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Revanth Reddy Questions BJP, KCR-BRS Record Ahead of Telangana Municipal Polls

Hyderabad, February 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday addressed the media in Jubilee Hills, emphasizing the need for voters to make informed choices in the upcoming municipal elections. He highlighted that citizens in 116 municipalities and 7 corporations will cast their votes in a three-way contest involving Congress, BJP, and BRS. Revanth Reddy criticized BJP leaders for urging people to vote based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image, questioning the party's contribution to Telangana over the past 12 years. "Modi promised in 2014 at Palamuru that the Palamuru-Rangareddy project would be declared a national project. But nothing has happened. Yet BJP leaders ask people to vote for them because of Modi," he said. He recounted that during the previous GHMC elections, BJP leader Bandi Sanjay as-

sured flood-affected citizens that goods would be provided through central funds. "Residents trusted these promises and elected 50 BJP corporators. But now they claim goods are insured, failing to deliver. Is this not disrespecting Telangana voters?" the CM asked. Revanth Reddy also criticized the central government's fiscal policies toward southern states. "For every rupee Telangana pays in tax, it gets only 42 paise back. Karnataka gets 16 paise, Tamil Nadu 26 paise, Kerala 49 paise, while Bihar gets 6.06. Southern states are being treated unfairly, yet BJP ministers remain silent," he said. He cited examples of projects blocked or shifted from Telangana, including ITIR, the semiconductor project, Metro funding, and special funds for Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara. He accused BJP of using religious polarization, invoking Asaduddin Owaisi's name to sustain political relevance, rather than delivering tangible benefits to the state. Highlighting Con-



gress achievements under his leadership, Revanth Reddy noted initiatives such as timely government employee salaries, increasing Arogyasri coverage from 5 lakh to 10 lakh, free RTC travel for women, provision of ration to the poor, distribution of Indiramma houses, agricultural loan waivers, and youth-focused institutions like Young India Skills University and Sports University. He also emphasized permanent solutions for



KTR Urges Voters to Back BRS, Claims Congress Fails on Promises

Bhupalpalli/Parakala, February 9 | TPN Bureau:

BRS Executive President and former minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Sunday urged citizens to support the BRS in the upcoming municipal elections, alleging that Congress leaders have sidelined election promises and engaged in scams during their two-year rule. He claimed that no significant development work had taken place under Congress in Telangana. Addressing campaigns in Bhupalpalli and Parakala, KTR criticized Congress for failing to implement welfare schemes and accused the party of

misleading voters. "If people vote for Congress, they will be left in uncertainty as promises will remain unfulfilled," he said, highlighting welfare programs such as pensions and gold distribution. KTR specifically pointed out that Congress leaders encouraged people who received 4,000 pensions or one-tola gold to vote for the party, while those who received 2,000 pensions or Rythu Bandhu support were urged to back BRS. He argued that the implementation of election promises depends on voters defeating Congress, implying that only a BRS win would ensure that welfare measures reach citizens. He also alleged that

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had failed to protect state resources, claiming that the Singareni coal sector had been compromised under the current Congress-led government. KTR reiterated that the BRS was committed to continuing development initiatives and ensuring that citizens benefit from welfare programs, while Congress prioritized political gains over public service. The BRS leader concluded by urging the electorate to vote for BRS candidates in the municipal elections, emphasizing that this would be the only way to guarantee the proper execution of welfare promises and safeguard Telangana's developmental interests.

Free Fine Rice Sparks Historic Wave for Congress in Telangana: Uttam

Suryapet, February 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday hailed the Congress government's free fine rice distribution scheme as a game-changer that has generated unprecedented public support ahead of the urban local body elections. Speaking at roadshows and ward-level meetings across Suryapet district, Uttam predicted a near clean sweep for Congress in the State's municipal polls. The flagship initiative delivers 6 kg of high-quality fine rice per person every month through the Public Distribution System (PDS) free of cost, benefiting 3.17 crore people at an annual expenditure of Rs 13,600 crore. According to Uttam, this historic programme, which made fine rice—a product previously reserved for the wealthy—available to the general population, has significantly

strengthened Congress's connect with citizens. He contrasted the initiative with the previous BRS regime, which supplied coarse rice that was often diverted to black markets, poultry farms, or breweries. Uttam noted that the BRS denied new ration cards for a decade, whereas the current government proactively issued cards to genuine applicants. Campaigning in Kodad, Tirumalgi, Neruduchera, and Huzurnagar; Uttam exuded confidence about Congress winning nearly 120 urban bodies, attributing the positive public wave to transparent governance, welfare schemes, and development projects undertaken in the past two years. He highlighted record paddy procurement of 72 lakh metric tonnes in one season, injecting Rs 19,500 crore directly into farmers' accounts, and Telangana's emergence as India's top paddy producer. Uttam also cited other



welfare measures, including free RTC bus travel for women, electricity up to 200 units free of cost, urban infrastructure upgrades, new schools, health centers, and improved power supply in towns like Tirumalgi, which he said strengthened public trust in the government. He urged voters to support Congress's hand symbol, warning that backing the BRS, BJP, independents, or others would waste votes. Promising accelerated development across municipalities, he assured voters of better roads, drains, healthcare, education, housing, pensions, and ration card delivery. Quoting feedback from surveys and credible sources, Uttam signaled overwhelming public support for Congress in Telangana's urban local body elections. He emphasized that welfare initiatives and transparent governance had created a historic wave, positioning the party for significant electoral gains. "building roads and flyovers. We are rebuilding trust in governance and laying the foundation for a smart, sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready Hyderabad," he said.

MIM Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi's Controversial Remarks Ignite Political Debate in Karimnagar

Hyderabad, February 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Akbaruddin Owaisi, floor leader of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) in the Telangana Assembly, has once again made headlines with outspoken and provocative remarks during political engagements in Karimnagar. Owaisi's statements — which have stirred strong reactions across the political spectrum — underscore the intensifying public discourse ahead of local elections. In recent public addresses and legislative sessions, Akbaruddin has sharply criticised other political parties and raised concerns on development and governance issues. He has questioned uneven development in certain urban and rural areas and spoken strongly about the need for balanced progress across all re-



gions, particularly highlighting perceived neglect of the Old City and other local priorities. Owaisi's bold speaking style has drawn both applause and criticism. He has frequently lambasted rival party policies and actions, accusing them of failing to deliver on key public needs. Akbaruddin has also called for greater attention to be paid to genuine public issues rather than political posturing, asserting that political leadership must focus on real development rather than rhetoric. The MIM MLA's remarks have contributed to a charged political environment in Karimnagar, with reactions from across party lines. While supporters laud him for unapologetically addressing controversial topics and standing

up for disenfranchised communities, critics argue that some of his comments verge on being inflammatory and risk deepening political divides. Political leaders from other parties have responded to his statements in various ways, ranging from calls for calm public discourse to denunciations of what they describe as provocative rhetoric. The debate has also drawn attention to broader themes of governance, equitable development, and accountability ahead of upcoming local panchayat and municipal elections. As the electoral season progresses, Akbaruddin Owaisi's vocal presence continues to shape political conversations in Karimnagar, reflecting broader trends in Telangana politics where strong statements and public engagement play a significant role in mobilising voter sentiment.

Kishan Reddy Blasts Congress and BRS, Calls for Change in Telangana

Suryapet, February 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy has launched a sharp attack on both the ruling Congress and the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), calling their governance in Telangana a "misfortune" and urging voters to support the BJP in the state's upcoming municipal elections. Speaking to the media and party workers, Kishan Reddy criticised the Congress government for what he described as a failure to fulfil key promises made after coming to power, including development objectives, welfare guaran-



tees, and employment schemes. He alleged that nearly two years into Congress rule, crucial commitments from the 2023 Assembly campaign remain unimplemented, leaving citizens disappointed and frustrated. Kishan further argued that successive governments in Hyderabad have operated under undue influence from parties with narrow political agendas, undermining the state's autonomy and broader development goals. In his criticism, he did not spare the BRS either, saying that over a decade in power did not translate into sustained progress for ordinary residents. He accused both

parties of prioritising political alignment over tangible governance outcomes. Highlighting the upcoming municipal elections, the Union Minister reiterated that voting for either Congress or BRS would only perpetuate stagnation and instability in urban local bodies. He claimed that combined political manoeuvres by these parties have diluted accountability and slowed development across towns and municipalities in Telangana. Kishan also took aim at social policy decisions made by the state government, including controversial reservation measures, which he de-

scribed as unconstitutional and divisive. He claimed that election strategies based on identity politics rather than inclusive development have deepened voter disillusionment. Urging citizens to elect BJP candidates in the municipal polls, Kishan Reddy stressed the need for fresh leadership focused on transparent governance, robust development frameworks, and an improved quality of life for all sections of society. He expressed confidence that the BJP's vision would respond better to public expectations and deliver sustainable progress beyond short-term political promises.

Mining Environment & Mineral Conservation Week Concludes in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, February 8 | TPN Bureau:
The valedictory ceremony of the 31st Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (ME&MC) Week was held in a grand manner at Janwada on Shankarpally Road, Hyderabad. The event was hosted by M/s Penna Cement Industries Limited of Tandur, an Adani Cement group company, and witnessed the participation of senior officials from the mining sector. Awards were presented to mining companies that demonstrated outstanding performance in environmental protection, scientific mining practices, and sustaina-

ble mineral conservation. The chief guest for the occasion was Pankaj Kulshreshtha, Controller General of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Nagpur. Several dignitaries attended the programme, including Chief Controller of Mines Dr. Y. G. Kale, Southern Region Controller of Mines Shailendra Kumar, CEO and Nominated Owner of Penna Cement Industries Limited Sukuru Ramarao, AVP Mines and Geology Bhanu Prakash Bhatnagar, ME&MC 2025-26 Chairman L. M. K. V. Srinivas, and Patron for ME&MC 2025-26 and Deputy Con-



troller of Mines (In-Charge), IBM Hyderabad, R. Ramkishan. The Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation Week was observed across Telangana from December 15 to De-

cember 20, 2025. The programme aimed to promote scientific mining methods, environmental protection, and sustainable development in the mining sector. A total of 35 mines, including 30

mechanized mines and five manual mines from across the state, participated in the week-long activities. Teams comprising senior mining officials inspected nearly 35

mines across Telangana during the programme. These inspections focused on mining development practices, environmental safeguards, mine safety standards, social development initiatives, and sustainable mine management systems. The evaluation formed the basis for identifying and rewarding best-performing mining units. Addressing the gathering, chief guest Pankaj Kulshreshtha emphasized that mining operations must be carried out using scientific methods without causing harm to the environment. He underlined the importance of proper

identification of mineral reserves, conducting geological surveys, obtaining statutory clearances, and addressing public concerns as part of responsible mining. He also stressed that land reclamation, afforestation, and systematic mine closure plans are essential to restore ecological balance after mining activities are completed. Speaking on the occasion, R. Ramkishan stated that the 31st edition of the ME&MC Week reflects Telangana's commitment to balancing mining development with environmental conservation. He noted that advancements in tech-

nology have brought significant changes in mining practices, enabling more precise operations while minimizing environmental impact. He added that post-mining land restoration and ecological rejuvenation are increasingly achievable with modern techniques, and creating awareness about these practices remains a key objective of the programme. The valedictory ceremony concluded with a renewed commitment from stakeholders to strengthen sustainable mining practices and environmental stewardship across Telangana.

GO 76 to Be Amended for Singareni People: Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

Kothagudem, February 9 | TPN Bureau
State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday assured that the Congress government would amend Government Order (GO) 76 to resolve long-pending house site issues in the Kothagudem-Singareni region and ensure justice to the local people. As part of the ongoing municipal election campaign, the Minister undertook extensive campaigning across the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation limits. Addressing public gatherings, he said the Congress government is firmly committed to safeguarding the interests of Singareni workers and residents of the coal belt. The Minister recalled that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had already given a clear assurance on the issue of house sites during a public meeting at Bhupalpally. He said the present government, which stands firmly on the side of workers, would take corrective measures and

amend GO 76 to benefit affected families. "This government belongs to the people and will ensure that justice is delivered to those who have been waiting for decades," he said. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy pointed out that Congress representatives are in power at every level—from MLAs and MPs to Ministers and the Chief Minister—and urged voters to strengthen the party further by electing Congress candidates in the municipal elections. "If you want development, you must place the responsibility in our hands. Just as one cannot fight a battle without a sword, development is not possible unless Congress candidates are elected," he remarked. He informed that out of 60 divisions in the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation, Congress is contesting in 58 divisions, while its ally CPI(M) is contesting in two divisions. He appealed to voters to ensure victory for all Congress and alliance candidates to accelerate development works.



Highlighting local issues, the Minister said the Congress government would focus on improving roads, drainage systems, and bridges in the Kothagudem region. He assured that the long-standing drinking water problem would be resolved and promised round-the-clock supply of safe drinking water. He also pledged initiatives for youth employment generation and improvement of medical facilities in government hospitals. The Minister called upon party workers to intensify campaigning over the next two days, as polling is scheduled for February 11. He urged them to go door-to-door and explain the government's welfare and development agenda to

voters. Describing Kothagudem as his own home turf and a traditional Congress stronghold, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy cautioned people against being misled by individuals wearing party scarves only during elections. He announced that from April, another phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme would be launched, under which eligible poor families would be provided both house sites and houses. The Minister concluded by stating that electing Congress candidates would ensure faster development, welfare benefits, and lasting solutions to the problems faced by the people of Kothagudem and the Singareni region.

Sridhar Babu Leads Campaign Roadshow in Manthani Ahead of Municipal Polls

Manthani, Feb 9 | TPN Bureau
As part of the final day of municipal election campaigning, Minister Sridhar Babu led a roadshow from the Shripada Rao statue to Ambedkar Chowk in Manthani, urging voters to support the Congress party and its 13 municipal candidates in the town. Addressing the gathering, Minister Babu highlighted the achievements of the Congress state government, emphasizing that welfare schemes were being delivered directly to poor and marginalized families without any corruption. He assured citizens that ongoing and upcoming development initiatives would significantly enhance the infrastructure and quality of life in Manthani. Babu noted that with the support of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the constituency had secured substantial funds, which would be utilized for urban development once Congress candidates were elected. He urged voters to ensure a decisive victory for the party, cautioning that votes cast for opposition candidates would be wasted. The minister spotlighted several welfare measures already benefiting residents, including the construction of Indiramma houses for homeless families, financial empowerment initia-

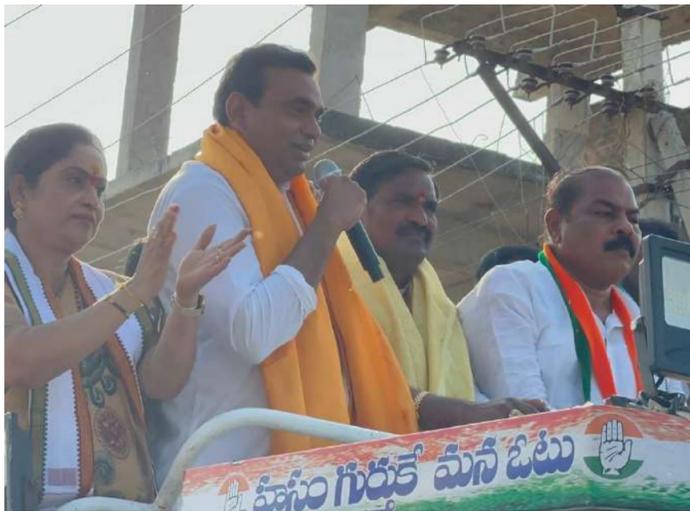


tives for women through cooperative groups, and skill development programs. He also mentioned ongoing municipal office construction works and promised swift processing of citizen applications to ensure timely delivery of government services. In the healthcare sector, Babu announced the establishment of a five-bed dialysis center and a new 50-bed hospital near the MPDO office, which would soon be operational, ensuring improved medical facilities for residents. He underscored the government's commitment to empowering women through self-help group programs and supporting their economic development. Additionally, infrastructure projects including roads, drains, and municipal facilities were being upgraded

to meet the needs of Manthani's growing urban population. Minister Babu urged the people of Manthani to cast their votes for the 13 Congress ward candidates with maximum majority, promising that development, welfare schemes, and public services would accelerate with their victory. He reaffirmed that the party's focus remained on transparent governance and effective delivery of benefits to all citizens, particularly the underprivileged. The roadshow was attended by Congress municipal candidates, senior party leaders, Youth Congress and affiliated organization representatives, women leaders, and party supporters, who expressed strong enthusiasm for the upcoming municipal polls.

Congress Victory Certain in Janagam Municipal Elections: MP Chamala

Janagam, Feb 9 | TPN Bureau
Congress Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Monday expressed confidence that the party was poised for a decisive victory in the Janagam municipal elections, asserting that 20-25 Congress candidates were all but guaranteed to win. Speaking at a campaign event organized under the leadership of Janagam District DCC President Lakavat Dhanvanthee and constituency in-charge Kommuri Pratap Reddy, the MP predicted a strong performance for the party based on favorable ground surveys. Accompanying Chamala at the event were Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Aleru MLA and Government Whip Beerl Ilayya, along with senior Congress leaders and local activists. Chamala highlighted that Congress's welfare initiatives and development programs had strengthened the party's connect with citizens, particularly underprivileged communities. Criticizing rival parties, Chamala stated that both the BRS and BJP had already acknowledged defeat and were now attempting to survive politically. He alleged that despite ideo-



logical differences, the two parties had secretly collaborated to safeguard their positions, which he said underscored the futility of expecting development from such alliances. He emphasized that over the past decade, neither BRS nor BJP governance had brought meaningful progress to the people of Janagam. "Development that truly benefits citizens cannot come from parties more focused on political survival than public welfare," Chamala remarked. The MP lauded the Congress state govern-

ment for prioritizing the welfare of poor and marginalized populations, asserting that this focus had created a positive wave in municipal areas. He encouraged voters to support Congress candidates to ensure that welfare programs and development initiatives continued without disruption. Chamala also highlighted the party's efforts in sectors such as education, healthcare, women's empowerment, and social security schemes, stating that these programs had reached thousands of beneficiaries across

Janagam. He urged citizens to recognize the tangible impact of Congress governance and make an informed choice at the polls. The campaign event included interactions with local party workers, ward-level leaders, and community members, aiming to consolidate support for Congress candidates in all 20 wards of Janagam municipality. Chamala concluded by reaffirming that the party's commitment to transparent governance and pro-poor policies made it the natural choice for voters in the upcoming municipal elections.

PRTU TS Formation Day Celebrated with Grandeur in Adilabad



Adilabad, February 9 | TPN Bureau
The Progressive Recognised Teachers Union - Telangana State (PRTU TS) celebrated its Formation Day with great enthusiasm at the union office in Adilabad district headquarters on Sunday. The event was marked by the hoisting of the union flag by District President Kommu Krishna Kumar, symbolising the organisation's commitment to teachers' welfare and the protection of the public education system. Addressing the gathering, Krishna Kumar said that resolving teachers' issues and safeguarding government schools remain the primary objectives of PRTU TS. He emphasised that a strong and united organisational structure is essential to effectively address the concerns of teachers. "Only when the union is strong can teachers' problems be resolved efficiently," he stated. He further noted that PRTU TS has consistently fought for

teachers' rights and continues to work towards strengthening the education system in Telangana. The union, he said, remains dedicated to constructive dialogue with the government while firmly standing up for the legitimate demands of educators. The programme witnessed the participation of District General Secretary T. Narasimha Swamy, Honorary President Govardhan, state-level office bearers, district and mandal leaders, and several union members. Speakers highlighted the role of PRTU TS in advocating policy reforms, improving working conditions for teachers, and ensuring quality education for students across the state. The celebration concluded with a call for unity among teachers and a renewed pledge to work collectively for the advancement of education and the welfare of the teaching community in Telangana.

As part of the Formation Day celebrations, PRTU TS members organised a community service initiative by arranging a meal programme at a local old-age home, reflecting the union's social responsibility and humanitarian values. The programme witnessed the participation of District General Secretary T. Narasimha Swamy, Honorary President Govardhan, state-level office bearers, district and mandal leaders, and several union members. Speakers highlighted the role of PRTU TS in advocating policy reforms, improving working conditions for teachers, and ensuring quality education for students across the state. The celebration concluded with a call for unity among teachers and a renewed pledge to work collectively for the advancement of education and the welfare of the teaching community in Telangana.

Ponnam Prabhakar Campaigns for Congress Candidates in Karimnagar

Karimnagar, February 9 | TPN Bureau
State Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar carried out extensive election campaigning on Sunday in support of Congress candidates contesting the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation elections, urging voters to give a decisive mandate to the party for development-oriented and corruption-free governance.

The Minister first participated in an election campaign at Vidya Nagar in support of Congress candidate Varala Narasimham, contesting from the 21st Division. Addressing a corner meeting, Ponnam Prabhakar appealed to voters to elect Narasimham with a huge majority by voting for the Congress party's hand symbol. He described Narasimham as a committed party worker with over 30 years of experience, who would remain accessible to the people and work tirelessly to resolve their issues.

Ponnam Prabhakar said that while Nar-



asimham would be the corporator, the responsibility for the overall development of the 21st Division would rest with him as a Cabinet Minister. He alleged that the rival candidate was involved in corruption and land encroachments and questioned why the local MLA had never visited the division even once. He asked voters to choose between arrogance and leadership rooted in love and public service.

Highlighting welfare initiatives, the Minister said the Congress government has pro-

vided Indiramma houses, ration cards, fine quality rice distribution, 200 units of free electricity, gas subsidy, interest-free loans to women's self-help groups, and free RTC bus travel for women. He assured that a women's self-help group building would be sanctioned in the 21st Division and urged voters to remain vigilant and ensure victory for Congress candidates in the elections scheduled on February 11.

Later, the Minister campaigned in support of Congress candidate

Jakkula Nagarani in the 19th Division. Speaking at a corner meeting near the Ambedkar statue at Rekurthi, he appealed to voters to elect Nagarani with a large majority. He assured that the development of the division would be his personal responsibility and promised to resolve long-pending land issues in Rekurthi and undertake canal underground works.

Ponnam Prabhakar alleged that despite Rekurthi being merged into the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, no meaningful de-

velopment had taken place under previous representatives. He reiterated that the Congress government has delivered housing, ration cards, free power, gas subsidy, farmer support schemes, loan waivers, and welfare programs that were weakened by the previous government.

The Minister also campaigned in support of Congress candidate Nasreen Sultana Saiyuddin from the 60th Division, appealing to voters to support her and strengthen Congress in the municipal corporation. He cautioned voters against attempts to influence elections through money power and urged them to accept money, if offered, but vote decisively for Congress candidates.

Ponnam Prabhakar concluded by stating that the Karimnagar municipal elections are a fight between corruption and honest governance, and called upon citizens to give Congress a clear mandate for inclusive development.

Harish Rao Slams Revanth Reddy During Dubbaka Poll Campaign



Dubbaka, February 9 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Leader T. Harish Rao launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy while campaigning for the municipal elections in Dubbaka on Sunday, alleging failure of governance, unfulfilled promises, and neglect of public welfare.

Addressing party workers and voters, Harish Rao said that despite touring several districts, Revanth Reddy has avoided visiting the undivided Medak region. He alleged that the Chief Minister was hesitant to come to the area because of Harish Rao's strong presence and feared being questioned by the people over his unfulfilled guarantees and promises. Harish Rao described the present Congress government as an "inefficient and inactive administration" that has failed to complete even a single meaningful development work in the last two-and-a-half years. He remarked that while welfare schemes are missing, scandals have become the hallmark of the Revanth Reddy government. "There are no schemes, only scams," he alleged. Criticizing civic administration, Harish Rao said there was no proper fogging in municipalities, but "frauding is happening everywhere." He alleged that citizens were facing difficulties in getting basic services such as house site pattas and drinking water. He questioned whether the Chief Minister was spending money from his own pocket, reminding voters that public funds belong to the people. The former minister stressed that the municipal elections were crucial for voters, even if they were not important for Re-

vanth Reddy or former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. He said Revanth Reddy came to power by making numerous guarantees but failed to implement even one of them. He listed promises such as Mahalakshmi scheme, Rythu Bharosa, crop bonus, free scooters, and gold distribution, alleging that over 400 assurances were made but none fulfilled. Harish Rao also took a dig at the free bus travel scheme, claiming that while women were given free travel, men were forced to buy double tickets. He warned voters that if they missed this election, Revanth Reddy would remain inaccessible for another two years. Accusing the Chief Minister of indulging in abusive language, Harish Rao said Revanth Reddy regularly targets KCR, himself, and KTR, including making remarks about KTR's English. He said insulting KCR, who played a key role in the formation of Telangana, would not solve people's problems related to water, electricity, or fertilizers. Harish Rao alleged that existing welfare schemes were halted and no new initiatives were introduced. He said farmers were still waiting for Rythu Bandhu support even after the start of the Rabi season. He used strong metaphors to criticize the Chief Minister's language and urged voters to respond appropriately through the polling booth.

Highlighting BRS achievements, Harish Rao said schools, temples, hospitals, and roads in Dubbaka were developed during KCR's tenure. He questioned what BJP or Congress leaders had contributed to the constituency and called upon voters to teach Revanth Reddy a lesson by ensuring that the pink flag flies high in Dubbaka.

BRS Facing Defeat in Municipal Polls: Chanagani Dayakar



Hyderabad, February 9 | TPN Bureau
TPCC General Secretary Chanagani Dayakar on Sunday

said that BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) must change his attitude and language, asserting that the BRS party no longer enjoys public support in the ongoing municipal elections.

Speaking to the media, Dayakar said people across Telangana are expressing strong displeasure over the language being used by KTR against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. He stated that the tone and remarks made by the BRS leader have hurt public sentiment and reflected political frustration ahead of an inevitable defeat in the municipal polls.

Dayakar alleged that KTR has already realized that a municipal election setback is unavoidable for the BRS, and this fear is clearly visible in his statements. "The peo-

ple are rejecting BRS politics, and KTR's aggressive language is a result of that realization," he said.

Referring to the Mallanna Sagar agitation, Dayakar said KTR had failed to learn lessons even after displaced families protested by throwing slippers, accusing the previous BRS government of ignoring the pain and sacrifices of farmers and ostees.

He said the resentment from such sections of society continues to haunt the BRS. Highlighting the performance of the present Congress government, Dayakar said that in the last 27 months of Praja Palana, Telangana has witnessed a visible transformation through development and welfare initiatives. He claimed that governance under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has brought positive change and restored people's faith in the administration.

"The growing public support for Praja Palana has unsettled KTR. He is unable to digest the fact that people are standing firmly with the Congress government," Dayakar remarked. He said welfare schemes and development programs are reaching the grassroots, strengthening public confidence.

Dayakar further warned that the continued use of abusive and disrespectful language would only accelerate KTR's political downfall. "Politics demands responsibility and restraint. With this kind of language, KTR is heading towards certain political decline," he said.

He concluded by stating that the municipal elections would clearly reflect the people's mood and reaffirm that the BRS has lost credibility, while the Congress continues to gain acceptance across urban local bodies in Telangana.

KTR Alleges Conspiracy in Forensic Lab Fire, Demands Judicial Probe



Hyderabad, February 9 | TPN Bureau
Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has alleged that the recent fire at the Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Nampally was a deliberate attempt to destroy critical evidence in the long-pending vote-for-note case. The blaze, which broke out last Saturday, has

sparked political tensions just weeks ahead of municipal elections.

Addressing a campaign event in Bhupalpalli, KTR accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of orchestrating the incident to eliminate evidence as the case approached crucial stages. He called the fire suspicious, noting that it occurred in a high-security

section with few staff present and that it took hours to extinguish the flames. Computers, servers, and digital records were reportedly damaged, raising questions about the integrity of ongoing investigations.

KTR demanded an independent judicial inquiry led by a retired judge and urged that an all-party delegation be allowed to inspect the

FSL and review the extent of damage. He also alleged that state police were acting under political instructions and called upon central agencies to ensure a transparent investigation.

"The people of Telangana see this fire as an attempt to compromise justice and destroy evidence," KTR said, emphasizing that such actions could allow accused individuals to evade accountability. He warned that politically sensitive cases must be handled impartially to maintain public confidence in the legal system.

Officials from the FSL, however, denied that any crucial evidence from the vote-for-note case was lost in the fire. They clarified that all materials related to the case had already been submitted to the court years ago. Records related to other ongoing cases had

either been examined or safely recovered. Authorities said the fire's cause is being investigated, but essential forensic materials remain secure.

The incident has intensified political debate in Telangana, with parties exchanging accusations and denials. While the BRS seeks a high-level probe, officials maintain that critical records are intact and the fire's exact cause will be determined through proper investigation.

As municipal elections approach, the forensic lab fire has brought governance, accountability, and transparency into sharp focus, highlighting concerns about the impartiality of investigations in politically sensitive matters and raising questions among citizens about the handling of high-profile cases.

Ponguleti Issues Strong Warning Ahead of Municipal Polls

Edulapuram, Feb 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy issued a stern warning to political opponents during a municipal election campaign closing meeting at Warangal Cross Road on Monday. Addressing a corner meeting ahead of the Edulapuram municipal elections, the minister cautioned against illegal activities, extortion, and intimidation, saying, "After the 11th, I will settle scores with anyone who crosses limits. Those involved in illegal collections or profiteering should beware. Any attempts at disruption or mischief will not be tolerated and will be punished as per the law."

Highlighting the importance of fair elections, Ponguleti emphasized that attempts to create unrest would



face strict consequences. "If anyone tries to stir trouble, we will take strict legal action. No one here will be intimidated by threats. The people will put an end to illegal activities and hooliganism through these elections," he said.

The minister also addressed leaders attempting to present themselves as development champions without being in power. "Development is possible

only with government support. Only those in power can execute works. How can you claim to do good for citizens when you have no authority? For a decade, the previous rulers lacked the vision to provide houses for the poor," Ponguleti remarked, taking a dig at opposition leaders.

He highlighted the achievements of the two-year-old Congress government, including issuing new ration

cards, increasing hostel diet allowances for students, and implementing several welfare schemes. Ponguleti assured that the government would continue to deliver benefits directly to the needy, ensuring transparency and accountability.

On housing, the minister announced that the second phase of Indiramma house distribution would begin in April. He added that government land titles

for beneficiaries would be provided, pledging to make Edulapuram a model municipality in Telangana. Additionally, he assured citizens of support for flood-affected areas, promising completion of retaining walls before the upcoming monsoon season.

Following the corner meeting, Ponguleti participated in a massive roadshow from Warangal Cross Road to Naidu Peta Circle, joined by thousands of supporters. He urged voters to cast their ballots for the Congress party's candidates and mark the hand symbol to ensure continued development and welfare in Edulapuram municipality.

The minister's message combined strict warnings for lawbreakers with promises of development and welfare, reinforcing the Congress campaign ahead of the crucial municipal elections.

Illegal Mechanic Shed Continues Operations Despite GHMC Seizure

Quthbullapur, February 9 | TPN Bureau

Ten days ago, GHMC Town Planning officials took action against illegal constructions in the Bachupally area near Nizampet Circle, seizing several buildings and sheds. However, in a surprising turn of events, car mechanic activities continue unabated at a shed located in front of the Bachupally substation, raising serious questions about enforcement and oversight.

Despite the official seizure, the shed remains operational, with daily mechanical work ongoing. Local residents have expressed strong criticism, questioning the effectiveness of GHMC's measures and



highlighting lapses in monitoring. "Seizure orders seem to exist only on paper. Even after en-

forcement action, the business continues as usual," said one concerned resident.

The incident has sparked doubts about whether GHMC's actions are limited to symbolic gestures rather than strict enforcement. Locals are increasingly asking whether the authorities' proclaimed tough stance on illegal structures is merely performative. "Why does the administration remain silent when illegal activities continue in seized premises?" a community member asked.

Town Planning authorities had specifically targeted this shed due to its unauthorized construction and ongoing

commercial activities. Nonetheless, the continuation of operations has drawn public scrutiny, with allegations surfacing that GHMC officials are failing to properly supervise and enforce their own directives.

Residents are now demanding immediate intervention from higher officials. They urge the authorities to take decisive action to halt the illegal mechanic activities in the seized sheds. "It's high time the concerned GHMC officials respond and enforce the law without further delay," said another local resident.

The situation in Bachupally highlights broader challenges in

urban governance, particularly in managing unauthorized constructions and ensuring compliance with municipal orders. GHMC's Town Planning department has come under pressure to demonstrate that its enforcement measures are not just procedural formalities but result in tangible action on the ground.

With public scrutiny mounting, locals hope for swift corrective steps to restore faith in municipal oversight. Until then, the Bachupally substation area remains a glaring example of the gap between policy pronouncements and on-ground enforcement.

Focus on Public Issues: DC Issues Clear Instructions at Kompally Citizen

Quthbullapur, February 9 | TPN Bureau

In a proactive effort to address local concerns, Deputy Commissioner N. Krishnareddy held a citizen grievance session at the Kompally GHMC Circle-56 office, where he personally received petitions from residents. The session, aimed at listening to and resolving public issues, saw a total of six grievances submitted by local citizens.

Each petition received during the program was directed to the concerned department officials, with the DC issuing explicit instructions to treat these matters as a priority and ensure speedy resolution. Officials present assured residents that corrective action would be taken within the specified timeframe, demonstrating a commitment to accountability and transparency in local governance.

Deputy Commissioner Krishnareddy encouraged residents to actively participate in such citizen grievance programs, emphasizing that public feedback is



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essential for improving municipal services. "This platform allows citizens to voice their concerns directly to the administration. We urge the public to make full use of it," he stated.

The grievance session included participation from officials representing various GHMC departments, ensuring that each issue was addressed by the relevant authority. By directly engaging with citizens and issuing actionable instructions, the DC aimed to

bridge the gap between administration and the public. Officials highlighted that these grievance programs not only help resolve immediate problems but also provide valuable insight into systemic issues that may require policy attention. The session in Kompally reflects GHMC's effort to

strengthen governance and ensure responsiveness to citizen needs. Residents appreciated the initiative, noting that direct interaction with senior officials in-

creases accountability and builds trust in municipal processes. With continued focus and follow-up, such programs are expected to enhance public satisfaction and improve service delivery across the GHMC jurisdiction. The Kompally citizen grievance meet reinforces the administration's pledge to prioritize public concerns and deliver timely solutions, emphasizing a governance model that listens, acts, and reports back to the people.

Illegal Water Trade Sparks Concerns in Quthbullapur

Quthbullapur, February 9 | TPN Bureau

An illegal groundwater trade in Quthbullapur's Gajularamaram area is raising alarm among residents, as authorities appear to turn a blind eye. Near Plot No. 151, close to the Parikicheruvu reservoir by Mahadevapuram Shirdi Hills, borewell water intended for domestic use is reportedly being sold commercially, generating illicit profits.

Locals claim that water tankers freely collect and sell this groundwater, prompting questions about the Revenue Department's inaction. "The authorities are aware that diverting borewell water for commercial purposes is illegal. Yet, no inspections or enforcement measures are visible on the ground," said a resident concerned about the growing exploitation.

The situation has intensified worries in a region already struggling with water shortages. Residents argue that the unchecked sale of borewell water represents a failure of local govern-

ance and regulatory oversight. "Who is responsible for protecting our groundwater? Are the laws only confined to books?" questioned a local community member.

Despite public concern, there have been no visible notices, inspections, or seizure actions by the Revenue or Water Resources Departments. Critics argue that the ongoing trade in plain sight reflects a serious lapse in administrative monitoring.

Environmental activists warn that unless strict action is taken immediately, the safety and sustainability of drinking water in the area could be compromised. "Unchecked groundwater exploitation today could turn into a crisis for tomorrow's potable water supply," said one activist, urging urgent intervention.

The illegal water trade highlights broader governance challenges, particularly the need to monitor and protect vital natural resources. Residents demand that authorities act decisively



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ly against those exploiting borewell water for



commercial gain and ensure compliance with existing laws.

With mounting public scrutiny, Quthbullapur locals hope that the concerned departments respond promptly to halt this illegal activity and prevent further depletion of groundwater resources. Until then, the situation remains a stark example of the gap between policy and enforcement in managing critical environmental assets.

MLA Initiative Helps Gold Medalist Student Secure Financial Aid

Quthbullapur, February 9 | TPN Bureau

In a heartening move to support talent despite financial constraints, K.P. Vivekananda, MLA of Quthbullapur, facilitated financial assistance for Shri Pati Uday Kumar, a meritorious student who recently secured a gold medal in his Microbiology degree.

Hailing from Pet Basheerabad, Uday Kumar has been offered the opportunity to pursue postgraduate studies in Microbiology at RMIT University in Australia. However, financial difficulties posed a potential barrier to continuing his higher education. Seeking help, the student approached the MLA for support.

Responding promptly to the request, MLA Vivekananda reached out to the Lions Club of Secunderabad North, highlighting Uday Kumar's exceptional achievements and urgent need for financial aid. In a commendable show of support, Lions Club members contributed 1,30,000, which was handed over to the



student through the MLA on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vivekananda expressed his delight at the quick response, noting, "It is truly gratifying that within three days of my recommendation, the student received the support he needed. I congratulate the Lions Club for their generosity and hope such support continues for underprivileged students in the future."

The MLA further emphasized his commitment to helping economicall

disadvantaged students in his constituency complete higher education in fields such as medicine, engineering, and science. "We must ensure that poverty does not come in the way of talent and potential," he added.

The event saw the participation of prominent Lions Club members, including Anjaneyulu, former District Governor Vijay Kumar Shetty, and senior members Challa Srinivas Reddy, Rameshwar Reddy, Kola Venkatesh, Mudiraj Srinivas Reddy, Nar-

asimhulu Goud, Balara-ju, Praveen Reddy, Prabhakar Reddy, and Narayanarao.

This initiative not only provides Uday Kumar with the financial means to pursue advanced studies but also sets an example of community and political collaboration to support academic excellence. With timely intervention from both the MLA and Lions Club, a promising student's aspirations are safeguarded, reinforcing the message that talent should never be hindered by economic limitations.

AG Classic Hosts "Mr. Telangana Icon Classic 2026" Bodybuilding Competition

Nacharam, February 9 | TPN Bureau

The AG Classic Telangana Bodybuilding Association, under the leadership of Gautam Srikanth, successfully organized the "Mr. Telangana Icon Classic 2026" bodybuilding competition in Nacharam. The event attracted nearly 200 participants from across the state, showcasing exceptional talent in both senior and junior categories.

Winners were awarded medals by Nacharam Constable Mattayya, recognizing their dedication and performance. Speaking at the event, Gautam Srikanth noted that the association had previously conducted similar competitions last year, emphasizing the growing popularity of bodybuilding in Telangana.

A key highlight of this year's competition was the inclusive approach toward differently-abled participants. Special arrangements were made to allow them to participate without charging any entry fee. Srikanth stressed that future bodybuilding competitions should continue to provide opportunities for different-



ly-abled athletes while ensuring no entry fee is levied from them.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from both senior and junior bodybuilders, with competitors demonstrating outstanding discipline and physique. The AG Classic Telangana Bodybuilding Association has steadily been gaining recognition as a platform for nurturing talent and promoting fitness culture in the region.

Organizers expressed their commitment to

continuing such events annually, creating opportunities for athletes of all backgrounds to showcase their skills. The competition not only celebrated physical excellence but also aimed to motivate young aspirants to pursue bodybuilding as a healthy lifestyle and professional endeavor.

With a mix of competitive spirit, inclusivity, and encouragement for emerging talent, the "Mr. Telangana Icon Classic 2026" proved to be a landmark event for the local bodybuilding

community. Participants and spectators alike appreciated the seamless organization and the platform it provided for talent recognition.

The association's focus on fostering a supportive environment for all athletes, including those with disabilities, highlights a progressive approach in promoting sports and fitness culture in Telangana. Such events continue to inspire youth and strengthen the sporting ecosystem within the state.

Karimnagar Civic Polls a Fight Between Corruption and Clean Governance: Ponnam Prabhakar

Karimnagar, February 9 | TPN Bureau

Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday called upon voters to elect Congress candidates in the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation and all municipalities across the undivided district, asserting that the upcoming civic elections are a clear contest between corruption and transparent governance.

Addressing a media conference at the Karimnagar District Congress Committee office, Indra Bhavan, the Minister was joined by MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy, SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narender Reddy, Library Chairman Sattu Mallesh, former MLAs Arepalli Mohan and Koduri Satyanarayana, Urban Bank Chairman Karra Rajasekhar, Aliphores Narender Reddy, and other senior leaders.

Ponnam Prabhakar said Karimnagar's development has always



taken place during Congress rule and credited the late leader Satyanarayana Rao for upgrading Karimnagar into a municipal corporation. He alleged that despite being in power for ten years, the previous BRS government limited development to main roads under the Smart City project and indulged in corruption in projects such as the Maneru River Front, the collapsed cable bridge, and major junction works.

The Minister alleged that several corporators were jailed on corrup-

tion charges and questioned how a mayor once accused of corruption was later inducted into the ruling party without any action. He claimed that not a single double-bedroom house was allotted in the constituency during the previous government's tenure, while the present Congress government is providing 3,500 Indiramma houses per constituency to ensure housing for the poor.

Highlighting welfare initiatives, he said the government has issued ration cards to all eligible beneficiaries, dis-

tributes fine-quality rice unique to Telangana, provides 200 units of free electricity benefiting nearly 80 percent of households, and offers free bus travel for women across the state. He added that interest-free loans to women's self-help groups, 21,000 crore towards Rythu Bharosa and farm loan waivers, and over 70,000 job recruitments reflect the government's commitment to inclusive growth. Ponnam Prabhakar said the Congress government established a law college with LLB and LLM courses in Ka-

rimnagar and is rapidly constructing the medical college after allocating funds, correcting the neglect of the past. He assured that the Karimnagar Mayor's administration would be corruption-free, decentralized, and technology-driven, with AI-based services and ward-level offices.

The Minister promised a permanent solution to the dumping yard issue, development in every lane rather than only main roads, a ring road to ease traffic congestion, and comprehensive planning for water supply, drainage, parks, roads, and power. He reiterated that Karimnagar stands for communal harmony and development-oriented governance. Accusing BRS and BJP of having an understanding, he said Congress would contest 66 seats and urged voters to support Congress candidates to ensure honest, transparent, and welfare-driven administration in Karimnagar.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Vows Rapid Development in Bhingal

Nizamabad, February 9 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Sunday asserted that Bhingal mandal would emerge as a stronghold of the Congress party and witness rapid development under the present Praja Palana government. He was addressing a public meeting held at Bhingal mandal as part of the ongoing municipal election campaign.

Several senior Congress leaders participated in the meeting, including constituency in-charge Sunil, DCC President Nagesh Reddy, Corporation Chairmen Anvesh Reddy and Anil Kumar, PCC Vice Presidents Gali Anil Kumar and Manala Mohan Reddy, along with party leaders Ramesh, Venu Yadav, Lakshman, and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the people are clearly witnessing the difference between the previous ten-year rule and the present people-centric governance. He stated that Congress has focused on both welfare and development, implementing several schemes ranging from

free bus travel for women to the distribution of fine-quality rice.

He said the Congress does not believe in making hollow promises like the previous regime and pointed out that farm loan waivers worth 24,000 crore have already been implemented. Reaffirming the party's commitment to constituency development, he assured that 5,000 crore would be brought in within the next three months for development works.

Highlighting infrastructure initiatives, Mahesh Kumar Goud said a major temple corridor road is being constructed at a cost of 365 crore as part of Bhingal's development. He alleged that the constituency was neglected in the past and accused the previous BRS government of failing to deliver meaningful progress. He further alleged that the state's wealth was misappropriated by the former ruling family.

The TPCC president said the Congress government is taking concrete steps to strengthen the education sector. He informed that 11 acres of land have been do-

noted for the construction of an integrated school and that engineering and agriculture colleges have been sanctioned for the district. Additionally, a guest house is being constructed at Limbadri Gutta at a cost of 8 crore, he said.

Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed confidence that Bhingal mandal would undergo a complete transformation within the next three years. He assured the people that the Congress government would provide all necessary infrastructure and amenities, giving the region a new identity.

Stating that it is his personal responsibility to ensure holistic development, he called upon voters to support Congress candidates in the municipal elections. He said the people's mandate would further strengthen Praja Palana and accelerate inclusive growth across Nizamabad district.

The meeting concluded with party leaders reiterating their commitment to transparent governance, welfare-driven policies, and sustained development in Bhingal and surrounding areas.

Makthal to Undergo Major Transformation in Three Years: Vakiti Srihari



Makthal, February 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari on Monday asserted that Makthal town would witness a complete transformation in the next three years if the Congress is given a decisive mandate in the municipal elections. He intensified campaigning on the final day of electioneering, leading a massive rally from Vasavi Temple and touring several wards along with his wife Lalitha to seek public support.

Addressing a corner meeting at Ambedkar Chowrasta, the Minister thanked thousands of Congress workers who participated in the campaign across all 16 wards. He said the Congress had fielded candidates in every ward with the sole objective of serving the people and ensuring sustained development. Srihari maintained that only a Congress-led government could deliver continuous progress and welfare. The Minister alleged that the BRS and

BJP had entered into a covert understanding to undermine his image and stall Makthal's growth. He questioned the former MLA Chittam Ram Mohan Reddy on what development had been achieved during the previous five years and accused the opposition of indulging in opportunistic alliances without any commitment to public welfare. He urged voters to exercise wisdom and not fall prey to political conspiracies.

Reaffirming his emo-

tional bond with the constituency, Srihari said he was born and raised on Makthal soil and would stand by the town till his last breath. He highlighted major development works undertaken under his leadership, including a 150-bed government hospital at a cost of 46 crore, a mini stadium worth 25 crore, CC roads and drainage works with 15 crore under special development grants, and the 210-crore Makthal-Narayanpet four-lane road project. He also cited farmer

loan waivers amounting to 7.55 crore, construction of 340 Indiramma houses, water tanks under AMRUT 2.0, a dialysis centre, SETWIN training centre, and large investments in education, temples, and basic infrastructure.

Srihari further said a Junior Civil Judge Court had been established in Makthal, a Sub-Registrar Office building was under construction, and a 220/132 kV substation had been sanctioned. He assured that the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal lift irrigation works would resolve irrigation and drinking water issues permanently.

Comparing past and present governance, the Minister stated that while 14 MLAs spent only 292 crore over 72 years, he alone brought 1,035 crore to Makthal in just two years. He challenged the electorate by declaring that he would not contest future elections if he failed to change Makthal's face, and appealed to voters to ensure a clean sweep for Congress candidates in all 16 wards.



Tungaturthi a Congress Stronghold: MP Chamala

Tungaturthi, February 9 | TPN Bureau

Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Sunday asserted that Tungaturthi has firmly emerged as a stronghold of the Congress party, stating that people are extending strong support to the Congress government for its welfare-oriented and people-centric governance.

He was speaking at a rally organized in Tirumalagiri municipality under the leadership of Tungaturthi MLA Mandula Samel, where Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister Nalamada Uttam Kumar Reddy also participated as a chief guest. The rally witnessed the participation of a large number of party leaders, workers, and supporters.

Addressing the gathering, MP Chamala said the Congress government is ruling with public welfare as its core objective and has earned the trust of people across Telangana. He called upon party leaders and cadre to work unitedly and intensify efforts to ensure a resounding victory for Congress candidates in the municipal elections.

He appealed to party workers to gift the Tirumalagiri Municipal Chairperson post to Minister Uttam Ku-



mar Reddy by ensuring a Congress victory. "A united effort by leaders and cadre will guarantee success and strengthen the Congress party further," he said.

Chamala alleged that the previous BRS government had weakened democratic institutions and administrative systems during its tenure. He cautioned voters not to fall prey to misleading promises and false narratives propagated by vested interests and alleged sand mafia elements, stating that wasting votes on such forces would only harm public interest.

Highlighting the Congress government's initiatives, the MP said special focus is being laid on strengthening women's self-help groups by providing financial support and empowerment opportunities. He said these steps are aimed at improving livelihoods and ensuring economic independence for women.

Chamala further remarked that opposition parties are unable to digest the grow-

ing public support for the Congress government. "The overwhelming response to Congress across the state has unsettled the opposition, which is now resorting to baseless allegations and misinformation," he said.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, speaking briefly, reiterated the government's commitment to transparent administration, development, and welfare. He urged party workers to take government achievements to every household and ensure a decisive mandate in the municipal elections.

MLA Mandula Samel thanked the party leadership for their support and expressed confidence that Tirumalagiri municipality would record a Congress victory. He said Tungaturthi constituency would continue to stand as a pillar of strength for the party. The rally concluded with leaders appealing to voters to support Congress candidates and strengthen people-centric governance at the municipal level.

Three Liquor Smugglers Arrested in Uppal

Uppal, February 9 | TPN Bureau

State Excise Enforcement officials apprehended three individuals involved in liquor smuggling in the Uppal Bhagayath area on Thursday. The operation resulted in the seizure of 84 bottles of Johnnie Walker and Teacher's Scotch whisky, valued at approximately 3.5 lakh, along with a car used for transportation. The accused have been sent for remand.

A media briefing was held at the Uppal Excise Police Station by State Enforcement Assistant Commissioner Pradeep Rao. According to Rao, intelligence reports indicated that liquor was being illegally transported from Noida, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi to Hyderabad. Acting on this information, excise officials intercepted a vehicle in Uppal, resulting in the arrest of the

three suspects—Gopal Reddy, Prasad, and Aditya Pratap.

"These individuals purchased liquor at lower rates in the Noida and Delhi regions and were attempting to sell it at higher prices in Hyderabad and surrounding areas," Rao explained. The operation highlights the ongoing efforts by the State Excise Enforcement department to curb illegal alcohol trafficking in Telangana.

The seizure not only prevented the illicit sale of liquor but also sent a strong message against smuggling networks operating across state lines. Officials confirmed that the accused are being remanded for further investigation, and the department is examining links to other potential smuggling activities.

Pradeep Rao emphasized that such opera-



tions are part of a broader strategy to enforce excise laws, prevent revenue loss, and curb illegal alcohol distribution. Citizens are urged to report suspicious liquor

transportation to local authorities to assist in enforcement efforts.

With liquor smuggling often linked to organized networks, strict monitoring and prompt

action by excise authorities remain a priority to maintain law and order, protect public health, and ensure compliance with legal provisions.

West Bengal Budget 2026–27: A Budget of Substance Over Hype – A 1000-Word Analysis

When a state government presents its budget, it's often accompanied by political grandstanding, sensational headlines, and a barrage of criticisms and counter-arguments. But every so often, a budget emerges that quietly tells a powerful story — not through noise, but through measurable impact. That is precisely the case with the West Bengal Budget for 2026–27, which stands out not for its hype, but for its substance.

In a political landscape where much attention is given to national budgets and economic politics in Delhi, the West Bengal government's fiscal strategy has opted for quiet efficacy over dramatic rhetoric. This budget achieves that by highlighting substantive achievements, sustained investment in welfare and infrastructure, and a continued focus on improving the quality of life for ordinary citizens.

A Strong Economic Narrative: Growth and Stability

West Bengal's economic journey over the past 15 years has been noteworthy. The state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has grown almost five-fold over this period, reflecting broad-based economic expansion across agriculture, industry, and services. Such growth is not accidental; it comes from steady investment in infrastructure, human capital, and targeted social schemes that work in tandem to expand opportunities.

Alongside this growth, the state has also managed to reduce unemployment significantly. Using data on labor force participation, the state reports that unemployment among those aged 15 and above has fallen by nearly half over the last eight years, a testament to job-creation efforts across both formal and informal sectors. Millions of

employment opportunities have arisen not only in government and public sector roles but also through private enterprise and self-employment initiatives — collectively amounting to an estimated 2.5 crore jobs.

In contrast to other regions where jobless growth remains a persistent challenge, West Bengal's approach underscores that economic expansion and employment generation can be mutually reinforcing. This integration of growth with livelihood opportunities forms the backbone of the state's budgetary strategy.

Direct Citizen Impact: Welfare and Inclusion

A standout feature of the budget is its focus on direct welfare transfers and citizen-centric schemes. Among these, the "Banglar Yuba Sathi" programme is particularly significant: it provides monthly direct cash transfers of ₹1,500 to unemployed youth between the ages of 21 and 40 until they secure employment. Unlike many central schemes that often struggle with low utilization rates, this scheme has shown consistent implementation, offering a practical financial cushion that helps young adults transition into employment without undue hardship.

Similarly, women's welfare initiatives have been prioritized. The "Lakshmi Bhandar" programme, which offers direct monthly financial assistance to women, has seen its grant increased, empowering women with greater financial independence and support for household expenses. Such initiatives translate into real changes in the lives of millions — whether it's helping a young graduate make ends meet or enabling a homemaker to contribute more robustly to her family's livelihood.

It's not just cash transfers that make a difference. The



"Kanyashree" programme, focused on girls' education, has provided financial support to over a crore girl students, encouraging them to continue their studies and break social barriers. Coupled with the "Sabooj Sathi" initiative, which has provided bicycles to 1.5 crore students to ensure easier access to schools, these programmes reflect a sustained effort to remove obstacles to education, especially in rural areas.

Healthcare and food security are two areas where the state's long-standing initiatives have made a marked difference. The "Swasthya Sathi" health insurance scheme, launched before similar national programmes,

Welfare at Scale: Health and Food Security

now covers over 2.45 crore families, with more than one crore beneficiaries having utilised health services under the scheme. What makes it notable is the inclusive design: health cards are issued in the name of the woman head of the family, a move that reinforces gender equity and decision-making within households.

Food security has also been bolstered through subsidised foodgrain programmes that extend coverage to approximately nine crore people — a substantial proportion of the state's population. These measures ensure that basic nutritional needs are met, forming a critical safety net for vulnerable communities, especially during economic downturns or agricultural uncertainties.

While welfare schemes often dominate headlines, the budget also signals serious investment in infrastructure and long-term economic capacity. The 2026–27 plan allocates significant funds to sectors like rural development, transport, water supply, sanitation, education, and health.

Almost half of the total budgetary expenditure is earmarked for social welfare priorities — an embodiment of the state's philosophy of inclusive growth.

Infrastructure and Long-Term Growth

Under these provisions, rural areas will see continued expansion of roads, bridges, and essential civic services — crucial factors that connect villages to markets, education centers, and healthcare facilities. Urban

planning is also part of the development blueprint with envisaged smart city initiatives aimed at tier-II cities to enhance infrastructure, digital connectivity, and quality of life. These projects are designed not just to create physical assets but also to lay the groundwork for sustainable growth and employment generation.

On the economic front, West Bengal has one of the highest numbers of MSMEs in India, with a particularly strong share of women-led enterprises. This base is vital for broadening entrepreneurship, fostering innovation, and creating jobs. Complementary efforts to develop industrial parks and global trade hubs further position the state as a potential gateway for commerce, especially with neighboring Asian markets.

Education, Skill Development, and Future-Ready Workforce

Beyond direct welfare, the budget underscores the importance of education and skill development in shaping West Bengal's future workforce. By facilitating access to schooling, supporting girls' education, and integrating vocational programs, the government is not only opening doors to immediate support but is also nurturing the next generation of professionals, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers.

Efforts to enhance technical education and ensure that gig and frontline workers are covered under social security frameworks indicate a forward-looking approach. These moves aim to bring informal sector workers — a sizable portion of the workforce — into the ambit of structured benefits and long-term security, which is essential for socio-economic resilience in a rapidly changing job market.

Balancing Budgets: Fiscal Discipline Meets People's Needs

A robust budget is more than just a list of schemes; it reflects fiscal prudence and responsible governance. West Bengal's budget shows signs of measured financial management. State revenues, including tax collections, are projected to grow steadily, providing a strong base for government expenditure. Allocations have been balanced between revenue needs and capital expenditure — with infrastructure and asset creation receiving significant attention.

This balanced approach has helped reduce revenue deficits in recent years while allowing strategic investment in social welfare and growth drivers. The government's ability to manage these competing priorities — welfare, infrastructure, employment, and fiscal health — illustrates a nuanced stewardship of public funds.

Conclusion: A Budget That Talks to the Citizen, Not Just to Headlines

The West Bengal Budget 2026–27 is not about flashy announcements or political highs. Instead, it is a document rooted in evidence, aimed at producing measurable results. It stands for a simple but powerful principle: economic policy should touch lives meaningfully — whether through secure jobs, better health, stronger education, or safer streets.

This budget is proof that effective governance doesn't always need the loudest megaphone; sometimes the most impactful measures are those that quietly change lives, uplift communities, and forge a path for sustained, inclusive growth. In that sense, West Bengal's fiscal blueprint remains true to its promise: substance over hype.

How Tech Professionals Can Survive and Thrive in the Age of AI

Artificial Intelligence is no longer a distant possibility — it is here, reshaping the very nature of how software is built and how technology work gets done. What was once an incremental change has suddenly become seismic. Tools that once only assisted developers now perform complex tasks that used to require teams of engineers. Automation isn't just helping programmers write better code — in many cases, it can write entire sections of software by itself.

For years, the tech industry was largely dominated by human developers churning out code, services and solutions that powered businesses across the world. Today, that model is being disrupted. Cutting-edge AI models can analyze, create, edit and organize code, automate business functions, and even handle tasks across legal, analytical and customer-facing domains. With this shift comes both disruption and opportunity. The question for tech professionals isn't whether AI will transform the industry — it's how individuals can prepare themselves so they remain relevant, employable and indispensable.

AI Is Changing the Rules — Not Just the Players

In the early days of computing, mainframes gave way to personal computers and then to internet-based applications. Each shift changed job roles and workflows, requiring professionals to adapt and evolve. The current AI revolution is similar in spirit, but its scale is broader and the pace is exponential. Where once mastering programming languages and frameworks guaranteed job security, that is no longer sufficient. Today's AI-augmented tools can complete many of the routine coding tasks that were once entry points into the industry.

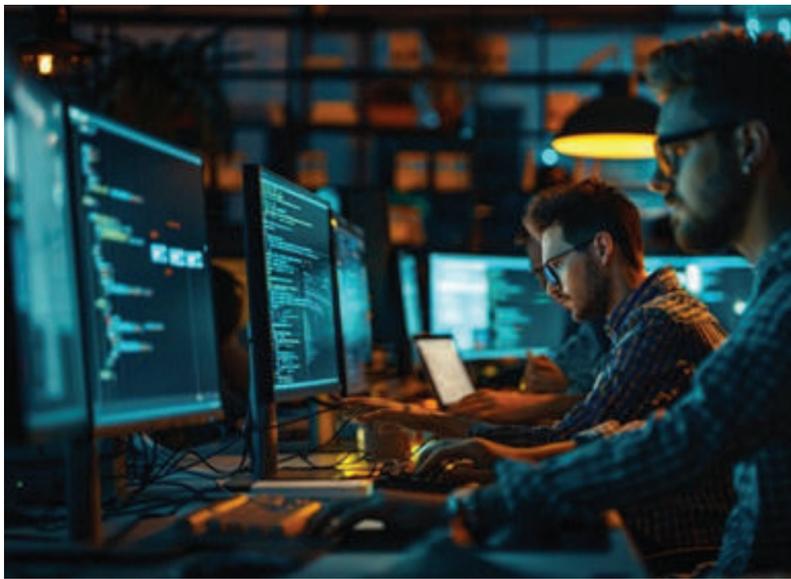
This transformation has major implications: companies may hire fewer people for traditional coding tasks, and competition for technical roles is intensifying. Developers and engineers who only write code quickly find that machines can now do much of that work faster and with fewer errors. As a result, organizations are increasingly looking for skills that machines cannot replicate easily — creativity, deep systems thinking, problem formulation, and a nuanced understanding of complex requirements.

Rather than fearing this shift, tech professionals should see it as a wake-up call: the future of technology work will reward those who can collaborate with AI rather than compete with it.

Master the Fundamentals — But Go Beyond Them

Strong technical fundamentals — such as data structures, algorithms, and system design — remain essential. But they now serve as the baseline rather than the pinnacle. To stay ahead, techies must also embrace skills that complement AI capabilities. These include:

- Prompt Engineering: Understanding how to interact with AI systems — how to frame questions, control outputs, and guide models toward useful results.
- AI-Integrated Development: Ability to integrate AI tools into development workflows, making them part of daily engineering tasks rather than separate utilities.
- Complex Problem Solving: Focusing on higher-order tasks, such as designing scalable architectures, optimizing systems for performance and reliability,



and addressing novel edge cases that require human insight.

- Cloud and AI Operations: Expertise in cloud platforms, infrastructure deployment, model lifecycle management and cost optimization.

Tech workers of tomorrow will likely need to blend traditional engineering with AI fluency — essentially becoming hybrid professionals who can navigate a world where human intellect and machine intelligence work together.

Reframe Your Role — From Creator to Creator

If you view your job as "writing code," you risk being replaced by tools that can automate that very task. Instead, think in terms of value creation. What unique contribution do you bring that no tool can replicate? It is this reframing from task performer to do-

main expert that will safeguard relevance.

For example, instead of simply implementing a feature that a product manager describes, begin with deep problem framing: Why is this feature needed? What's the user behaviour driving it? What are the performance trade-offs? Then use AI tools to prototype, test and validate your ideas. In this model, the developer becomes a thinker and a strategist — someone who partners with AI, rather than one who is replaced by it.

Creative work — product visioning, interface design, empathy-driven feature decisions, business logic — remains firmly in the realm of human expertise. Machines may assist, but humans still make the calls.

Develop Soft Skills That Machines Can't Replicate

AI models are incredibly ca-

pable at crunching data and generating outputs, but they lack emotional intelligence, judgment, persuasion skills and leadership — qualities that remain uniquely human. Technical professionals who cultivate strong communication, teamwork, and leadership skills will be better positioned to work in collaborative environments where AI is another tool in the toolbox.

In addition, understanding user needs and translating them into technical solutions requires empathy and contextual understanding — neither of which can be automated. These "soft" competencies often differentiate a good engineer from a great one.

Build a Personal Brand and Network

In an age of automation, reputation and visibility can become valuable assets. Tech professionals should think be-

yond resumes and traditional credentials. Building a personal brand — through blogs, open-source contributions, speaking engagements, or community leadership — can amplify your visibility in ways that a job description never can.

Networking remains critical, too. Connections with peers, mentors and industry leaders can lead to opportunities that may not be advertised publicly — and they provide a support system for navigating career transitions in a time of rapid change.

Embrace Lifelong Learning
Tech has always required continuous learning, but the pace has never been this fast. Continuous education — through online courses, specialized certifications, workshops, and real-world projects — is no longer optional. Learning should not be seen as a task to complete, but as an ongoing mindset.

Focus on areas that are likely to grow alongside AI: system security, ethical AI, data governance, machine learning operations, and AI strategy. These are fields that require deep human judgment and critical thinking, making them resilient to automation.

Collaborate With AI, Don't Fight It

Ultimately, the best way to protect your career is to become adept at using the very technology that feels threatening. AI should be viewed as a partner that can accelerate innovation and boost productivity. Professionals who understand how to leverage AI to automate mundane tasks, while focusing their energy on human-centric challenges, will be the ones most in demand.

Instead of resisting AI, embrace it — experiment with its capabilities, critique its limitations, and find ways to make it

an asset in your own workflow. Those who approach AI with curiosity, rather than fear, are more likely to shape the future of work rather than be displaced by it.

Look Ahead — New Opportunities Are Emerging

AI may eliminate some traditional roles, particularly those based on repetitive tasks, but it is also creating new ones. Jobs in AI ethics, model evaluation, data strategy, human-AI interaction design, and explainable AI are all growing fields. Similarly, industries like healthcare, education, and climate tech are being reshaped by intelligent systems, opening up entirely new pathways for technologists.

If you focus solely on protecting your existing role, you may miss the chance to build something new. It's better to position yourself not as someone who is surviving the AI age, but as someone who is leading it.

Conclusion: Adapt, Evolve, and Lead

The rise of AI in technology work is real and significant. But it does not have to be a harbinger of job loss. Instead, it can be a catalyst for redefining what it means to be a tech professional. Those who learn to work with AI, rather than against it, will find themselves in roles that demand creativity, judgment and strategic thinking. The future belongs to those who can adapt, evolve and lead — individuals who understand that AI is not an adversary, but a tool that, when harnessed wisely, can empower them to accomplish far greater things than they ever could alone. In this new era, the most successful tech professionals won't be those who cling to the past — they'll be the ones who reinvent themselves for what comes next.

Supreme Court Hears Mamata Banerjee's Challenge to Voter List Revision in West Bengal



The Supreme Court on Monday took up the petition filed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee challenging the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being conducted in the state ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. The hearing has assumed major political and constitutional significance, as it deals with the balance of power between the Election Commission of India and an elected state government.

A three-judge bench heard arguments from both sides, focusing on whether the voter list revision process could potentially disenfranchise large sections of the electorate. The court made it clear that while it would examine concerns raised by the petitioners, it would not permit any disruption to the constitutional process of electoral roll revision.

What Is the Dispute About?
The Special Intensive Revision is a comprehensive exercise undertaken by the Election Commission to update voter rolls by identifying duplicate entries, correcting errors, and removing ineligible names. The Election Commission maintains that the process is routine and legally mandated, particularly before major elections.

However, Mamata Banerjee has questioned both the timing and execution of the exercise

in West Bengal. In her petition, she argued that the SIR could lead to arbitrary deletion of genuine voters, especially women, migrant workers, minorities, and economically weaker sections. According to her submission, minor discrepancies such as spelling variations, address changes, or documentation gaps are being flagged as "logical discrepancies," placing lakhs of voters at risk of being excluded.

Concerns Raised By The State

The chief minister alleged that the scale of discrepancies identified during the SIR was unusually high and that the process lacked adequate safeguards. She expressed concern that married women and elderly voters were being disproportionately affected due to name changes or documentation mismatches.

Another major point of contention was the deployment of micro-observers and external officials. The state government argued that their role was unclear and that they were functioning beyond their prescribed authority, creating confusion at the grassroots level.

Election Commission's Stand

The Election Commission defended the SIR, stating that

the exercise was being conducted strictly according to established rules and guidelines. It told the court that the revision was necessary to ensure free and fair elections and to prevent impersonation, duplication, and bogus entries.

The Commission also raised concerns about delays in administrative cooperation from the state government, including the late submission of names of officials required to assist with the revision process. It further pointed out that some field officials conducting hearings faced logistical challenges and security concerns in certain areas.

Supreme Court's Observations

During the hearing, the Supreme Court sent a clear message that it would not allow any obstruction to the voter list revision process. The bench stressed that updating electoral rolls is a constitutional responsibility of the Election Commission and must proceed without interference.

At the same time, the court acknowledged that voter disenfranchisement is a serious issue and indicated that it would closely examine whether adequate procedural safeguards were in place. To accommodate ongoing legal scrutiny, the court allowed a limited extension in the SIR timeline.

Wider Political Implications

The case has intensified political tensions in West Bengal, with the ruling party portraying the SIR as an attempt to manipulate voter lists, while opposition parties accuse the state government of trying to delay a legitimate electoral exercise.

Multiple petitions related to the SIR are currently before the Supreme Court, making the issue larger than a single state government's challenge. Legal experts believe the court's final ruling could set an important precedent on how voter list revisions are conducted nationwide, especially close to elections.

What Lies Ahead

The Supreme Court will continue hearing arguments from all parties in the coming days. Its decision is expected to clarify the extent of the Election Commission's powers, the responsibilities of state governments, and the protections available to citizens against wrongful exclusion from voter rolls.

As West Bengal moves closer to elections, the outcome of this case could have a lasting impact on the state's political landscape and on the broader framework governing India's electoral process.

Maoist Issue in Chhattisgarh 'Not Due to Underdevelopment,' Amit Shah Reiterates March Deadline to End Naxalism



Union Home Minister Amit Shah has once again underlined the government's determination to eliminate Maoist insurgency in Chhattisgarh and across India by March 31, 2026, asserting that the root of the problem is ideological, not a lack of development or poor law and order.

Speaking at an event in Raipur, Shah rejected the idea that Naxalism has taken hold because of economic backwardness in tribal areas. He said that if underdevelopment were the main cause, the insurgency would have spread more evenly in other underdeveloped regions decades ago. Instead, he argued that the movement's persistence stems from a destructive Communist ideology, which posits that change must come through armed struggle rather than democratic processes.

Shah emphasised that correctly identifying the cause of left-wing extremism is crucial; misunder-

standing it as merely a development issue or law and order failure would undermine efforts to combat it effectively. He challenged critics to explain why the movement itself is named after an ideology — "Maoism" — that promotes conflict over constitutional engagement.

The home minister reiterated that the insurgency has been vastly reduced and that a coordinated security strategy, combined with infrastructure development, disruption of extremists' financial networks and a surrender policy, has brought India closer to removing the threat. He urged remaining Maoist cadres to lay down their arms and return to the mainstream, with assurances of rehabilitation for those willing to abandon violence.

Shah also pointed out that the government's counter-insurgency efforts are yielding results, highlighting significant progress in areas like Bastar, once considered

the heartland of Maoist activity. He reiterated confidence that Chhattisgarh — and the country at large — will be free of left-wing extremist violence by the government's March deadline.

Addressing critics, he said ideological solutions must be part of any strategy to tackle the insurgency and that attributing the problem solely to economic or social factors would be misleading. He said that where extremists have operated, their ideology has led to destruction of institutions like schools and health centres, blocking development rather than enabling it.

Shah's remarks came during a high-level review meeting involving central and state security officials, underlining the government's multi-pronged approach to addressing Maoist influence. His reiterated march deadline highlights a firm timeline for ending one of India's longest-standing internal security challenges.

Naveen Patnaik Flags "Systemic Exploitation" of Farmers at Odisha Mandis



Former Odisha Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik has accused the state government of failing to protect farmers during the ongoing paddy procurement season, alleging systemic exploitation at mandis across the state. In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Patnaik said that farmers are facing severe hardship despite assurances of smooth and transparent procurement.

Patnaik described the current procurement season as a period of deep distress for cultivators, stating that promises of hassle-free procurement have not translated into reality on the ground. According to him, many farmers are being forced to accept unfair deductions from their produce, reducing their earnings and pushing them into financial uncertainty.

Allegations of Unfair Deductions

A key concern raised in the letter is the practice known as Katni-Chhatni, where a portion of paddy is deducted at mandis on grounds such as moisture levels or grain quality. Patnaik alleged that farmers are losing five to seven kilograms per quintal through such deductions, often without transparent justification. He claimed this practice benefits middlemen and millers at the expense of cul-

tivators, while enforcement mechanisms remain weak.

The opposition leader argued that these deductions directly violate assurances made to farmers and undermine the purpose of minimum support price procurement, which is meant to provide income security to growers.

Questions Over Government Promises

Patnaik also questioned the government's implementation of its election commitments. He pointed out that assurances were given to increase support for paddy farmers and eliminate unfair deductions, but the situation at procurement centres suggests otherwise. He criticised the decision to cap input subsidies at 150 quintals per farmer, saying it contradicts earlier promises and penalises farmers with higher output.

According to him, such policy decisions have disproportionately affected hardworking cultivators who depend entirely on paddy sales for their livelihood.

Delays and Operational Issues

Beyond deductions, Patnaik highlighted several operational failures at mandis. These include delays in lifting procured paddy, malfunctioning token systems, inadequate facilities at procurement centres, and prolonged delays in payments.

He noted that farmers were promised quick payments through direct bank transfers, but many are still waiting weeks after selling their produce.

These delays, he warned, are forcing farmers to resort to distress sales at prices below the minimum support price to meet urgent household expenses.

Call for Immediate Action

The former chief minister urged the state government to take immediate corrective measures. His suggestions include deploying special monitoring teams at mandis to prevent illegal deductions, removing the cap on input subsidies, ensuring timely payment to farmers, and guaranteeing swift lifting of paddy after procurement.

Patnaik cautioned that continued neglect of these issues could lead to growing dissatisfaction and unrest among farmers across rural Odisha.

Emphasis on Farmer Dignity

Concluding his appeal, Patnaik stressed that farmers are not seeking handouts but fair compensation and dignity for their labour. He said agriculture remains the backbone of Odisha's economy and that restoring trust in the procurement system is essential to safeguard the welfare of the farming community.

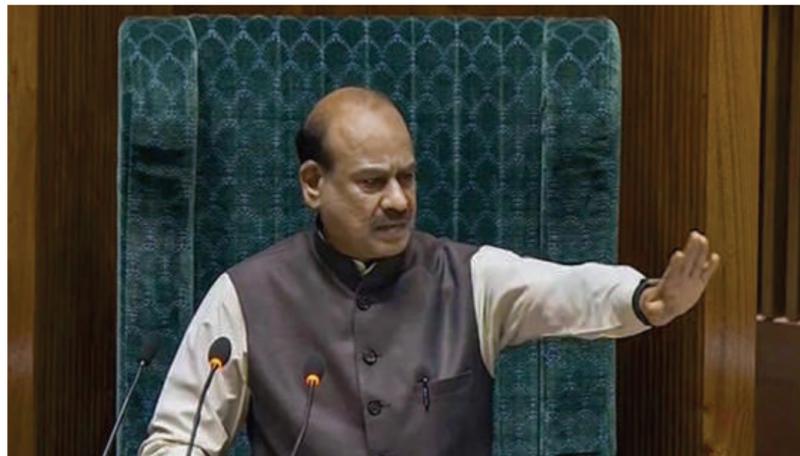
INDIA Bloc Unites to Move No-Confidence Motion Against Lok Sabha Speaker

Opposition parties under the INDIA bloc have decided to move a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, escalating tensions in Parliament following his controversial remarks about Opposition MPs. The decision reflects rare unity among Opposition parties and signals a strong protest against what they describe as bias and misuse of authority by the Speaker.

The move follows comments made by the Speaker during a recent Lok Sabha session, where he claimed to have received information suggesting that certain Congress MPs might create an unusual or disruptive incident during proceedings. Opposition members strongly objected to the remarks, saying they were made without evidence and cast unwarranted suspicion on elected representatives.

Congress MP S. Jothimani emerged as one of the strongest voices against the statement, calling it baseless and defamatory. She argued that it was inappropriate for the Speaker, who is expected to remain neutral and protect the dignity of the House, to publicly make such allegations against Opposition MPs. According to her, the comments undermined trust in parliamentary functioning and damaged the reputation of those targeted.

Several Opposition MPs, including women parliamentar-



ians, expressed particular concern over the remarks. They said the comments unfairly questioned their conduct and integrity, and highlighted the additional challenges faced by women representatives in politics. In written representations, they conveyed that such statements from the chair weaken democratic norms and discourage meaningful participation in parliamentary debate.

Confirming the Opposition's collective stand, leaders said that all parties within the INDIA bloc have agreed to support the no-confidence motion. They stressed that the move is not directed by any single party but repre-

sents a shared concern over the manner in which parliamentary proceedings are being conducted. The motion aims to formally register the Opposition's lack of confidence in the Speaker's ability to preside over the House impartially.

The controversy comes amid ongoing friction in the Lok Sabha over disruptions, suspensions and complaints from Opposition parties about inadequate opportunities to speak on key national issues. Opposition leaders have repeatedly accused the government and the chair of curtailing dissenting voices during important discussions.

While no-confidence motions against the Speaker are rare, Opposition leaders maintain that the step is constitutionally valid and necessary to defend parliamentary democracy. They argue that the Speaker's role demands strict neutrality and that any perceived departure from this principle must be challenged through established parliamentary mechanisms.

The proposed motion is expected to further intensify political confrontation in Parliament. Whether it is admitted for discussion and how the ruling side responds could have significant implications for the functioning of the House in the days ahead.

Bangladesh Election 2026: A Contested Vote, Haunted by Memories of Violence and 2014 Turmoil

Bangladesh is gearing up for its general election on February 12, 2026, a vote seen as one of the most significant in the nation's history. This election marks the first competitive national poll since widespread political upheaval led to the ouster and exile of long-time leader Sheikh Hasina, and comes amid deep tensions, lingering fears of violence and complex political realignments.

Legacy of Past Bloodshed

Bangladesh's modern electoral history has often been marked by intense conflict. One of the most controversial elections — in 2014 — was marred by a mass opposition boycott, low voter turnout, and widespread violence. Clashes between political groups and security forces saw scores killed as the ruling party pushed forward with the vote despite shutdowns and opposition refusal to participate. The absence of credible competition in that poll left a lasting scar on public trust in the democratic process and set a backdrop of fear and mistrust that still resonates today.

Analysts say past elections across Bangladesh have rarely been free from lethal clashes, arson attacks, arrests and political intimidation — a pattern that has deep roots in the country's political culture.

A New Political Landscape

This year's election, however, is unfolding in very different circumstances. The Awami League, historically the dominant political force and led for years by Sheikh Hasina, is barred from contesting. Hasina, now in exile, was convicted in a court trial and handed a



sentence in absentia linked to actions taken during political unrest. Many senior figures from her inner circle are also facing legal proceedings, signalling a dramatic shift in the political order.

In their absence, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and allied parties — including Jamaat-e-Islami — are fighting for dominance. Polling suggests the BNP could secure a significant share of votes, with its leader returning from exile to take a central role in the campaign.

This election is widely viewed as a rare open contest after years of political domination by a single party, and many young voters, especially those born after 2000, are seen as pivotal to shaping the outcome.

Tensions, Violence and Security Concerns

Despite hopes for a peaceful vote, reports indicate that elec-

tion campaigning has already seen a spike in violence, including clashes between rival party supporters and attacks on candidates. Various groups have filed complaints about threats to personal safety, prompting worries about poll-time security across constituencies. Such tensions revive memories of past polls where political violence shaped voter behaviour and election credibility.

Security forces have been deployed in large numbers to safeguard polling centres and manage potential conflict zones. Authorities stress their commitment to a safe and orderly election, but rights observers warn that acts of intimidation and violence could still undermine confidence in the process.

Minority Communities and Societal Strains

Concerns over the safety of minority communities, par-

ticularly Hindus, have also risen as the election nears. There are fears that communal tensions — sometimes stoked by political narratives — could deepen during the campaign, adding another layer of societal anxiety.

What's at Stake

For Bangladesh, the 2026 election represents both a break from an era of entrenched political control and a test of whether a more open, competitive democratic process can take root. The poll is being closely watched not just domestically but regionally, as it may influence Bangladesh's future governance, social harmony and its role on the South Asian stage.

As voters prepare to go to the polls on February 12, the nation contends with the shadows of its electoral past even as it looks toward a potentially transformative moment in its democratic journey.

Iran's Supreme Leader Breaks 37-Year Tradition Amid Rising US-Iran Tensions



In a move that has drawn global attention, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei skipped a key annual military event for the first time in 37 years, breaking a long-standing tradition he had followed since assuming office in 1989.

The event, held every year on February 8, marks the historic pledge of loyalty by Iran's air force officers to the leadership of the Islamic Revolution. For decades, Khamenei personally addressed the gathering, even during periods of intense domestic or international crisis, making his absence this year particularly significant.

Instead, the meeting was led by senior military leadership, with top air force and air defence commanders in attendance. No official explanation was offered for Khamenei's absence, which has fueled specula-

tion both within Iran and internationally.

The development comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the United States. Washington has increased its military presence in the region, deploying additional naval and air assets as disagreements over Iran's nuclear programme and regional activities continue. Recent statements from US leadership have further escalated concerns about potential military action, adding to the already volatile situation.

Analysts view the annual ceremony as more than symbolic. It traditionally serves as a public reaffirmation of the Supreme Leader's authority over the armed forces and highlights ideological unity within Iran's military establishment. Breaking from this ritual, therefore, is being interpreted by observers as a possible signal of

increased caution or heightened security concerns.

Some experts suggest that the decision may reflect a strategic shift, prioritising safety and discretion over ceremonial appearances during a period of uncertainty. Others believe it underscores the seriousness with which Iranian leadership is viewing the current geopolitical environment.

While Iranian state messaging around the event focused on military preparedness and deterrence, Khamenei's absence has inevitably raised questions about how Iran is navigating external pressure. Whether this move marks a temporary precaution or a deeper change in approach, it stands out as a rare departure from nearly four decades of established practice — and a sign of the tense moment unfolding in the region.

Ajit Doval's Canada Visit Signals Reset in Relations, Sends Strong Message on Extremism

India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval has concluded a two-day visit to Canada, a move widely seen as an important step toward easing strained relations between the two countries. The visit comes after months of diplomatic tension and is being viewed as a signal of renewed engagement focused on security cooperation and mutual interests.

During his stay in Ottawa, Doval held meetings with senior Canadian officials responsible for national security, intelligence and public safety. The discussions were aimed at rebuilding trust and re-establishing structured dialogue between the two sides, with an emphasis on practical cooperation rather than political rhetoric.

A key outcome of the visit was an agreement to strengthen collaboration on national security and law enforcement. Both countries agreed to develop a joint work plan that in-



cludes the appointment of liaison officers in each other's capitals. These officers are expected to improve coordination, facilitate faster information sharing and address issues such as organised crime, drug trafficking, cyber threats and illegal migration.

The talks also covered cooperation in cybersecurity, intelligence sharing and measures to counter financial fraud. Of-

ficials from both sides highlighted the importance of institutional mechanisms to ensure consistent communication and effective responses to emerging threats.

Doval's visit also carried a clear message regarding concerns over extremist activities. India has repeatedly raised issues related to radical groups operating abroad, and the discussions underscored

the need for stronger action against networks that promote violence and threaten national security. The focus on countering extremism was seen as a central theme of the engagement.

Relations between India and Canada had been under significant strain following a major diplomatic fallout in 2023, leading to a sharp reduction in high-level interactions. Against this backdrop, the tone and substance of the latest talks suggest an attempt by both sides to move toward a more stable and constructive relationship.

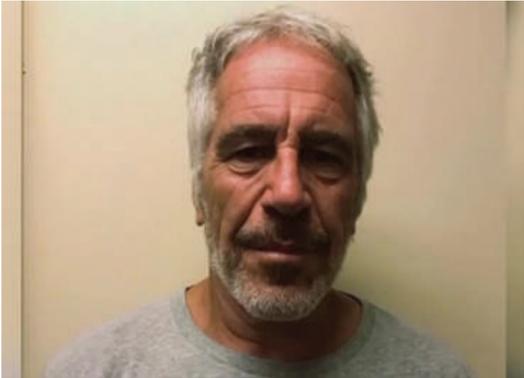
Observers believe the visit may pave the way for further diplomatic engagement, including potential high-level political exchanges in the future. While challenges remain, the emphasis on cooperation, security and dialogue indicates a cautious but meaningful effort to reset ties between New Delhi and Ottawa.

Epstein Death Announcement Dated a Day Before He Was Found Dead, New Files Reveal

Newly released legal documents have ignited fresh controversy over the death of Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted sex offender who died in a New York federal jail in August 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. Among the trove of records made public are draft statements from federal prosecutors that appear to have been prepared a full day before Epstein was actually found dead.

According to these disclosures, one of the draft statements attributed to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan bears a date of August 9, 2019 — even though Epstein's body was not discovered until the morning of August 10. That draft, intended to announce his death, describes him as being found unresponsive in his cell and later pronounced dead. The existence of such a document has raised eyebrows because it seems to predate the official discovery and public confirmation of his death.

The documents include multiple slightly different versions of the prosecutor's state-



ment, with some pages redacted differently than others. The variations suggest these were internal drafts rather than final public releases. Nevertheless, the dating discrepancy has sparked questions about the timeline of events around Epstein's final hours.

Epstein's death was officially ruled a suicide by hanging, but it has long been the subject of public scrutiny and con-

spiracy theories. Critics have repeatedly questioned how a high-profile inmate awaiting trial on serious charges could die in custody under circumstances involving reported failures in supervision and monitoring. The apparent pre-dating of a death announcement has added another twist to the debate over what truly happened inside the Metropolitan Correctional Center that night.

In addition to the draft statements, other newly released records — including surveillance reports and internal agency communications — are continuing to draw attention. Some reviewers have highlighted unusual details in the footage from the night before Epstein was found, deepening calls for a more thorough examination of the case.

At the same time, legal experts caution that draft documents can sometimes be prepared ahead of time as administrative convenience, and a dated draft may not necessarily prove anything unusual on its own. Still, critics argue that the precise dating and content — written as though Epstein had already died — are bound to fuel further speculation about the accuracy of the official narrative.

As investigators and journalists continue to analyze the enormous volume of newly disclosed material, the controversy around Epstein's death remains a topic of intense public interest.

Epstein Files Reveal Attempts to Connect with Putin, But No Proof of Meeting



Newly released documents from the U.S. Department of Justice have thrust fresh light on the late financier Jeffrey Epstein's global contacts — including his efforts to connect with Russia's leadership and high-ranking officials over many years.

Connections with Other Russian Figures

Aside from attempts to reach Putin, the files outline Epstein's interactions with other individuals linked to Russia. For example, the former Russian ambassador to the United Nations was a regular contact until his death in 2017, and Epstein even offered help to the ambassador's son in securing employment in the United States. The records also show Epstein communicating with Russian foreign officials through mutual associates, including discussions about Moscow visits and official meetings.

Repeated Efforts to Establish Contact

The documents show that Epstein expressed a desire to meet Putin on multiple occasions, often discussing this with intermediaries. A Norwegian politician who served as secretary general of the Council of Europe appears in the correspondence as someone Epstein hoped could help facilitate such meetings. In one exchange, Epstein suggested to this intermediary that Putin's foreign minister might help arrange a conversation. At times, Epstein framed these approaches as part of efforts to tap into Russian investment opportunities or to discuss economic cooperation.

Despite his repeated attempts over the years — par-

ticularly from the early 2010s through 2018 — no direct meeting with Putin is documented. Emails and messages reflect Epstein's eagerness to leverage contacts to secure high-level introductions, but the records do not show concrete outcomes from these efforts.

What the Files Do — and Don't — Show

Overall, the newly released Epstein files paint a picture of a man who actively sought connections with powerful individuals around the world, including those in Russia. While they show persistent attempts to connect with President Putin and other officials, they do not provide proof of an actual meeting or a formal relationship.

The documents also highlight the complexity of Epstein's international network — one that intersected with politicians, diplomats and business figures from multiple countries. As legal and investigative teams continue to sift through the archive, more details about these connections may emerge. However, for now, the files raise questions without definitive evidence of direct ties between Epstein and Russia's president.

International Reactions and Investigations

The revelations have drawn attention beyond the United States. Leaders in European countries, including Poland, have announced plans to investigate possible

Sensex Soars 500 Points, Nifty Above 25,850 as India-US Trade Deal Lifts Markets



Indian equity markets opened the week on a strong note, with benchmark indices climbing sharply amid optimism over a fresh trade agreement between India and the United States. On Monday, Dalal Street saw broad-based buying that sent both the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50 index higher, reflecting improved investor sentiment.

The Sensex surged about 485 points, while the Nifty crossed the 25,850 level, marking a solid start to the week for equities. This up-move follows sustained positive cues from global markets as well as optimism around economic cooperation between New Delhi and Washington. Investors reacted enthusiastically to indications that the two countries are close to finalising a trade framework that could lower tariffs and enhance market access for exporters on both sides.

The sentiment boost was reinforced by ro-

bust corporate results from major listed firms. In particular, strong quarterly earnings from India's largest public sector bank helped support financial stocks, which along with broader buying interest contributed to the rally. Banking, financial services, mid-cap and small-cap segments also saw gains, suggesting broad participation across market segments rather than a narrow surge in select stocks.

Market participants pointed out that the trade deal narrative has been a key driver. Shares of export-oriented sectors responded positively, as reduced tariffs would improve competitiveness and potentially increase overseas demand for Indian goods. Meanwhile, positive feedback from global equities, including gains in Asian markets and recovery on Wall Street, helped fuel confidence among domestic investors.

Some heavyweight stocks — including

names from banking, finance, industrial and consumer sectors — were among the top gainers, reflecting wide market support for the rally. This lifted overall market breadth, with a majority of stocks trading in the green during the session.

Currency markets also registered strength, with the rupee seeing supportive momentum, which further bolstered risk appetite among equity investors. Analysts noted that the interim trade framework between India and the US has removed a significant overhang that had previously weighed on sentiment, allowing foreign and domestic investors to return to risk assets with confidence.

While investors remain cautious as the details of the trade pact continue to evolve, Monday's strong performance suggests optimism is high for further economic cooperation and potential upside for Indian markets in the near term.

SEBI Considers Tighter Rules on IPO Fund Tracking Amid Rapid Public Offering Boom

India's markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is evaluating stricter oversight of how companies use the funds they raise from initial public offerings (IPOs), rights issues and other equity fund-raising routes. The move comes as the pace and volume of public offerings — especially from small and medium enterprises — swell, raising concerns about investor protection and transparency.

At the centre of SEBI's deliberations is a proposal to strengthen the monitoring framework that tracks how companies deploy the capital they collect from the public. Currently, listed companies that exceed certain thresholds must appoint independent monitoring agencies to report periodically on the use of issue proceeds. These monitors are intended to ensure that funds are spent in line with the objectives set out in the IPO prospectus and disclosed to investors.

However, SEBI has observed ongoing delays and gaps in reporting, along with instances where funds were diverted or misused shortly after listing. In several small SME issues, investigations uncovered that significant amounts were siphoned off or used in ways that did not match the stated purpose of the IPO, prompting calls for tighter controls.

To address these con-



cerns, SEBI is considering several enhancements to the existing rules:

- **Mandatory Direct Reporting to Exchanges:** Monitoring agencies — including credit rating firms — could be required to submit utilisation reports directly to stock exchanges within a fixed deadline after each quarter, improving timeliness and transparency of disclosures.
- **Stricter Compliance Timelines:** Reports might need to be submitted with-

in a set number of days from the end of a reporting period, ensuring that regulators and investors get up-to-date information on fund usage.

• **Penalties for Non-Cooperation:** Companies that delay or fail to cooperate with monitoring agents could face formal flagging and possible penalties. This could include situations where issuers withhold data, miss deadlines, or fail to pay monitoring fees — actions currently treated as

non-cooperation.

• **Broader Monitoring Requirements:** SEBI is also exploring whether to remove the current minimum issue size thresholds that determine when a monitoring agency must be appointed, effectively extending the requirement to a larger set of IPOs.

These reforms, if adopted, would empower monitoring agencies to play a more proactive and transparent role in protecting investor interests. The aim is to reduce misuse of public

funds and ensure that capital raised through the primary markets is used efficiently for growth, expansion and other stated corporate objectives.

SEBI's push for stronger fund utilisation norms reflects wider efforts to build investor confidence and uphold market integrity at a time when the IPO market is booming and retail participation remains high. It underscores the regulator's focus on balancing capital-raising momentum with robust safeguards against financial misreporting and misuse.

Vodafone Idea Shares Jump After Birla Increases Stake; Brokerages Turn Bullish



Shares of Vodafone Idea rallied sharply in market trading after news emerged that promoter Kumar Mangalam Birla bought additional shares of the debt-laden telecom company, sparking renewed investor interest. The stock climbed nearly 5%, marking one of its strongest sessions in recent weeks.

The sharp upside in the stock came after data showed Birla had purchased additional shares from the open market over multiple sessions, increasing his personal holding in Vodafone Idea. Although his overall stake remains relatively small as a percentage of the company, his continued purchases have been seen by investors as a sign of confidence in the business outlook.

Adding to the positive sentiment, domestic brokerage Emkay Global upgraded its rating on Vodafone Idea shares from a "Sell" to an "Add." At the same time, the firm doubled its target price to 12 per share from an earlier target of

6. This upgrade highlights an improved view of the telecom operator's prospects and contributed to the buying momentum in the stock.

Emkay's reassessment was based not only on the promoter's increased stake but also on recent regulatory developments that have eased Vodafone Idea's financial burdens. One of the key supportive factors cited by the brokerage is the government-approved moratorium on the company's adjusted gross revenue (AGR) liabilities, which allows minimal annual payments over an extended period. This moratorium reduces the immediate cash flow pressure and is seen as a potential lifeline, improving short-term survival prospects.

The brokerage also pointed out that easing these historical liabilities could help Vodafone Idea access additional bank funding, which is crucial as it seeks to expand its 4G network and roll out 5G services. A stronger network and improved capital posi-

tion would be key to arresting subscriber churn and enhancing competitiveness with larger rivals.

Despite the optimism, analysts caution that significant risks remain. Vodafone Idea still faces challenges in expanding its subscriber base, increasing average revenue per user (ARPU), and moving more customers onto newer 4G and 5G networks. These operational hurdles will need to be addressed for a sustainable turnaround.

Still, Monday's trading session reflected a clear shift in market sentiment. The stock's breakout from a short losing streak coupled with a positive brokerage stance and promoter interest suggests that investors are increasingly willing to bet on a recovery narrative. With renewed confidence in the telecom operator's strategic direction, Vodafone Idea's shares have found firmer footing, offering a more constructive outlook for traders and long-term holders alike.

Gems and Jewellery Stocks Rally as India-US Trade Framework Signals Tariff Relief

Shares of several gems and jewellery companies surged sharply in early trade after optimism grew around an interim India-US trade framework that signals the removal of reciprocal tariffs on Indian exports of gems and diamonds. The announcement triggered strong buying interest in export-oriented stocks, pushing some counters up by as much as 17 percent.

Goldiam International emerged as the top gainer in the segment, with its stock jumping nearly 18 percent during the session. Investors reacted positively to the possibility that Indian diamond and jewellery exporters may soon regain cost competitiveness in the crucial US market, which remains one of the largest destinations for India's gems and jewellery exports.

Other stocks in the sector also posted solid gains. Kalyan Jewellers, Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri, Senco Gold, and Thangamayil Jewellery traded higher on strong volumes. Rajesh Exports hit the upper circuit in early



trade, while Titan Company also saw upward momentum, reflecting broad-based optimism across the jewellery space.

The rally followed the release of details from the interim trade framework between India and the United States, which outlines steps to deepen bilateral trade ties. A key highlight of the framework is the proposal to eliminate

reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US on several Indian export categories, including gems and diamonds. While the removal is subject to finalisation of the agreement, markets have already priced in the potential benefits.

The gems and jewellery sector had been under pressure in recent months due to higher tariffs, which impacted export vol-

umes and margins. Increased duties had made Indian products less competitive in the US market, leading to reduced orders and cautious outlooks from exporters. The prospect of tariff removal has therefore been seen as a major relief for the industry.

Market participants believe that easing trade barriers could revive demand from international buyers and improve earnings visibility for exporters over the coming quarters. Given the labour-intensive nature of the gems and jewellery industry, improved exports could also have a positive ripple effect across the supply chain.

Overall, the sharp rally in jewellery stocks reflects growing confidence that improved trade relations between India and the US may translate into tangible gains for export-driven sectors. Investors will now closely watch further announcements and clarity on the implementation timeline of the proposed tariff changes.

Bank Nifty Nears 61,000 as SBI Shares Surge on Strong Q3 Performance

Banking stocks witnessed strong buying interest, pushing the Bank Nifty index close to the 61,000 mark, as investors reacted positively to robust quarterly earnings from major lenders, led by State Bank of India (SBI). The rally highlighted renewed confidence in the banking sector's earnings outlook.

The Bank Nifty advanced sharply during the session, moving past key technical levels and trading near 60,800-61,000, supported by heavy volumes in frontline banking stocks. Analysts noted that the index has managed to hold above crucial support zones, reinforcing a positive near-term trend.

SBI Leads the Rally

SBI emerged as the top performer in the banking space, with its shares jumping nearly 7 percent to hit fresh 52-week highs. The surge followed the lender's strong third-quarter results, in which it reported its highest ever quarterly profit. Growth in net interest income, steady credit expansion, and improved asset qual-



ity boosted investor sentiment.

Market participants welcomed the bank's consistent earnings delivery, with optimism growing around its ability to sustain profitability amid stable margins and healthy loan demand. SBI's performance also lifted other public sector banks, contributing significantly to the Bank Nifty's upward momentum.

Broad-Based Strength Across Banks

The rally was not limited to SBI alone. Several other banking stocks, including private and public sector lenders, traded higher during the session. Gains were seen across large private banks, mid-sized lenders, and select small finance banks, indicating broad participation in the secto-

ral upmove.

Improving macroeconomic conditions, strong credit growth and stable interest rate expectations have helped support banking stocks in recent weeks. Institutional buying further added to the positive sentiment.

Key Technical Levels to Watch

From a technical perspective, analysts identified 59,800 as a key support level for Bank Nifty, while 60,500 and 61,000 remain immediate resistance zones. A decisive move above these levels could open the door for further upside, while a breach below support may lead to short-term consolidation.

Outlook

The banking index's strength reflects growing confidence in the sector's fundamentals, particularly after strong earnings from a key heavyweight like SBI. With loan growth holding firm and asset quality remaining stable, investors remain optimistic about the sector's medium-term prospects.

Family Making Sandwiches on Train Triggers Online Debate on Public Etiquette



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

In his Instagram caption, Vikas

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

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

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

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

Bengaluru House Help's Thoughtful Anniversary Gesture Wins Hearts Online



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who Is Dhakshineswar Suresh? Meet India's New 6-Foot-5 Davis Cup Star

Indian tennis has found a new hero in Dhakshineswar Suresh, a towering 6-foot-5 player whose breakthrough performance in the Davis Cup has captured national attention. With nerves of steel and an imposing presence on court, Suresh played a decisive role in India's memorable victory in the Davis Cup qualifiers, announcing himself as a major prospect for the future.

Early Life and Background

Dhakshineswar Suresh hails from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, where his journey in tennis began at a young age. Known for his athletic build and powerful game, he quickly stood out in junior circuits. His height and reach gave him a natural advantage, especially on faster courts, but it was his discipline and work ethic that set him apart.

To further develop his game, Suresh moved to the United States, where he competed in college tennis, a phase that proved crucial in shaping his professional mindset. Playing against strong international competition helped him refine his technique, fitness and match temperament.

Breakthrough in the Davis Cup

Suresh's defining moment came during India's recent Davis Cup tie, where he delivered a per-



formance that exceeded expectations. Making just his second appearance in the prestigious team competition, he shouldered responsibility in a high-pressure situation and delivered when it mattered most.

He won both his singles matches, including the decisive rubber that sealed India's victory. In addition, he contributed in doubles, showcasing versatility and stamina across formats. Such an all-round contribution in a single tie is rare and underlined his importance to the team.

The performance played a major role in helping India progress in the Davis

Cup qualifiers, sparking optimism among fans and experts about the country's prospects in international tennis.

Playing Style and Strengths

Standing at 6-foot-5, Suresh possesses a powerful serve, long reach and strong baseline game. His ability to dominate service games and dictate points early gives him an edge against opponents. Despite his height, he moves well across the court and shows composure during extended rallies.

Coaches have praised his mental strength and calmness under pressure

— traits that are essential in team events like the Davis Cup. His willingness to take responsibility in crunch moments has quickly earned him the trust of the Indian camp.

Professional Journey So Far

Although still climbing the professional rankings, Suresh has already shown he can compete with higher-ranked players. His recent victories have highlighted that rankings do not always reflect true potential. With continued exposure and consistency, he is expected to make steady progress on the professional circuit.

A Promising Future for Indian Tennis

Dhakshineswar Suresh's rise comes at a time when Indian men's tennis is searching for new faces capable of carrying the baton forward. His combination of physical strength, competitive spirit and recent big-match performances has positioned him as one of the most exciting talents in the country.

As he builds on this momentum, Indian tennis fans will be watching closely. If his Davis Cup heroics are any indication, Suresh could play a significant role in shaping India's future on the global tennis stage.

BWF Revamps World Tour: India Open Retains Status, Syed Modi International Downgraded

The Badminton World Federation has announced a major restructuring of its World Tour calendar for the 2027-2030 cycle, bringing mixed news for Indian badminton.

India Open Retains Elite Status

The India Open has retained its Super 750 status under the revamped structure. This ensures that the New Delhi tournament will continue to be one of the premier events on the global badminton circuit, attracting top-ranked players and offering high ranking points and prize money.

Despite organisational challenges during recent editions, the tournament's continued inclusion at the Super 750 level underlines its importance in the international calendar and secures India's place among the top-tier hosts in world badminton.

Syed Modi International Faces Downgrade

In contrast, the Syed Modi International tournament in Lucknow has been downgraded from a Super 300 event to a Super



100 tournament. This change significantly reduces its standing within the World Tour hierarchy and may affect the quality of international participation and ranking points available to players.

The tournament, which began in 2009 and was upgraded to Super 300 status in 2018, has played a key role in providing competitive exposure to emerging players. While it will continue to be part of the tour, the downgrade represents a setback for the event's global profile.

Reduced Indian Presence on the World Tour

Under the new structure, India's representation on the BWF World Tour has been reduced from four tournaments to two. In addition to the downgrade of the Syed Modi International, two Super 100 events previously held in Guwahati and Odisha have been removed from the official tour calendar.

This reduction is expected to limit domestic opportunities for Indian players to earn ranking points at

home and could impact the development pathway for young shuttlers aiming to progress on the international stage.

Key Changes in the New World Tour Structure

The revised BWF World Tour will feature 36 tournaments across six tiers, including the World Tour Finals, Super 1000, Super 750, Super 500, Super 300 and Super 100 events. For the first time, Super 100 tournaments will be fully integrated into the main tour structure.

The new cycle will also see an increase in the number of Super 1000 events, along with enhanced prize money and adjustments to tournament formats. These changes are intended to strengthen the global appeal of badminton and provide a more competitive and commercially viable tour.

What the Changes Mean for India

India Open will continue as a top-tier Super 750 event.

Syed Modi International will remain on the tour but at a lower Super 100 level.

Two other Indian tournaments will no longer feature in the World Tour calendar.

While retaining the India Open's elite status is a positive outcome, the overall reduction in India's tournament footprint reflects a broader recalibration of the international badminton landscape. Organisers and stakeholders will now focus on strengthening existing events and working toward regaining higher-tier status in future cycles.

Dimarco Stars as Inter Milan Extend Serie A Lead, Juventus Drop Points

Inter Milan strengthened their grip on the Serie A title race with a dominant performance that pushed them eight points clear at the top of the Italian league standings.

In a commanding 5-0 victory at Sassuolo, Inter showcased clinical attacking play and defensive solidity. Federico Dimarco was outstanding, creating three goals with assists and contributing all over the pitch. He also made a key defensive intervention by clearing a shot off the line and came close to scoring himself with a powerful free-kick that struck the woodwork. Inter's tall defenders and attackers got on the scoresheet — with goals from Yann Bisseck, Marcus Thuram, Lautaro Martinez and Manuel Akanji, capped by Luis Henrique's first goal for the club — sealing the emphatic win and extending their unbeaten run to 12



matches.

The result left Inter well ahead of city rivals AC Milan and the rest of the pack, marking a strong statement in their bid for the Serie A title.

Juventus Struggle in the Race for Europe

Meanwhile, Juventus failed to capitalise on Inter's slip in the title fight after being held to a dramatic 2-2 draw at home against

Lazio. The Old Lady fell two goals behind, but fought back through scores from Weston McKennie and a late equaliser by Pierre Kalulu, rescuing a point in the dying moments of the match. However, dropping points at this stage of the season could prove costly in their quest for a Champions League qualification spot.

Elsewhere in Serie A, Cremonese's match was overshadowed by fan misconduct, although Inter still managed to secure a 2-0 win, further solidifying their advantage atop the table.

Inter's commanding form, combined with Juventus' dropped points, has reshaped the title and European qualification landscape. With an extended lead and momentum on their side, Inter looked poised to push toward another league triumph, while Juventus face mounting pressure to find consistency if they are to secure top-four football.

Pakistan's Three Demands to End T20 World Cup 2026 Boycott Deadlock



Cricket's governing council and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) are locked in intense talks over Pakistan's planned boycott of its T20 World Cup 2026 match against India. The dispute emerged after Bangladesh were removed from the tournament and Pakistan announced it would not take the field against India in Colombo on February 15, 2026.

In an effort to break the impasse, the PCB has tabled three key demands to the International Cricket Council (ICC) as conditions for ending its boycott stance and agreeing to play the India fixture. These demands represent broader concerns involving Bangladesh's ouster and Pakistan's role in the global event.

1. Increased Compensation for Bangladesh

The PCB insists that the ICC provide larger financial compensation for Bangladesh following its expulsion from the World Cup. Pakistan argues that Bangladesh — a full member of international cricket — should be financially supported after suffering an early and controversial exit from the tournament. This demand reflects Pakistan's solidarity with Bangladesh and its claim that the decision to remove them was unfair and damaging.

2. Guaranteed Participation Fee for Bangladesh

Alongside compensation, the PCB wants the ICC to guarantee a participation fee for Bangladesh despite their early exit. Participation fees are typically paid to member boards for taking part in ICC events. Pakistan's position is that Bangla-

desh deserves this fee as a baseline financial reassurance, given the investment they made in preparing for the tournament and the abrupt nature of their removal.

3. Hosting Rights for a Future ICC Event

The third demand seeks hosting rights for Bangladesh in a future ICC event. Pakistan is pushing for an assurance that Bangladesh will be allocated rights to host a major ICC tournament down the line. This demand is aimed at strengthening Bangladesh's cricket infrastructure and giving the country a chance to showcase itself on the global stage after the setback in 2026.

Context of the Dispute

Pakistan's boycott threat is linked to Bangladesh's removal from the event after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sought to relocate its World Cup matches out of India on security grounds. The ICC rejected that request, and Bangladesh were replaced by Scotland. Pakistan publicly backed Bangladesh before its own boycott announcement.

The ICC has responded cautiously, asking Pakistan to justify its stance and warning of possible financial and sporting consequences if it fails to fulfill its fixture obligations. The board has also engaged in structured dialogue to explore pathways toward resolution.

The demands tabled by Pakistan underscore a mix of financial, legal and diplomatic concerns, and show how deeply geopolitical sentiments have intersected with global sport in this marquee tournament.

Pakistan, Bangladesh Push for 2031 World Cup Hybrid Model Amid ICC Boycott Talks



Negotiations between the International Cricket Council (ICC), Pakistan and Bangladesh have taken a new turn as both South Asian boards have raised a fresh demand linked to the 2031 Cricket World Cup, even as talks continue over Pakistan's proposed boycott of its T20 World Cup 2026 match against India.

According to sources familiar with the discussions, Pakistan and Bangladesh have jointly asked the ICC to extend the existing "hybrid model" arrangement until the 2031 World Cup cycle, instead of allowing it to expire after 2027. The hybrid model allows teams unwilling to travel to certain countries due to political or security concerns to play their matches at neutral venues.

This demand is being viewed as part of a broader negotiation strategy as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) considers reversing its decision to boycott the high-profile India-Pakistan match scheduled for February 15, 2026. Pakistan had earlier announced it would not play the fixture in protest over Bangladesh's removal from the tournament.

Bangladesh was dropped from the T20 World Cup after its cricket board requested that its matches be shifted out of India, citing security concerns. When the ICC declined the request, Bangladesh was replaced by another team, triggering strong reactions from both Dhaka and Islamabad. Pakistan publicly backed Bangladesh, calling the decision unfair and announcing its intention to boycott the India clash.

As discussions progressed, Pakistan and Bangladesh expanded their demands beyond immediate compensation and participation

guarantees. Their latest proposal focuses on long-term certainty, particularly with India and Bangladesh set to co-host the 2031 Cricket World Cup.

Under the proposed extension, Pakistan would not be required to play matches in India during future ICC events, including games against India. Instead, matches could be hosted in Bangladesh or at neutral venues agreed upon in advance. The move is aimed at preventing recurring disputes and last-minute stand-offs ahead of major tournaments.

Officials involved in the talks say the hybrid model extension is being positioned as a way to protect tournament stability while accommodating geopolitical realities. Both boards argue that predictable arrangements would help avoid future boycott threats and ensure smoother planning for broadcasters, sponsors and fans.

Meanwhile, the ICC has reportedly urged Pakistan to honour its commitments for the 2026 tournament, warning that failure to do so could lead to financial penalties and disciplinary action. However, the governing body is also said to be weighing the long-term implications of rejecting the hybrid model proposal.

The negotiations underline how deeply politics and security considerations have become intertwined with international cricket. While no final decision has been announced, the outcome is expected to shape not only the India-Pakistan fixture in 2026 but also the structure of global tournaments in the coming decade.

For now, all sides remain engaged in talks, with the future of one of cricket's most watched rivalries hanging in the balance.

Motherly Emotion Redefines Horror in Erra Cheera



The makers of Erra Cheera - The Beginning hosted a vibrant Thanks Meet on Sunday, celebrating the film's strong box office run and the birthday of lead actress Karunya Chowdhary, popularly known as the "Acting Queen." Released on February 6, the film has struck a chord with audiences across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh by offering a refreshing take on the horror genre, blending suspense with a powerful mother sentiment inspired by true events.

Directed by Suman Babu, Erra Cheera - The Beginning moves away from the conventional revenge-ghost template and instead focuses on emotional depth, especially the unconditional love of a mother. Presented by Baby Damari and produced by NVV Subba Reddy and Suman Babu under Sri Padmayala Entertainment and Sri Suman Venkatadri Productions, the film features Baby Sai Tejaswini—granddaughter of veteran actor Rajendra Prasad—in a key role. Suman Babu also appears in an

important character, adding another dimension to the narrative.

The Thanks Meet reflected the celebratory mood seen in theatres. Suman Babu and Karunya Chowdhary delighted fans by dancing to the popular "Muddu" song, recreating the energetic atmosphere reported from cinema halls, where audiences have been seen clapping and dancing during key moments.

Distributor Dronadula Venkatrao of Jayalakshmi Films expressed confidence in the film's success. He recalled predicting before release that Erra Cheera would emerge as the strongest performer among the February 6 releases, a claim he said has now been proven. He highlighted the film's appeal to family audiences and its particularly strong response in B and C centres.

Karunya Chowdhary shared her happiness over the emotional reactions from viewers, especially women, during the climax. Speaking about her role as Parvathi, she

said the character was deeply fulfilling and carried a strong message that a mother's love is the greatest force of all.

Director-producer Suman Babu revealed that the film is currently running successfully in more than 250 theatres. With Maha Shivaratri approaching, the team plans to add over 100 more screens, citing the spiritual connection of the climax to Lord Shiva. He also announced that the Kannada version of the film is scheduled for release on March 19.

The event concluded with a grand birthday celebration for Karunya Chowdhary, marked by a cake-cutting ceremony. Suman Babu personally greeted her and hinted at casting her in a significant role in his next project, while Karunya expressed gratitude for the director's support and care for his artists.

Blending horror, emotion, and action, Erra Cheera - The Beginning continues to gain momentum, standing out as a family-friendly success with a strong emotional core.

Hemanth Kumar Promises "Entertainment Worth Every Rupee" at Alpha Trailer Launch

The trailer launch of the upcoming action-packed entertainer Alpha (sub-title: Men Love Vengeance) took place recently, creating a buzz among cinegoers. Produced under LA Productions, the film stars Hemanth Kumar, Ayana, and Gopika Suresh in lead roles. Directed by Vijay N and co-produced by Hemanth Kumar and Anand Kumar, Alpha is slated for release on February 20, with the Telugu version being distributed by Ravishankar and Manjunath. The event was graced by noted director Samudra as the chief guest.

The trailer sets the tone with intense dialogues, including: "If everything happens by God's grace... then what about the demons?" It features high-voltage action sequences, mafia backdrops, and mass hero moments, such as the dialogue "I entered the arena... not for the game." Audiences are also treated to romantic sequences, strong father sentiment through "My past, present, and future... is my father," and a shirtless six-pack reveal, appealing to mass viewers. Overall, the trailer promises a balanced mix of action, emotion, romance, and family drama.

Hemanth Kumar, addressing the media, said:

"I love Telugu cinema, and watching Telugu films helped me learn the language. Thanks to director Samudra garu for supporting us. Ravishankar sir liked our content after watching



the Kannada version and is releasing it widely in Telugu. It feels great when newcomers like us are encouraged. We have made this film very honestly and promise entertainment worth every rupee audiences spend. The response in Kannada has been amazing, and we hope Telugu audiences love it too."

Director Samudra praised the film, saying, "The Alpha trailer is excellent, and the hero looks very handsome. Many Kannada heroes are succeeding in Telugu cinema. I hope Hemanth achieves big success like Yash and Rishab Shetty. The lead pair performed

brilliantly, and I hope audiences support Alpha just as they did with KGF and Kantara."

Ayana, who plays a police officer, remarked, "It was a challenging role, and the film has come out wonderfully. Audiences will enjoy it." Gopika Suresh, portraying Akanksha, added, "Women will especially like my beauty-with-brains character. Please watch and support our film on February 20."

Distributor Ravishankar said he was impressed by Hemanth's performance and praised the teaser, trailer, and songs. He revealed plans for

large-scale promotions ahead of the release. Sponsor Royal Ridge Srinivas also lauded the hero's performance, wishing the film success.

Alpha promises a thrilling cinematic experience with action, emotion, and romance, marking Hemanth Kumar's growing presence in Telugu cinema.

Cast & Crew:

Hemanth Kumar, Ayana, Gopika Suresh, Achyuth Kumar, Balu Nagendra; Director: Vijay N; Producers: Hemanth Kumar, Anand Kumar; Music: J Anoop Seelin; DOP: Karthik S; Editor: Deepu S Kumar.

"Yama Yamma" Adds Mass Energy to FUNKY



The makers of actor Vishwak Sen's upcoming entertainer FUNKY have

raised the excitement levels with the release of the film's third single, "Yama

Yamma...", a high-voltage mass number that promises to become a crowd favourite. With pulsating beats, vibrant visuals, and electrifying performances, the song has further amplified the buzz surrounding the film.

Penned by Dev Pawar, "Yama Yamma" is sung with infectious energy by Bheems Ceciroleo and Rohini Sorrat. Music director Bheems Ceciroleo once again proves his mettle by delivering a foot-tapping composition that blends raw mass appeal with contemporary sound. The song features Vishwak Sen alongside Kayadu Lohar, whose chemistry and spirited dance moves add to the track's visual charm. Choreographed by popular dance master Aata Sandeep, the number is packed with dynamic steps and celebratory vibes, making it a complete treat for fans of mass entertainers.

With the first two sin-

gles from the FUNKY album already becoming chart-toppers, "Yama Yamma" takes the musical momentum to the next level. The song reinforces the film's energetic tone and strengthens its appeal among younger audiences and mass viewers alike. Music lovers and fans have been praising the track for its catchy rhythm and repeat value.

Adding to the growing anticipation, the recently released trailer of FUNKY has been receiving a blockbuster response. Audiences have particularly appreciated director KV Anudeep's trademark brand of comedy and Vishwak Sen's impeccable comic timing. Known for delivering the cult hit Jathi Ratalu, KV Anudeep returns with his signature quirky storytelling, promising an even louder, funnier, and more entertaining cinematic ride.

Produced by S Naga

Vamsi and Sai Soujanya, FUNKY is being made under the prestigious banners of Sithara Entertainments, Fortune Four Cinemas, and Sri-kara Studios. These production houses are known for their rich production values and stylish presentation, and FUNKY is expected to continue that legacy with high-quality visuals and slick execution.

With a power-packed combination of comedy, music, and mass elements, FUNKY is gearing up to be a complete entertainer. The release of "Yama Yamma" has further heightened expectations, positioning the film as one of the most awaited releases of the season.

FUNKY is slated for a grand theatrical release on February 13, 2026, perfectly timed to entertain audiences during the Valentine's Day weekend, promising unlimited fun and laughter on the big screen.

Sumanth's Mahendragiri Varahi Set for Theatrical Release Soon



The upcoming film Mahendragiri Varahi, starring Sumanth, is gearing up for a theatrical release under the prestigious Rashyamala banner. Directed by Santosh Jagarlapudi and produced by Madhu Kalipu, the film is generating excitement with its unique storyline and dynamic visuals.

The narrative is inspired by the legendary Varahi temple located in Mahendragiri, weaving a tale around the mystical and supernatural elements associated with the sacred site. Director Santosh Jagarlapudi has carefully crafted the story to blend socio-fantasy elements with a strong cultural backdrop.

On the occasion of Sumanth's birthday, the film unit released new glims and a poster, high-

lighting the actor's intense and dynamic look. The visuals have received a superb response on social media, with fans praising Sumanth's powerful presence.

The movie features two pivotal characters played by a leading hero and heroine, whose details will be announced soon by the production team. The ensemble cast also includes Meenakshi Gosami, Brahmaandam, Venneela Kishore, Rajeev Kanakala, Kamal Kamaraju, Satyasai Srinivas, Vamsi Chaganti, and Manju Bhargavi, promising a mix of strong performances and engaging characters.

Anup Rubens has composed the music, while Murali has penned the story, setting the stage for a cinematic experience

that balances supernatural thrills with mass appeal.

Director Santosh Jagarlapudi expressed his confidence in the film, stating that Sumanth's role will be a milestone in his career and is designed to captivate audiences of all age groups. Producer Madhu Kalipu added that the character and storyline have been specially crafted to offer something new and refreshing, combining supernatural elements with socio-fantasy themes.

With its intriguing premise, star-studded cast, and a blend of fantasy and cultural storytelling, Mahendragiri Varahi is shaping up to be a significant release for Sumanth, promising a memorable cinematic experience for moviegoers.

'Viplava Veerudu' Shoot Launched with Grand Pooja

The shooting of Viplava Veerudu, a historical drama highlighting the heroic role of common people in India's freedom struggle, officially began with a grand pooja ceremony held at the Filmnagar Temple in Hyderabad. The event marked the formal launch of the film and was attended by the core team and well-wishers from the industry.

Directed by S. Nagaraj Rao, Viplava Veerudu features renowned actress Indira in a pivotal role, while Jaiswar and Sonali Shetty play the lead pair. The film is being produced by AV Jayaram under the banner of AVJR Productions. Veteran writer Paruchuri Gopalakrishna gave the first clap for the muhurat shot on Indira, symbolically inaugurating the shoot.

Speaking at the launch, Indira said the film offers a realistic and emotionally powerful portrayal of the freedom movement. She explained that the story fo-

cus on how ordinary citizens actively participated in the struggle against British rule. "This narrative shows the transformation of a common man into a revolutionary hero who fights fearlessly for the nation's freedom. I will be seen as Rani Bhavani Devi, a character with great depth and significance. Producer Jayaram is making a meaningful film with a strong message, and I seek everyone's blessings," she said.

Lead actor Jaiswar expressed deep confidence in the project, stating that his role as "Viplava Veerudu" is very special to him. He added that he believes the film will leave a lasting impression on audiences and hold an important place in cinematic history.

Heroine Sonali Shetty shared her excitement, calling the film a major milestone in her career. "This is my debut film, and I am extremely



thankful for this opportunity. I humbly seek the support and blessings of everyone," she said.

Director S. Nagaraj Rao described Viplava Veerudu as his dream project. He noted that the film is set in the British era and presents a powerful historical story. He also emphasized that Indira's role is central to the narrative and will be

one of the film's highlights.

Producer AV Jayaram revealed that the story is set during the period of Tipu Sultan and explores how the British exploited India under the pretext of trade, along with the consequences that followed. "This will be a film with a strong message and historical relevance," he said.

Actor Patel Ashok Reddy added that the freedom enjoyed today is the result of immense sacrifices by countless unsung warriors, and the film aims to bring their stories to the silver screen.

With a strong cast, historical backdrop, and a socially relevant theme, Viplava Veerudu has begun its journey with high expectations.