputation of the RSS and warranted legal scrutiny. The case thus continues to highlight the ongoing tension between free speech and defamation laws in India's political landscape.

Gandhi's appearance drew attention from party workers and media, though the proceedings themselves remained routine. Security was maintained in and around the court premises as a precautionary measure.

The court has scheduled the next hearing for further proceedings, where arguments and evidence may be examined in greater detail. As the case moves forward, it is expected to remain under public and political scrutiny, given the high-profile nature of the individuals and organizations involved.

AI Summit Protest Sparks Political Row, Youth Congress Workers Sent to Police Custody

A political controversy erupted in New Delhi after a dramatic protest by members of the Indian Youth Congress disrupted a major AI summit, leading to arrests and a court-ordered police custody.

Four workers were detained following their shirtless demonstration at the India AI Impact Summit, a high-profile event attended by global leaders in technology and policy.

Court Grants Police Custody

The accused were produced before a Delhi court, which granted the police five days of custody for further investigation. Authorities argued that custodial interrogation was necessary to reconstruct the sequence of events, examine digital evidence, and determine whether the protest was coordinated.

Police officials indicated that participants from multiple states appeared to have acted in a synchronized manner, raising suspicions about a larger organized effort behind the disruption.

Police Allege 'Larger Conspiracy'

During the hearing, investigators claimed the protest was not spontaneous but part of a broader conspiracy aimed at tarnishing India's image on an international platform. Authorities are focusing on recovering mobile phones and analyzing communication records to identify possible links, coordination, or funding sources.

Officials also alleged that provocative slogans were raised during the protest and that three police personnel sustained injuries while trying to control the situation.



Comparison with Nepal's Gen-Z Protests

Investigators pointed to similarities between the demonstration and recent youth-led protests in Nepal, often described as Gen-Z movements. These protests gained attention for their intensity and organized mobilization through digital platforms.

Authorities suggested that the methods used in the AI summit protest may have been influenced by such movements, particularly in terms of coordination and symbolic demonstration tactics.

Defence Calls Case 'Political Witch Hunt'

Lawyers representing the accused rejected the allegations, describing the case as politically motivated. They argued that the protest was peaceful and protected under the constitutional right to freedom of expression.

The defence also dismissed claims of violence and conspiracy, stating that there was no credible evidence to support the charges put forward by the police.

Background of the Protest

The disruption occurred during a globally significant summit where India was highlighting its advancements and ambitions in artificial intelligence. The unex-

pected protest drew widespread attention and triggered sharp reactions.

While critics argued that such actions could harm India's international reputation, supporters maintained that dissent—even at high-profile global events—is an essential part of a democratic system.

Political Reactions Intensify

The incident has sparked a broader political debate. The ruling side criticized the protest as irresponsible and damaging to the country's image, while opposition voices defended it as a legitimate expression of public concern.

The episode reflects deeper political tensions and disagreements over governance, policy direction, and the space for protest in India.

What Lies Ahead

With police custody granted, the investigation is expected to focus on uncovering the planning and coordination behind the protest. Digital evidence and communication trails are likely to play a key role.

The case also raises important questions about the limits of protest, the balance between dissent and public order, and how demonstrations are handled at major international events.

ED Tightens Noose in PNB Scam, Chargesheet Likely Against Rohan Choksi



A fresh political controversy has emerged in Tamil Nadu as actor-turned-politician Vijay finds himself at the center of a debate involving allegations of political pressure and an ongoing probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The issue gained momentum after Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), Vijay's political party, claimed that the investigation was being used as a tool to exert pressure on its leader. The party hinted that the timing and nature of the probe raised concerns about possible political motives behind the move.

Allegations of Political Targeting

Leaders within TVK suggested that the probe was not merely a routine investigation but could be an attempt to influence Vijay's growing political presence. As a relatively new entrant in politics, Vijay has been attracting attention across Tamil Nadu, and his party has been positioning itself as an alternative force in the state.

The allegations reflect a broader concern often raised by opposition par-

ties—that central agencies are being used selectively against political figures who challenge the ruling establishment.

BJP Rejects Claims

Responding strongly, the Bharatiya Janata Party dismissed the accusations as baseless. Party leaders questioned how such claims could be made without evidence, asserting that investigative agencies operate independently and follow due legal processes.

The BJP maintained that linking the probe to political pressure was an attempt to create unnecessary controversy and divert attention from the facts of the case. According to the party, no individual is above the law, and any investigation should be allowed to proceed without interference or speculation.

Rising Political Stakes

The controversy comes at a time when Vijay's political journey is being closely watched. His entry into politics has generated significant interest, particularly among younger voters, and has the potential to reshape political dynamics in Tamil

Nadu.

With this backdrop, any legal or investigative action involving him is likely to attract heightened scrutiny and trigger political reactions.

Debate Over Agencies and Politics

The episode has once again sparked debate over the role and independence of central investigative agencies in India. Critics argue that such probes can sometimes be perceived as politically influenced, while supporters insist that institutions must be allowed to function without being drawn into political narratives.

What Lies Ahead

As the investigation continues, the situation remains fluid. The outcome of the probe and the responses from political stakeholders will play a crucial role in shaping public perception.

For now, the issue highlights the intersection of politics and law enforcement, with both sides firmly holding their ground in a rapidly intensifying political landscape.

Trump's Tariff Retreat: Courtroom Blow Forces Policy Reset



In a significant shift in U.S. trade policy, President Donald Trump has scaled back tariffs on several countries, including India, following a major legal setback in the United States. The move, which reduces tariffs on Indian goods to 10 percent, comes after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the administration's sweeping tariff powers—forcing a rethink of an aggressive economic strategy that had defined Trump's second term.

At the heart of this reversal lies a landmark judgment in *Learning Resources, Inc. v. Trump*, where the court determined that the president does not have unilateral authority to impose tariffs under emergency economic laws. The ruling effectively dismantled the legal foundation of several tariffs that had been imposed on trading partners, including India, over the past year.

From Confrontation to Compromise

The tariff reduction marks a notable de-escalation in trade tensions between the United States and India. Just months earlier, relations had been strained by steep duties imposed by Washington, which at one point pushed total tariffs on Indian exports as high as 50 percent. These measures had triggered sharp criticism from New Delhi and raised concerns about a broader diplomatic fallout.

Now, under the revised framework, India faces a standardised 10 percent tariff—aligned with a broader global rate introduced by the Trump administration. This represents a significant drop from earlier levels and offers relief to Indian exporters who had been grappling with

uncertainty and rising costs.

The shift reflects not just a policy adjustment, but also a recognition of legal and institutional limits. The Supreme Court's decision clarified that trade tariffs cannot be imposed solely through executive authority under emergency provisions, a stance that has far-reaching implications for how future trade disputes will be handled.

Legal Setback with Global Impact

The court's ruling has been widely interpreted as a major check on presidential power. By rejecting the use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act as a basis for tariffs, the judgment underscores the role of Congress in shaping trade policy.

For the Trump administration, this represents both a political and strategic challenge. Tariffs had been a cornerstone of Trump's economic agenda, used not only to protect domestic industries but also as leverage in international negotiations. The inability to deploy them freely weakens a key tool in his policy arsenal.

At the same time, the administration has sought to frame the new 10 percent tariff as part of a broader, simplified global system rather than a retreat. Trump has maintained that the revised approach still serves American interests while ensuring consistency across trading partners.

India's Position Strengthens

For India, the development is a welcome easing of pressure. The earlier tariff regime had raised fears of long-term damage to bilateral trade and strategic ties. By lowering duties, the United States has signalled a

willingness to stabilise relations, even if underlying differences remain.

The reduction also enhances India's competitiveness in the U.S. market, particularly in sectors such as textiles, engineering goods, and pharmaceuticals. Exporters who had been hit hard by the previous tariff structure are likely to benefit from improved access and reduced cost burdens.

However, the broader context remains complex. Trade relations between the two countries have been shaped by multiple factors, including geopolitical considerations, energy policies, and differing economic priorities. While the tariff cut is a positive step, it does not fully resolve these underlying tensions.

A Shift in Strategy

The introduction of a uniform 10 percent tariff across countries reflects an attempt to recalibrate U.S. trade policy in the wake of legal constraints. Instead of targeted, country-specific measures, the administration appears to be moving toward a more standardised approach.

This shift could reduce friction in some areas while creating new challenges in others. A uniform tariff may be easier to defend legally, but it also limits flexibility in addressing specific trade imbalances or negotiating concessions.

For global markets, the move brings a degree of predictability after months of uncertainty. Businesses and investors, who had been navigating a rapidly changing tariff landscape, may now find it easier to plan and adapt.

Political and Economic Implications

Domestically, the development has sparked debate over the balance of power between the executive branch and the judiciary. Supporters of the ruling argue that it reinforces constitutional limits and prevents overreach, while critics see it as a constraint on the president's ability to act decisively in economic matters.

Economically, the rollback could have mixed effects. While lower tariffs may reduce costs for importers and consumers, they could also weaken protections for certain domestic industries. The long-term impact will depend on how the administration adjusts its broader economic strategy in response to the ruling.

Looking Ahead

The reduction of tariffs on India to 10 percent marks a turning point in U.S. trade policy under Trump's second term. It highlights the interplay between legal authority, economic strategy, and international diplomacy.

While the immediate outcome is a de-escalation of tensions and a more predictable trade environment, the episode also raises important questions about the future of U.S. trade policy. With the Supreme Court setting clear limits on executive power, future decisions are likely to involve greater coordination with Congress and a more structured approach to global trade.

For India and other trading partners, the message is clear: while the era of aggressive, unilateral tariff actions may be waning, the dynamics of global trade remain complex and subject to both legal and political shifts.

India Watches Closely as US Court Strikes Down Donald Trump Tariffs

India has adopted a cautious and measured stance following a major ruling by the US Supreme Court that struck down key elements of former President Donald Trump's global tariff policy. The verdict, seen as a significant setback to Trump's trade strategy, is being closely studied in New Delhi for its broader economic and diplomatic implications.

Government officials have indicated that there will be no immediate reaction. Instead, relevant ministries are examining the ruling in detail to understand its potential impact on India's trade interests, especially exports to the United States. The focus is on assessing both short-term and long-term consequences before deciding on a formal response.

At the core of the issue is the court's decision to invalidate large parts of Trump's sweeping tariff programme. The ruling found that the administration had exceeded its authority by imposing wide-ranging tariffs under emergency powers, reinforcing the idea that such measures require clearer legislative backing. This judgment not only weakens a major pillar of Trump's economic approach but also introduces fresh uncertainty into global trade dynamics.

For India, the implications extend beyond the immediate rollback of tariffs. The decision is being seen as an opportunity to restore predictability in US trade policy. Over the past year,



India-US trade ties had come under strain due to aggressive tariff measures imposed by Washington. At one stage, duties on Indian goods rose sharply, disrupting exports and creating friction between the two nations.

More recently, efforts to stabilise trade relations had begun to show progress. However, the court ruling has altered the landscape once again. In response, the US has introduced a revised tariff structure, bringing duties down to around 10 percent for several trading partners, including India. While this reduction offers some relief, it also resets earlier negotiations and may complicate ongoing discussions.

Indian policymakers are therefore approaching the situation with caution. Rather than viewing the development purely

as a benefit, they are analysing how it reshapes the broader trade environment. Sudden policy shifts—especially those driven by legal decisions—raise concerns about consistency. For exporters and businesses, stability is often just as important as the tariff rates themselves.

The ruling also carries wider diplomatic significance. Countries around the world are assessing its impact, highlighting how interconnected modern trade systems have become. Any major policy change in the United States tends to create ripple effects across global markets, influencing decisions far beyond its borders.

India's response so far reflects strategic restraint. By avoiding immediate public statements, New Delhi is keeping its options open while monitoring how the situation evolves. A key ques-

tion is whether the United States will attempt to reintroduce tariffs through alternative legal routes or move toward more negotiated, stable trade arrangements.

Another important factor is the future of India-US trade talks. Both countries have been working to strengthen economic ties, and any disruption in tariff policy could affect the pace of progress. While the recent reduction in tariffs provides temporary relief, it does not fully resolve underlying trade differences.

From a broader perspective, the episode underscores the role of institutional checks in shaping economic policy. The court's intervention signals that trade decisions in the United States are subject to legal scrutiny, adding another layer of complexity for global partners.

Ultimately, India's approach will depend on how developments unfold. Policymakers are expected to balance opportunities with caution, ensuring that economic interests are protected while maintaining constructive engagement with the United States.

For now, businesses and exporters in India are watching closely. Lower tariffs may offer short-term gains, but uncertainty about future policy directions remains. As the situation evolves, adaptability and strategic planning will be key to navigating this shifting global trade landscape.

Canada's New Express Entry Rule: Why 2026 Could Bring Lower CRS Scores



Canada is set to reshape its immigration landscape in 2026 with a key change to its Express Entry system—one that could significantly alter applicants' chances of securing permanent residency. At the heart of this shift is a revised work experience requirement that is expected to influence Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) cut-off scores and overall competition.

A Major Policy Shift in Work Experience Requirements

The most notable reform is the increase in the minimum work experience requirement for category-based Express Entry draws. Candidates will now need at least 12 months of relevant work experience, up from the earlier threshold of six months. This experience can be gained either in Canada or abroad within a recent time frame.

This adjustment is part of Canada's broader effort to refine its immigration intake by prioritizing candidates who bring more substantial professional exposure. The government's move aligns with its economic goals—ensuring that incoming immigrants are better prepared to integrate into the labour market and contribute effectively from day one.

Why CRS Scores May Drop

At first glance, raising eligibility criteria might seem like it would make immigration more difficult. However, the opposite effect is expected in terms of CRS cut-offs.

By increasing the work experience requirement, the pool of eligible candidates for category-based draws is likely to shrink. With fewer candidates meeting the stricter criteria, competition within these specific categories could decrease. If the number of invitations issued remains steady, this reduced competition could push CRS cut-off scores lower.

In simple terms, fewer qualified applicants competing for the same number of spots may improve the chances of those who do qualify.

The Growing Role of Category-Based Selection

Another important aspect of Canada's immigration strategy is the continued emphasis on category-based draws. Unlike general draws, these target candidates with specific skills, language abilities, or work experience that align with Canada's economic priorities.

For example, candidates may be selected based on their occupation, such as healthcare or education, or their proficiency in a particular language like French. This approach allows the government to address labour shortages more directly and tailor immigration to national needs.

Because category-based draws focus on narrower groups, CRS cut-offs in these rounds are often lower than in general draws. In 2026, this trend is expected to continue, especially as the new work experience rule reshapes eligibility.

Recent Trends Point to Easing Competition

Early data from 2026 suggests that CRS scores are already showing signs of softening in certain draws. For instance, Canadian Experience Class draws have seen cut-offs decline compared to previous months, reflecting a gradual easing in competition.

This trend is partly due to large numbers of invitations being issued, which reduces the number of high-scoring candidates remaining in the pool. As more top candidates receive invitations, the overall score distribution shifts downward, benefiting those with slightly lower scores.

Such developments indicate that Canada is actively managing its immigration system to maintain a steady intake while ensuring broader access across different applicant groups.

What This Means for Applicants

For prospective immigrants, the new rules present both opportunities and challenges.

On one hand, candidates who already have at least one year of relevant work experience may find themselves in a stronger position, especially within targeted categories. Lower CRS cut-offs in these draws could improve their chances of receiving an invitation to apply for permanent residency.

On the other hand,

those with less than 12 months of experience may now find themselves excluded from category-based draws altogether. This makes it more important than ever for applicants to build sufficient work experience before entering the Express Entry pool.

Strategic Planning Becomes Crucial

The evolving system underscores the need for careful planning. Applicants must not only aim for higher CRS scores but also align their profiles with categories that Canada prioritizes.

Gaining additional work experience, improving language proficiency, or targeting in-demand occupations can make a significant difference. As category-based selection becomes more prominent, simply having a competitive CRS score may not be enough—eligibility for the right category could be equally important.

A System Designed for Economic Needs

Canada's immigration reforms reflect a broader shift toward a more targeted and flexible system. Rather than relying solely on overall rankings, the country is increasingly focusing on specific economic needs and workforce gaps.

By tightening eligibility requirements while maintaining or increasing invitation numbers, the system aims to balance quality and accessibility. The expected drop in CRS scores is not a sign of lowered standards, but rather a recalibration of how candidates are selected.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As the new rules take effect, 2026 could become a pivotal year for Express Entry applicants. The combination of stricter eligibility criteria and potentially lower CRS cut-offs creates a unique window of opportunity—particularly for those who meet the updated requirements.

While uncertainties remain, one thing is clear: Canada's immigration system is evolving to become more strategic, targeted, and responsive to labour market demands.

For applicants, staying informed and adapting to these changes will be key to success in an increasingly competitive yet opportunity-rich environment.

Tariff Relief with a Twist: Why US Policy Shift May Rekindle Trade Uncertainty

The recent rollback of tariffs in the United States has been welcomed by global markets as a positive development, offering temporary relief to businesses and trade partners. Lower tariffs typically encourage smoother trade flows, reduce input costs, and help ease inflationary pressures. However, beneath this optimism lies a deeper concern: the unpredictability of trade policy that could once again unsettle global markets.

At first glance, the easing of tariffs signals a more open and cooperative trade stance. It can boost exports, especially for emerging economies that rely on access to large consumer markets. Reduced trade barriers also benefit companies by lowering costs associated with cross-border commerce, improving margins and competitiveness. For consumers, it may translate into lower prices and greater availability of goods.

Yet, the broader issue is not just the tariff reduction itself, but the inconsistency in policy direction. Frequent shifts—imposing tariffs and then reversing them—create an unstable environment for global trade. Businesses depend on predictability to plan investments, manage supply chains, and expand operations. When policies change abruptly, it becomes difficult for companies to make long-term decisions with confidence.



This uncertainty can have a chilling effect on global investment. Firms may delay expansion plans or reconsider sourcing strategies, fearing sudden regulatory changes. Supply chains, already strained by geopolitical tensions and past disruptions, remain vulnerable to such policy swings. Even a positive move like tariff reduction can carry unintended consequences if it signals a lack of long-term clarity.

For countries like India, the development presents both opportunity and caution. On one hand, reduced tariffs in the US market can enhance export prospects for Indian industries, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing and services. On the other hand, the volatile nature of trade policy means that these advantages may not be sustained. Indian exporters could find themselves benefiting one moment and facing new barriers the next.

The global trade environment continues to be shaped by a mix of economic priorities and political considera-

tions. While the rollback may ease immediate tensions, it does not eliminate the underlying trend of protectionism that has influenced policy decisions in recent years. This duality—liberalization on the surface and caution beneath—defines the current trade landscape.

Ultimately, the tariff reversal highlights a key reality: stability matters as much as policy direction. Markets and businesses respond not only to favorable decisions but also to the consistency of those decisions over time. Without a clear and steady framework, even positive measures can fail to inspire lasting confidence.

In conclusion, while the reduction in US tariffs provides a short-term boost to global trade sentiment, it also underscores the ongoing challenge of policy unpredictability. For businesses and economies alike, navigating this uncertain terrain will require adaptability, resilience, and a keen awareness of shifting global dynamics.

Markets Edge Higher Amid Volatility as IT Stocks Drag for Third Week



Indian equity markets ended the week with modest gains despite heightened volatility and continued weakness in the IT sector. The overall sentiment remained cautious, with investors navigating a mix of global uncertainties and sector-specific pressures.

Benchmark indices managed to stay in positive territory. The BSE Sensex rose slightly, while the Nifty 50 also posted mild gains over the week. Although the increase was not substantial, it reflected the market's ability to hold steady in a challenging environment.

Volatility Keeps Investors on Edge

Market movements throughout the week were marked by sharp fluctuations. Sudden declines during trading sessions were followed by partial recoveries, indicating uncertainty among investors. This lack of clear direction highlighted the fragile nature of current

market sentiment.

Global factors played a major role in driving this volatility. Rising geopolitical tensions and increasing crude oil prices created concerns about inflation and economic stability. For India, higher oil prices can directly impact costs and weigh on overall growth prospects.

IT Sector Remains a Key Drag

The IT sector continued to underperform, extending its losing streak for the third consecutive week. Concerns over slowing global demand, especially from major overseas markets, have affected investor confidence in technology stocks.

As IT companies hold significant weight in benchmark indices, their consistent decline has had a noticeable impact on overall market performance. Uncertainty around future earnings and client spending has further contributed to the sector's weakness.

Foreign Investor Selling Continues

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers during the week, adding pressure on the market. Sustained outflows from foreign investors often signal cautious global sentiment and can limit upward momentum in equities.

However, domestic institutional investors provided some support, helping to offset the impact of foreign selling. Their participation played a crucial role in stabilizing the market and preventing sharp declines.

Sectoral Divergence Visible

While IT stocks struggled, other sectors such as banking and energy showed relative strength. These sectors helped support the indices and limited overall losses.

This divergence indicates a shift in investor focus, with money moving away from weaker sectors toward those perceived as

more stable or promising. Such sector rotation is common during periods of uncertainty.

Broader Market Shows Mixed Trends

The broader market presented a mixed picture. Mid-cap stocks recorded slight gains, while small-cap stocks faced some pressure. This suggests that investors are becoming more selective, preferring relatively safer segments over riskier bets.

The cautious approach indicates that while there is no widespread panic, confidence remains limited.

Outlook Remains Uncertain

Looking ahead, market direction will depend on several key factors. Global developments, especially geopolitical tensions and oil price movements, will continue to influence sentiment. Any escalation in risks could lead to further volatility.

Domestically, corporate

earnings, inflation trends, and policy signals will play an important role. Additionally, a recovery in the IT sector could significantly improve overall market performance.

A Phase of Consolidation

Despite ongoing challenges, the market's ability to post gains reflects underlying resilience. Investors appear to be balancing caution with selective optimism.

The current phase suggests consolidation rather than a strong upward or downward trend. While volatility may persist, the market is showing signs of stability.

In conclusion, the week highlighted the delicate balance between global pressures and domestic support. Even as IT stocks continue to weigh on sentiment, the broader market has managed to stay afloat, signaling cautious but steady confidence among investors.

Small-Cap Stocks Slip Amid Volatility Even as Select Shares Surge



Indian equity markets experienced a volatile phase, with small-cap stocks emerging as the weakest segment despite strong gains in a few individual counters. While headline indices showed resilience, the broader market painted a more cautious picture.

The BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 ended the week with modest gains, supported largely by strength in large-cap stocks. However, this stability did not extend to the broader market. The BSE Smallcap Index declined, indicating pressure on smaller companies. Meanwhile, mid-cap stocks performed relatively better, reflecting a shift in investor preference toward safer segments.

Volatility Creates Uneven Trends

Market sentiment remained uncertain throughout the week, with sharp swings driven by global and domestic factors. Rising crude oil prices, geopolitical concerns, and continued foreign investor outflows contributed to the instability.

Small-cap stocks, which are typically more sensitive to risk, were hit harder during this phase. Investors appeared to move away from riskier bets, favoring large-cap stocks that

offer relatively greater stability during uncertain times.

Sectoral Performance Remains Mixed

Different sectors showed varied performance. Banking and energy stocks provided support to the market, helping benchmark indices stay in positive territory. On the other hand, IT and auto stocks faced selling pressure, adding to the cautious mood.

This divergence reflects ongoing sector rotation, where investors are reallocating funds based on changing economic expectations and global trends.

Select Stocks Deliver Strong Gains

Despite the overall decline in the small-cap segment, several individual stocks recorded sharp gains during the week, with some rising as much as 25-30 percent. These gains highlight the stock-specific nature of the current market environment.

Investors are increasingly focusing on companies with strong fundamentals or positive news triggers, rather than chasing broad market rallies. As a result, while some stocks surged, many others remained under pressure.

Foreign Selling Weighs

on Market

Foreign Institutional Investors continued to remain net sellers, contributing to the volatility. Persistent outflows from foreign investors have been a key factor limiting market upside.

However, domestic institutional investors stepped in to provide support, helping cushion the impact of foreign selling and preventing deeper declines in the broader market.

Outlook: Cautious and Selective

Looking ahead, markets are expected to remain range-bound with continued volatility. Global cues, including oil price movements and geopolitical developments, will play a crucial role in shaping sentiment.

Domestically, corporate earnings and economic indicators will also influence market direction. Investors are likely to remain selective, focusing on quality stocks rather than broad-based buying.

A Market Defined by Divergence

The week's performance highlights a key trend—divergence within the market. While large-cap stocks continue to provide stability, small-cap stocks are facing pressure amid rising risk aversion.

In conclusion, the decline in small-cap indices alongside sharp gains in select stocks reflects a market that is both cautious and opportunity-driven. Investors are becoming more discerning, signaling a shift from widespread optimism to a more measured and selective approach.

Wall Street Climbs After Court Setback to Trump Tariffs Eases Uncertainty

U.S. stock markets closed higher as investor sentiment improved following a major legal setback to Donald Trump's tariff policy. The ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court reduced uncertainty around global trade, offering relief to markets that had been grappling with policy-related concerns.

Markets Recover After Early Volatility

Trading during the session was initially uneven, with investors cautious amid worries about slowing economic growth and persistent inflation. However, sentiment shifted positively after the court's decision, pushing major indices into the green by the close.

The S&P 500, Nasdaq Composite, and Dow Jones Industrial Average all recorded gains, reflecting a broad-based recovery across sectors.

Legal Clarity Boosts Investor Confidence

The rally was largely driven by the court's decision to strike down tariffs that had been imposed under emergency economic powers. The judgment clarified limits on presidential authority in trade matters, removing a layer of unpredictability that had been affecting global markets.

Tariffs had raised costs for businesses, disrupted supply chains, and contributed to trade tensions. With the ruling, investors saw a more stable outlook for international trade, which helped improve



confidence.

Technology Stocks Lead Gains

Technology companies played a central role in lifting the markets. Major firms such as Apple, Amazon, and Alphabet saw their shares rise, driving much of the upward momentum.

These companies tend to benefit from smoother global trade conditions due to their international operations. Their strong performance helped offset earlier weakness and supported the broader rally.

Possibility of New Tariffs

Despite the court ruling, Trump indicated that tariffs may not be completely off the table. He

suggested a new, more moderate tariff plan could be introduced using a different legal framework.

However, investors appeared reassured by the prospect of a less aggressive approach. The expectation of lower tariff intensity helped calm fears of escalating trade conflicts.

Economic Concerns Remain

Even with the positive market reaction, underlying economic concerns persist. Recent indicators point to slower economic growth, while inflation continues to remain a challenge.

These factors are influencing expectations around monetary policy, particularly decisions by

the Federal Reserve. Investors are closely watching for any signals regarding potential interest rate changes in the coming months.

A Cautious but Positive Outlook

Market reaction to the ruling was measured rather than dramatic, suggesting that investors had partly anticipated such a development. The overall tone remained cautiously optimistic, balancing relief with awareness of ongoing risks.

Looking Ahead

Future market direction will depend on how trade policy evolves and how economic conditions unfold. Investors will continue to monitor policy sig-

nals, corporate earnings, and global developments.

Technology stocks and sectors sensitive to global trade are likely to remain in focus. Any clarity on tariffs or economic policy could have a significant impact on market trends.

Stability Through Clarity

The day's gains highlight the importance of clarity in economic policy. By removing a major source of uncertainty, the court's decision allowed investors to reassess risks with greater confidence.

While challenges remain, Wall Street's rise reflects a market that is responsive to stability and reassured by clearer rules governing trade and policy.

House Hunting in Delhi: When Finding a Home Feels Harder Than Building a Startup



In a city known for ambition, opportunity, and relentless hustle, one woman's candid reflection has struck a chord with many urban professionals. Her experience highlights a surprising reality: in Delhi, securing a place to live can be more challenging than running a startup.

The story emerged from a woman entrepreneur who shared that despite navigating the complex world of business—raising funds, managing teams, and scaling operations—the most exhausting hurdle she faced was finding a home in the national capital. Her account sheds light on a deeper, often overlooked issue in metropolitan life: the emotional and practical toll of house hunting.

At first glance, the process of renting a home might seem straightforward. But for many, especially single women, it quickly turns into a frustrating and, at times, disheartening experience. The entrepreneur described how landlords often impose rigid and intrusive conditions on potential tenants. These range from questions about personal lifestyle choices to preferences based on gender, marital status, and even profession.

In her case, being a startup founder did not simplify matters. Instead, it added another layer of uncertainty in the eyes of landlords. Unlike salaried employees with predictable incomes, entrepreneurs are often viewed as financially unstable—even if their ventures are successful. This perception can lead to hesitation or outright rejection from property owners.

Another major challenge she highlighted was the lack of transparency in rental agreements. Sudden rent increases, unclear terms, and arbitrary rules often leave tenants feeling powerless. In some cases, tenants are expected to comply with restrictions that go far beyond reasonable boundaries, affecting their sense of independence and comfort.

The emotional strain of repeated rejections and negotiations can be overwhelming. For someone already juggling the pressures of running a business, this additional stress becomes particularly burdensome. The entrepreneur noted that while professional challenges can be anticipated and managed, the unpredictability of house hunting makes it uniquely draining.

Her experience also underscores the gendered dimension of the issue. Single women frequently face heightened scrutiny when searching for accommodation. Questions about their daily routines, visitors, and personal lives are not uncommon. In some instances, landlords prefer families or male tenants, assuming they are less “complicated” or more reliable.

This bias not only limits housing options but also reinforces broader societal inequalities. It sends a message that independence—especially for

women—comes with added hurdles. For many, the search for a home becomes not just a logistical task but a negotiation of identity and autonomy.

The situation is further complicated by the fast-paced nature of city life. With high demand for housing and limited supply in desirable areas, tenants often feel pressured to make quick decisions. This urgency can lead to compromises, whether in terms of budget, location, or living conditions.

Technology and online platforms have, to some extent, streamlined the search process. However, they have not eliminated the underlying issues. Listings may look appealing on the surface, but the reality often differs when tenants engage with landlords or brokers. Misleading information, hidden costs, and last-minute changes remain common complaints.

What makes this narrative particularly striking is the contrast it draws between professional and personal challenges. Building a startup is widely regarded as one of the toughest career paths, requiring resilience, innovation, and constant problem-solving. Yet, for this entrepreneur, the unpredictability and subjectivity of the rental market proved even more taxing.

Her story resonates with a broader audience because it reflects a shared experience among urban dwellers. Many people, regardless of their profession, encounter similar obstacles when trying to secure housing in major cities. The issue is not confined to Delhi; it is a recurring theme in urban centers across the country.

At its core, the problem points to a need for greater accountability and standardization in the rental market. Clearer regulations, fair practices, and increased awareness could go a long way in addressing these challenges. For tenants, especially those navigating the process alone, a more transparent system would provide much-needed relief.

The entrepreneur's reflection also serves as a reminder that success in one area of life does not shield individuals from difficulties in another. It highlights the importance of looking beyond conventional markers of achievement to understand the everyday struggles people face.

Ultimately, her experience is not just about house hunting—it is about the broader realities of urban living. It captures the tension between aspiration and practicality, independence and constraint, progress and persistence.

In a city that thrives on ambition, the journey to find a place to call home should not feel like an uphill battle. Yet, for many, it does. And until systemic changes are made, stories like this will continue to echo the same sentiment: sometimes, the hardest part of building a life is simply finding a place to live.

Nine Months in Bengaluru: A City Where Traffic Redefines Daily Life



Life in Bengaluru, often celebrated as India's technology capital, can quickly turn into a test of patience—especially when it comes to navigating its roads. For one resident who spent nine months in the city, the most defining aspect of the experience wasn't the vibrant startup culture or pleasant weather, but the relentless and exhausting traffic.

The individual shared how daily commuting in Bengaluru feels less like a routine and more like a battle. Even relatively short distances can stretch into long, unpredictable journeys. A trip that should ideally take 20 minutes often balloons into an hour or more, depending on the time of day, weather, or sheer congestion. The unpredictability be-

comes a constant source of stress, making it nearly impossible to plan schedules with confidence.

What makes the situation particularly frustrating is the frequency of gridlocks. Key roads are often choked with vehicles, and bottlenecks appear without warning. Office hours, in particular, transform the city into a maze of immobile cars, buses, and two-wheelers. For many, commuting becomes the most draining part of the day, overshadowing work and personal time.

The resident described how this daily ordeal slowly chips away at one's energy and mental well-being. Spending hours stuck in traffic leads to fatigue even before the workday begins. Over time, this re-

petitive strain can impact productivity, mood, and overall quality of life. The frustration is compounded by noise, pollution, and the constant stop-and-go movement that defines Bengaluru's roads.

Infrastructure challenges play a significant role in the problem. While the city has expanded rapidly as a hub for technology and business, its road network has struggled to keep pace with the growing number of vehicles. Narrow roads, ongoing construction, and frequent diversions further complicate movement. Although public transport options exist, they are often insufficient to meet the city's massive demand.

Projects like the Namma Metro aim to ease congestion, but their benefits

are still unfolding gradually. Many areas remain underserved, forcing residents to rely heavily on personal vehicles or ride-hailing services. This dependence adds to the already overwhelming traffic load.

Another striking aspect of the experience is how commuting time eats into personal life. Hours lost on the road mean less time for family, hobbies, or rest. Over nine months, the resident found that a significant portion of each day was consumed by simply getting from one place to another. This imbalance can make even an otherwise exciting city feel exhausting.

Despite these challenges, Bengaluru continues to attract people from across the country due to its op-

portunities and lifestyle. However, the traffic situation stands out as a major drawback—one that newcomers often underestimate. The resident's experience serves as a reminder that adjusting to life in the city requires not just professional readiness, but also mental resilience to handle its infrastructural limitations.

In the end, the story reflects a broader reality shared by millions living in Bengaluru. Traffic is not just an inconvenience; it shapes daily routines, influences decisions, and affects overall well-being. Until long-term solutions significantly improve mobility, surviving—and adapting to—the city's roads remains an essential part of the Bengaluru experience.

Gurugram Man's ₹2.44 Lakh Monthly Expenses Spark Debate on Urban Living Costs

A corporate employee from Gurugram has gone viral after sharing a detailed breakdown of his monthly expenses, totaling a staggering ₹2.44 lakh. His candid disclosure has triggered widespread reactions online, with many users expressing disbelief and comparing the amount to their yearly earnings.

The expense breakdown, shared through a video, offers a glimpse into the high cost of maintaining a comfortable lifestyle in one of India's fastest-growing corporate hubs. While some viewers were shocked, others saw it as a realistic reflection of urban living in metropolitan regions.

Where the Money Goes

A major portion of the man's monthly spending is allocated to rent, which forms the largest chunk of his expenses. Living in a premium apartment in Gurugram comes at a steep price, reflecting the city's reputation as a high-cost urban center driven by corporate demand and luxury housing.

Beyond rent, his expenses include groceries, which cover daily essentials and food supplies. He also spends significantly on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including gym memberships and fitness-related costs.

Another notable category is subscriptions—ranging from streaming platforms to various digital services. These recurring payments, though individually small, add up substantially over time.

Additionally, the man has invested in home setup and maintenance, indicating that he prioritizes comfort and aesthetics in



his living space. This includes furnishings, appliances, and other lifestyle upgrades that contribute to a higher monthly outflow.

A Lifestyle Choice or Necessity?

The viral post has sparked a broader conversation about whether such expenses are necessary or simply a matter of personal choice. While some argue that the spending reflects an aspirational lifestyle, others point out that living in cities like Gurugram often comes with unavoidable costs.

Urban professionals working in corporate sectors frequently face high rents, transportation costs, and lifestyle expectations. In such environments, maintaining a certain standard of living can become both a social and professional necessity.

However, critics suggest that many of these expenses—especially subscriptions and premium services—can be reduced with better financial planning. The debate high-

lights the fine line between needs and wants in modern urban life.

Internet Reacts with Shock and Humor

Social media users were quick to respond to the expense breakdown, with many expressing astonishment. A common reaction was that the monthly expenditure exceeded their annual income, underscoring the vast income disparities in the country.

Some users reacted humorously, turning the situation into memes and jokes. Others used the opportunity to discuss their own financial habits, comparing expenses and sharing tips on saving money.

At the same time, a section of users defended the man, arguing that his spending is justified given his income level and lifestyle preferences. They emphasized that financial decisions are subjective and should be viewed in the context of individual earnings.

The Bigger Picture: Rising Urban Costs

The viral story sheds light on a larger issue—the rising cost of living in urban India. Cities like Gurugram have seen rapid development, attracting professionals with high-paying jobs. However, this growth has also led to increased housing costs, expensive services, and a general rise in living expenses.

For many young professionals, balancing income and expenditure has become increasingly challenging. While higher salaries offer greater purchasing power, they are often offset by equally high costs.

The situation also reflects changing lifestyle trends, where convenience, comfort, and experiences are prioritized. From food delivery to fitness memberships, modern urban living often comes with added expenses that previous generations did not face.

A Reflection of Modern Aspirations

Ultimately, the Gurugram man's expense breakdown is more than just a viral moment—it is a reflection of evolving aspirations and economic realities. It highlights how urban professionals navigate their finances in a rapidly changing environment.

For some, the ₹2.44 lakh monthly spending may seem excessive. For others, it represents a standard they aspire to achieve. The differing reactions underline the diversity of financial situations and perspectives in India.

As cities continue to grow and lifestyles evolve, such discussions are likely to become more common. They serve as a reminder of the importance of financial awareness, planning, and making choices that align with one's priorities and income.

In the end, the viral post has sparked not just curiosity, but also an important conversation about money, lifestyle, and the true cost of living in modern urban India.

England vs Sri Lanka: Form, History and Key Factors Ahead of Super 8 Showdown



The Super 8 clash between the England cricket team and the Sri Lanka cricket team in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 sets the stage for a compelling contest between a dominant force and an unpredictable challenger.

England Hold Clear Edge in Head-to-Head

Historically, England have enjoyed a strong record against Sri Lanka in T20 internationals. They have won a significant majority of their encounters, establishing a clear psychological advantage. This dominance extends to World Cup meetings as well, where England have consistently outperformed Sri Lanka in high-pressure situations.

Recent Form Favors England

England enter the match with impressive recent form, showcasing consistency and depth

across both batting and bowling departments. Their aggressive approach, combined with a balanced squad, has made them one of the most formidable teams in the tournament.

Sri Lanka, in contrast, have struggled to maintain consistency. While they have shown flashes of brilliance, their performances have often been uneven. This inconsistency has made it difficult for them to build momentum, especially against top-tier opposition.

Strength in Batting Lineups

England's batting unit remains one of their biggest strengths. With explosive hitters and adaptable players throughout the order, they are capable of both setting and chasing big targets with ease. Their aggressive mindset allows them to dominate bowlers from the outset.

Sri Lanka rely more heavily on a few key batters to anchor their innings. While these players have delivered strong performances at times, the team has occasionally faced collapses under pressure. Building partnerships and maintaining stability will be crucial for them in this match.

Bowling: Depth vs Potential

England's bowling attack is well-rounded, combining pace and spin effectively. Their ability to take wickets at crucial moments and control the flow of runs gives them a significant edge.

Sri Lanka's bowling unit, though talented, has been inconsistent. They possess match-winners who can change the game, but their overall performance has lacked reliability. If their bowlers can execute disciplined plans, they have the potential to challenge

England's strong batting lineup.

Key Factors That Could Decide the Match

The outcome of this contest will likely depend on how well Sri Lanka handle pressure. England's experience in big matches gives them an advantage, but T20 cricket often rewards teams that seize key moments.

Fielding could also play a decisive role. Both teams are capable of producing game-changing efforts in the field, and small margins can make a big difference in a high-stakes match.

Additionally, the pitch conditions and match situation will influence strategies. A batting-friendly surface would suit England's aggressive style, while a slower pitch could bring Sri Lanka's bowlers into the game.

What Lies Ahead

England will look to

continue their strong run and reinforce their status as title contenders. A win here would further strengthen their position in the Super 8 stage.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, face a must-perform scenario. A victory against a strong opponent like England could revive their campaign and boost team confidence.

Final Outlook

While England enter the match as clear favorites based on form and past record, Sri Lanka cannot be underestimated. Their ability to produce unexpected performances makes them a dangerous opponent.

In the end, this clash is likely to be a test of consistency versus unpredictability. If England play to their strengths, they should have the upper hand—but if Sri Lanka rise to the occasion, an upset could be on the cards.

India vs South Africa: High-Stakes Clash in T20 World Cup Super 8

As India prepare to face South Africa in the Super 8 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, the contest promises to be a tightly fought battle between two of cricket's most competitive sides. With both teams carrying strong momentum and a history of intense encounters, this fixture could play a crucial role in shaping the semifinal race.

India enter the match on the back of an unbeaten run in the group stage. However, despite winning all their matches, their performances have not been entirely convincing. Questions remain about the consistency of their batting lineup, which has yet to deliver a complete performance across all departments. While the bowling unit has looked disciplined and effective, the batting order will need to step up against a formidable South African attack.

South Africa, on the other hand, have shown flashes of brilliance and remain a dangerous opponent. Known for their pace-heavy bowling attack and explosive batting, they have the ability to challenge even the strongest teams. Their performances in recent matches suggest a side that can adapt quickly to pressure situations, making them a serious threat in knockout-style games.

Historically, the rivalry between India and South Africa has been closely contested, particularly in the T20 for-

mat. In head-to-head encounters, India hold a slight edge, having won more matches than South Africa in T20 internationals. Overall, India have won around 18 matches compared to South Africa's 12 in their meetings, reflecting a competitive but India-leaning record.

This rivalry has often produced thrilling finishes, with both teams showcasing contrasting strengths. India's depth in batting and spin options often counters South Africa's reliance on pace and power-hitting. The balance between these styles makes their clashes unpredictable and entertaining.

Recent form further adds intrigue to this encounter. India's unbeaten streak highlights their resilience, but also exposes areas that need improvement. Their middle order has occasionally struggled to accelerate, and early wickets could put them under pressure. South Africa, meanwhile, have demonstrated the ability to bounce back from setbacks and capitalize on key moments in matches.

Another important factor will be the performance of all-rounders. In T20 cricket, players who contribute with both bat and ball often make the difference in tight games. India will rely on their all-round options to provide balance, while South Africa's multi-skilled players could be crucial in shifting momentum during critical phases.



Fielding standards are also expected to play a significant role. Both teams are known for their athleticism, and in a format where small margins matter, a brilliant catch or run-out could change the course of the match.

The pitch and conditions will further influence team strategies. If the surface offers assistance to bowlers, it could bring South Africa's pace attack into play. Conversely, a batting-friendly pitch would suit India's lineup, allowing their top order to dominate.

With the Super 8 stage intensifying the competition, every match carries added pressure. A win here would not only boost confidence but also strengthen the chances of progressing to the semifinals. Both teams are aware of the stakes and will be eager to deliver their best performance.

Ultimately, this clash is expected to be a contest of fine margins. India's consistency will be tested against South Africa's unpredictability, making it a game that could go either way. Fans can expect a high-quality encounter filled with drama, skill, and moments of brilliance as two cricketing giants battle for supremacy.

Suryakumar Yadav Backs Abhishek Sharma, Dismisses Form Concerns Ahead of South Africa Clash

India captain Suryakumar Yadav has firmly defended young opener Abhishek Sharma amid growing criticism over his poor run in the ongoing T20 World Cup, making it clear that the team management remains confident in the batter's abilities.

As India prepares for a crucial Super 8 encounter against South Africa national cricket team, Abhishek's form has become a major talking point. The left-handed opener has endured a difficult start to the tournament, registering three consecutive ducks in the matches he has played so far. His struggles have raised questions among fans and analysts about whether India should consider changes at the top of the order.

However, Suryakumar has brushed aside these concerns with a strong and somewhat witty response. Addressing the media ahead of the high-stakes clash, he remarked that he is more worried about those who are overly concerned about Abhishek's form than the player himself. He suggested that such reactions are premature and unnecessary, especially considering Abhishek's proven match-winning potential.

The Indian skipper emphasized that the team is backing the young batter fully and is not reading too much into his recent failures. He pointed out that lean patches are a natural part of a cricketer's journey, particularly in a fast-paced format like T20 cricket, where fortunes can change quickly. According to him, Abhishek's current run of low scores does not diminish his ability or importance to the team.

Suryakumar also highlighted the team's



collective approach, noting that players support each other during challenging phases. He recalled how Abhishek had previously delivered impactful performances and contributed significantly to the team's success. Now, he said, it is the team's turn to stand by him and ensure he regains confidence.

India's campaign so far has been strong despite Abhishek's struggles. The team has managed to secure victories and maintain momentum heading into the Super 8 stage. This, the captain suggested, reflects the depth and balance within the squad, where different players have stepped up when required.

Abhishek's rough patch has also been compounded by health issues earlier in the tournament, which briefly disrupted his rhythm. Despite these setbacks, the team management believes that he remains a key player capable of turning games around. His aggressive batting style and ability to dominate bowlers make him a valuable asset, particularly in high-pressure matches.

Suryakumar's comments also send a broader message about the team's stability and confidence. By ruling out any immediate changes to the playing XI, he has indicated that India is unlikely to make reactionary decisions based on short-term form. Instead, the focus remains

on maintaining continuity and trusting players to deliver when it matters most.

The upcoming clash against South Africa is expected to be a stern test for India. Both teams have performed well in the tournament and will be aiming to carry their momentum into the knockout stages. In such a scenario, the performance of top-order batters, including Abhishek, could prove crucial.

Despite the external noise, the Indian camp appears calm and focused. Suryakumar's backing of Abhishek reflects a leadership style that prioritizes confidence and long-term thinking over knee-jerk reactions. It also underscores the importance of mental resilience in international cricket, where scrutiny and expectations are always high.

Ultimately, all eyes will be on Abhishek Sharma as he takes the field in the Super 8 stage. While his recent scores may not inspire confidence, the faith shown by his captain and teammates could play a significant role in helping him rediscover his form. If he manages to bounce back, it could not only silence critics but also strengthen India's chances in the tournament.

For now, the message from the Indian dressing room is clear: there is no panic, no loss of trust—only belief that a talented player is just one innings away from turning things around.

Jemimah Rodrigues Scripts History with Landmark 2,500 T20I Runs

Indian batter Jemimah Rodrigues has added another impressive chapter to her growing career, achieving a significant milestone in women's T20 International cricket. During a crucial match against Australia, the 24-year-old reached 2,500 runs in T20 Internationals, becoming only the fourth Indian woman to do so. The landmark came in a high-pressure setting, underlining Rodrigues' consistency and importance to the Indian middle order. Entering the match just a few runs short of the milestone, she wasted little time in getting there, bringing up the achievement early in her innings with a confident boundary.

This feat places her among an elite group of Indian women cricketers who have crossed the 2,500-run mark in T20Is. It is a testament to her longevity, adaptability, and steady performances since making her debut as a teenager.

Rodrigues' innings was not just about personal achievement. She played a key role in stabilizing India's batting after an early setback, building a strong partnership with senior players to guide the team to a competitive total. Her knock combined composure with controlled aggression, reflecting the maturity she has developed over the years.

Since bursting onto the international scene in 2018, Rodrigues has been regarded as one of India's most promising talents. Known for her elegant stroke play and ability to rotate strike efficiently, she has consistently delivered in the shortest format. Over time, she has transformed from a young prospect into a dependable performer in the In-

dian lineup.

Her journey has been marked by steady improvement rather than sudden spikes. While she may not always grab headlines with explosive innings, her reliability and ability to anchor the innings have made her invaluable. This milestone is a reflection of that sustained excellence.

The 2,500-run mark is also significant because of the evolving nature of women's cricket, where scoring consistently across formats requires adaptability. Rodrigues has shown she can handle different match situations—whether rebuilding after early wickets or accelerating when needed.

Beyond numbers, her presence brings balance to the team. She often plays the role of a stabilizer, allowing more aggressive batters to play freely around her. This ability to complement her teammates has been crucial to India's success in T20 cricket.

Her achievement comes at a time when Indian women's cricket is gaining momentum globally. With increasing competitiveness and exposure, milestones like these highlight the progress of players who have been part of this transformation.

Rodrigues' milestone also reflects her resilience. Over the years, she has faced form fluctuations and competition for places but has continued to evolve her game. Her improved shot selection, better game awareness, and ability to handle pressure situations are evident in her recent performances.

As she joins the elite list of Indian batters with 2,500 T20I runs, the focus will now shift to

what lies ahead. Given her age and experience, she is well-positioned to climb even higher in the record books and play a pivotal role in India's future campaigns.

With many years of cricket still ahead of her, this milestone may just be a stepping stone toward even greater achievements. For now, it stands as a well-earned recognition of her consistency, skill, and contribution to Indian cricket.

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Nabha Natesh Gears Up for a Big Summer with Two Pan-India Releases

Actress Nabha Natesh is all set for a major career milestone this summer as she prepares to entertain audiences with two prestigious pan-India films — Swayambhu and Nagabandham. Both big-budget projects are gearing up for grand releases, positioning the actress for what could be one of the most defining phases of her career.

Known for her energetic screen presence and versatility, Nabha will be seen portraying two completely contrasting characters in the films. In “Nagabandham,” she plays Parvati, a role said to be rooted in a mystical narrative, while “Swayambhu” features her as Sundaravalli, a young princess set against a grand historical backdrop. The dual releases are expected to highlight her range as a performer and reinforce her standing among the new-age leading actresses in the industry.

Industry buzz suggests that both films are mounted on a lavish scale with strong technical backing and visually rich storytelling. The projects have already generated significant curiosity among moviegoers, especially after the teasers received an encouraging response across digital platforms. Fans and trade analysts alike are watching closely, as simultaneous high-profile releases are relatively rare for a young actress.

With “Swayambhu” and “Nagabandham,” Nabha Natesh has built a solid lineup that reflects careful script selection and a focus on diverse roles. The actress has ex-



pressed confidence about the films, believing their content and emotional depth will resonate with audiences across languages.

Trade experts note that if the films click at the box office, the summer could mark a turning point, potentially elevating her to the next league of leading stars. The combination of scale, genre diversity, and pan-India reach is

expected to broaden her appeal beyond regional markets.

As anticipation builds, the coming months promise to be crucial for Nabha Natesh. With two ambitious projects arriving in the same season, the actress stands at an exciting juncture, ready to make a strong impression and further cement her place in the evolving landscape of Indian cinema.

Strong Word of Mouth Keeps “Couple Friendly” Going Steady

The romantic entertainer “Couple Friendly” continues its impressive theatrical run, entering its second week with steady box-office collections and growing audience appreciation. Starring Santosh Soban and Manasa Varanasi in the lead roles, the film has emerged as a crowd favorite, drawing strong footfalls across key centres in Telugu states.

The film received a major boost after Prabhas interacted with the team in a recent interview that quickly went viral online. During the interaction, the star shared his thoughts on the film’s performances, music, and youthful appeal, sparking widespread conversations on social media. Industry observers note that the buzz generated from the interaction translated directly into increased ticket sales, especially over the weekend.

Trade circles report that bookings surged significantly following the viral clips, with the film trending on ticketing platforms such as BookMyShow. With positive word of mouth continuing to spread, exhibitors are optimistic that the film will maintain momentum through its second week and beyond.

Presented by UV Creations and produced under the UV Concepts banner, “Couple Friendly”

blends romance and light-hearted humor, appealing strongly to youth and family audiences alike. Co-producer Ajay Kumar Raju P supported the project’s production, while director Ashwin Chandrasekhar has been widely praised for his fresh narrative treatment and engaging screenplay.

The film’s theatrical release across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana was handled by producer-distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni, whose distribution strategy ensured wide reach in both urban multiplexes and single screens.

Alongside the lead pair, the supporting cast has also been appreciated for adding depth and humor to the storyline. Technically, the film benefits from vibrant production design by Michael BFA, slick editing by Ganesh Shiva, and polished cinematography by Dinesh Purushothaman. Composer Aditya Ravindran’s music has further contributed to the film’s popularity, with several tracks gaining traction online.

As “Couple Friendly” settles into its second week, trade analysts believe its consistent occupancy and strong youth pull could help it sustain a profitable theatrical run. With positive audience feedback still pouring in



and digital buzz remaining high, the film appears set to continue its successful streak at the box office in the days ahead.

Anil Ravipudi Launches “Killer” Teaser, Praises Sci-Fi Thriller’s Vision



Blockbuster filmmaker Anil Ravipudi has officially unveiled the teaser of the upcoming science-fiction thriller Killer, giving the film a strong boost ahead of its theatrical release. The teaser launch created buzz within industry circles, especially after the director praised the film’s scale, concept, and execution. “Killer” features Jyoti

Poorvaaj and Poorvaaj in the lead roles, alongside Manish Gilada, Chandrakant Kollu, Vishal Raj, Archana Ananth, and Gautham Chakradhar Koppishetty in pivotal characters. The film is produced under the banners of Think Cinema and AU & I Studios by Poorvaaj and Padmanabha Reddy A., with Urveesh Poorvaaj present-

ing the project. Directed by Poorvaaj, the film is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon.

Interestingly, the teaser was originally scheduled for release a day later, but Anil Ravipudi chose to launch it earlier after watching it and being impressed by the film’s content. Speaking at the event, he lauded Poorvaaj for simultane-

ously producing, directing, and acting in the project — calling it a commendable effort. He noted that the film’s blend of science fiction and thriller elements feels refreshing and that the overall presentation appears grand and distinctive.

Ravipudi also highlighted Jyoti Poorvaaj’s transformation, saying

audiences familiar with her television work will be surprised by her intense action performance in the film. He added that it will be interesting to watch the real-life couple share screen space in such a genre-driven narrative and urged audiences to support the film when it hits theatres.

Expressing gratitude, Jyoti Poorvaaj thanked the director for taking time out of his busy schedule to release the teaser and for consistently encouraging smaller films. Director Poorvaaj echoed the sentiment, sharing that Ravipudi insisted on releasing the teaser immediately to spread positivity and support new talent, a gesture the team deeply appreciated.

With a unique premise and a strong technical team — including cinematography by Jagadeesh Bommisetty and music by Aashirvad and Suman Jeeva — “Killer” is positioned as a genre experiment aiming to offer a fresh cinematic experience. As anticipation builds following the teaser launch, the film is expected to attract attention for its ambitious storytelling and sci-fi backdrop when it arrives in theatres soon.

“Aakarshitha” Launched with Traditional Pooja, Shooting to Begin Soon



The upcoming film Aakarshitha, starring Thirugun in the lead role, was officially launched with a grand pooja ceremony on Saturday, marking the beginning of Production No.1 under the Lucky Entertainments banner. The project is jointly produced by Kore Sandeep Yadav and Srikanth Battu, with shooting scheduled to commence soon.

Directed by debutant Surishetty Kishore, the film features Padine Kumar as the female lead. The ensemble cast includes Raj Kumar Kasireddy, Adhurs Raghu, Satyam Rajesh, Ravi Varma, Priya and others, promising a blend of performances across varied characters.

The launch event was attended by several prominent guests from the industry. Noted producer C. Kalyan sounded the clap for the

muhurtham shot, while astrologer Venu Swamy handed over the script. The camera was switched on by Baby Aashka and Keerthana, and actress Priya unveiled the film’s title. Producer-distributor Vamsi Nandipati and producer Damodara Prasad were among those who graced the ceremony.

Speaking at the event, Thirugun expressed his excitement about collaborating with a new team and described the film as a project with a strong and refreshing storyline. He thanked the guests for their support and confirmed that the shooting will begin shortly, with more updates to follow.

Actor Raj Kumar Kasireddy revealed that he first heard the story two years ago and was impressed by its uniqueness, stating that the film carries all the elements of a commercial enter-

tainer. Ravi Varma, who is working with Thirugun for the eighth time, expressed confidence that the film will resonate with audiences.

Director Surishetty Kishore said “Aakarshitha” aims to present something new and engaging, thanking the media for their support. Producer Sandeep Yadav also expressed gratitude to the guests and media, promising regular updates as the project progresses.

With cinematography by Shaik Hazrathaiiah (Vali) and music by Rohith Babu, the film is expected to combine strong technical craftsmanship with a compelling narrative. As the team prepares to move into production, “Aakarshitha” has already generated positive buzz, setting the stage for what the makers hope will be an exciting cinematic journey.

Rajinikanth–Kamal Haasan Reunion Film Promo Sparks Massive Buzz

Indian cinema icons Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan have officially set the stage for a historic cinematic reunion, as the promo of their much-anticipated project — tentatively titled KH x RK — was unveiled today. The film, backed by Red Giant Movies and directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, marks the legendary duo’s on-screen collaboration after nearly 47 years.

The announcement has generated immense excitement among fans and industry circles alike, as audiences have long hoped to see the two stalwarts share screen space again. Positioned as a massive pan-world entertainer, the project is already being described as one of the most ambitious collaborations in recent Indian cinema.

The newly released promo offers a playful glimpse into the film’s

tone. It features Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan preparing for their roles in a competitive yet humorous manner. In a light-hearted sequence, one dismisses the suit selected by the other, while the other rejects the chosen shoes, creating a fun and engaging dynamic that reflects their charismatic personalities. The promo concludes with both legends humorously questioning the director about who the real hero of the film is, leaving viewers intrigued and entertained.

Adding to the excitement is the energetic background score by Anirudh Ravichander, whose music amplifies the promo’s stylish presentation. Both actors appear in striking looks, underscoring the film’s grand scale and contemporary appeal.

Industry observers believe the collaboration

brings together not just two of the biggest stars in Indian cinema, but also a powerful creative team capable of delivering a global-scale spectacle. With Nelson Dilipkumar known for blending commercial storytelling with quirky humor, expectations are high for a film that balances mass appeal with fresh narrative elements.

While the makers have kept the storyline and additional cast details under wraps, they have confirmed that more updates will be revealed in the coming months. As anticipation builds, the promo has already ignited widespread conversations online, with fans celebrating the reunion of two cinematic legends and eagerly awaiting further announcements about what promises to be a landmark film event.

