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CM Announced RS.20 Lakhs As Compensation



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep shock and anguish over the tragic incident that occurred at Vetlapalem village in Samalkota mandal of Kakinada district. The Chief Minister personally visited the injured victims who are undergoing treatment at the Government General Hospital Kakinada (GGH) and enquired about their health condition from doctors and medical staff.

After meeting the victims and their families, the Chief Minister addressed the media and stated that nine of the injured are in critical condition. He assured that the government is providing the best possible medical care to all those affected and that additional support would be extended if required. He also directed officials to ensure that no effort is spared in saving the lives of the critically injured, including

shifting them to advanced medical facilities if necessary.

The Chief Minister announced the immediate suspension of officials found prima facie responsible for negligence in connection with the incident. He stated that a detailed inquiry would be conducted to determine the exact cause of the tragedy and to identify those accountable. Strict action will be taken against all individuals responsible once the investigation is completed.

Highlighting preliminary findings, he said that the organizers had failed to follow proper safety protocols, particularly in handling explosive materials. He emphasized that negligence in dealing with such hazardous substances is unacceptable and that the government will not tolerate any lapses in safety standards.

As part of relief measures, the Chief Minister announced an ex gratia compensation of ₹20 lakh

each to the families of the deceased. Financial assistance will also be provided to the injured, depending on the severity of their condition. He assured that the government would stand firmly with the affected families and extend all possible support for their rehabilitation.

He further warned that those involved in unauthorized manufacture or storage of firecrackers and explosive materials would face stringent legal action. The government is also considering confiscating the properties of the individuals responsible and using the proceeds to support the victims' families.

The Chief Minister stated that a comprehensive review of safety regulations across the state would be undertaken to prevent similar incidents in the future. Strict inspections and enforcement measures will be intensified to curb illegal activities involving explosive substances.



Middle East In Flames & Smokes

The Middle East plunged into one of its most volatile crises in recent years after a dramatic escalation between Israel and Iran triggered missile exchanges and widespread regional disruption. The unfolding confrontation has heightened fears of a broader war involving multiple Gulf states and global powers.

According to official sources, Israel launched a large-scale military strike targeting Iranian military infrastructure and facilities allegedly linked to its nuclear and missile programs. Israeli authorities described the operation as a pre-emptive measure aimed at neutralizing what they termed an escalating strategic threat. The development drew political backing from former U.S. President Donald Trump, who stated that preventing Iran from advancing its nuclear capabilities was critical for regional security.

Tehran swiftly condemned the strikes, labeling them an act of aggression and a violation of sovereignty. Within hours, Iranian forces initiated retaliatory missile launches toward strategic locations across the Gulf. Air defense systems were activated in several countries as projectiles crossed regional airspace, prompting emergency alerts and instructions for civilians to seek shelter.

Explosions were reported near major urban centers including Abu Dhabi, Doha, and Riyadh. While many missiles were reportedly intercepted, falling debris and shockwaves caused structural damage in certain areas. Authorities are continuing to assess casualties and property loss as emergency response teams remain deployed.

One of the most tragic developments emerged from Iran, where lo-

cal officials reported that a strike hit a girls' school, resulting in the deaths of 85 people, most of them students. The casualty figures have not yet been independently verified, but images circulated by regional media outlets showed significant destruction and rescue personnel working through rubble. The incident has intensified global concern over civilian casualties amid escalating hostilities.

The crisis has also disrupted civil aviation and commercial activity across the region. Dubai International Airport temporarily suspended operations due to airspace security risks, leaving thousands of passengers stranded and forcing airlines to reroute flights. Similar precautionary measures were taken at other airports as authorities sought to ensure passenger safety.

Regional governments including United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia condemned attacks within their territories and called for immediate restraint. The United Nations convened an emergency Security Council session, with Secretary-General António Guterres urging both sides to pursue de-escalation through diplomatic channels.

Analysts warn that continued military exchanges between Israel and Iran could overwhelm regional defense systems and destabilize vital energy corridors. Oil markets reacted sharply to the uncertainty, reflecting fears of prolonged instability in a region critical to global supply chains.

As diplomatic efforts intensify behind closed doors, uncertainty remains high. With both nations signaling readiness to defend their interests, the coming days may prove decisive in determining whether the confrontation remains contained or expands into a broader



21 Killed In Massive Explosion At Fire Works Factory

Kakinada, February 28:

A massive explosion at a fireworks manufacturing unit in Samarlakota mandal of Kakinada district claimed 21 lives and left 13 others seriously injured on Saturday afternoon. The tragic incident occurred around 2 pm at Surya Sri Fire Works, located near the Godavari canal in Vetlapalem village.

According to preliminary information, a total of 34 workers were present at the factory when the explosion occurred. The blast was so powerful that it was heard up to five kilometres away, sending shockwaves through nearby villages. Thick plumes of smoke quickly engulfed the surrounding areas, causing panic among residents. The force of the explosion reportedly caused cracks in the slab of a private school building in a neighbouring village.

Rescue operations began immediately after the incident. Fire department personnel



rushed to the spot with two fire engines and worked to bring the flames under control. However, by the time emergency teams reached the site, several workers trapped inside had already succumbed to the intense fire. The scene was described as horrific, with charred bodies and body parts found scattered across the premises. Some of the deceased were burnt beyond recognition, complicating identification efforts. Most of the victims are believed to be



women workers employed at the factory. The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals, where doctors stated that nine of them are in critical condition with severe burn injuries. Medical teams are providing intensive care to stabilize the victims. Locals alleged that the explosion might have been caused by the manufacture or storage of fireworks beyond the permitted limits. Authorities are examining whether safety norms were

followed at the facility. The factory is reportedly managed by members of a local businessman's family. Police have registered a case and launched a detailed investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the explosion and identify any lapses.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who is currently on a tour in Vizianagaram district, enquired about the incident and directed officials to ensure immediate rescue and relief measures. He instructed Home Minister Anita Vangalapudi to visit the accident site and oversee relief efforts. The district Collector and Superintendent of Police have reached the scene and are supervising rescue and support operations.

So far, police have identified 11 of the deceased, while efforts are underway to confirm the identities of the remaining victims. The tragedy has once again raised serious concerns about safety standards in fireworks manufacturing units across the state.

Deep Sorrow Over Loss Of Lives; Pawan



The Deputy CMO Andhra Pradesh has issued an official statement regarding the tragic explosion at Vetlapalem village in Samalkota mandal of Kakinada district, outlining the government's response and immediate measures taken to address the situation.

According to the statement, the Chief Minister expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and injuries caused by the blast. Senior officials were instructed to ensure that the injured receive the best possible medical treatment. Several victims are currently undergoing treatment, with some reported to be in critical condition. Authorities have been directed to closely monitor their health status and provide advanced medical care wherever necessary.

Preliminary findings suggest that negligence in handling and storing explosive materials may have contributed to the incident. The government has taken serious note of the apparent safety lapses and has suspended concerned officials pending a detailed inquiry. A comprehensive investigation has been ordered to

determine the exact cause of the explosion and to identify all those responsible. Strict legal action will be initiated against individuals found guilty.

As part of relief measures, the government announced financial assistance for the families of the deceased. Compensation will also be provided to the injured based on the extent of their injuries. The administration assured full support to the affected families, including rehabilitation assistance.

The statement further warned that unauthorized manufacturing or storage of firecrackers and other explosive materials will not be tolerated. Authorities have been instructed to intensify inspections and enforce safety regulations strictly across the district.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also reviewed the situation and emphasized the need for stringent monitoring to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The government reiterated its commitment to public safety and promised systemic reforms to avoid similar tragedies in the future.

TGSRTC Brings Bhadrachalam Sita Rama Kalyanam Talambralu to Devotees' Doorsteps



Amarvathi 28.02.2026 TPN Bureau:

In a novel and spiritually uplifting service for devotees who are unable to attend the grand Bhadrachari Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple celebrations in person, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced that Kalyanam Talambralu — traditionally consecrated gifts from the divine marriage of Lord Rama and Sita — will be delivered directly to the homes of devotees across the state. This initiative has been launched in collaboration with the Telangana Endowments Department ahead of the much-anticipated Sri Rama Navami and Kalyanam festival at Bhadrachalam. The talambralu packets, considered sacred and auspicious by followers of Lord Rama, are symbolic of the divine wedding ceremony (Kalyanam) performed at the temple on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami. Devotees who wish to receive the blessings at their homes can now

book these talambralu packets through the TGSRTC logistics service. Once booked, the talambralu will be delivered to the devotee's residence soon after the temple ceremony is conducted.

According to TGSRTC officials, devotees can reserve the talambralu packets by paying a nominal fee of ₹151 per packet, either at TGSRTC logistics centres or online via the official logistics portal of the corporation. For those who require assistance with booking, dedicated call centre numbers have also been made available. This service is specifically designed for those who cannot travel to Bhadrachalam due to age, health reasons or other constraints but still wish to partake in the divine grace of the Kalyanam festivities from the comfort of their homes.

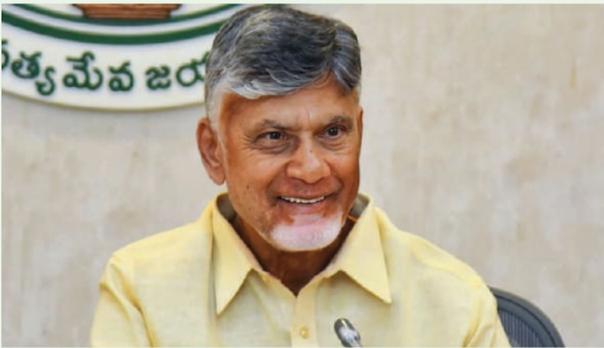
Senior TGSRTC officials, including representatives from the corporation's logistics and operations departments, were present at the launch of the home delivery service, which has

been widely welcomed by devotees. They explained that this effort reflects a commitment to leverage TGSRTC's extensive transport and logistics network to ensure that devotees far and wide can receive the blessings of Lord Rama without having to be physically present at the temple.

Traditionally, talambralu are blessed rice and turmeric mixtures distributed after the Kalyana Mahotsavam, and are treasured by devotees as tokens of divine blessings and good fortune. With this home-delivery initiative, hundreds of devotees are expected to benefit, especially those living in distant rural and urban areas who find it difficult to participate in the celebrations at Bhadrachalam in person.

This move also highlights how public services such as TGSRTC are adopting innovative measures to support cultural traditions, making religious observances more accessible to people regardless of their location or physical ability.

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu Launches HPV Vaccination Programme in Vizianagaram



Amarvathi 28.02.2026 TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive at the Community Health Centre in Cheepurupalli, Vizianagaram district, as part of a major public health effort to protect young girls against cervical cancer.

On Saturday, February 28, 2026, CM Naidu arrived in Cheepurupalli where he was warmly welcomed by ministers, local MLAs, party leaders, and officials before the formal launch of the programme. He visited the health centre, interacted with students, and emphasized the importance of HPV vaccination in preventing cervical cancer.

The state government is offering the HPV vaccine free of

cost to approximately 3.45 lakh adolescent girls aged around 14 years across Andhra Pradesh under this campaign, which is aligned with the nationwide rollout of the immunization drive. The initiative will be implemented through around 1,645 Primary and Urban Health Centres, ensuring vaccines are provided with parental consent and registered digitally on the state's health platform.

HPV vaccines protect against high-risk virus strains responsible for causing cervical cancer, and health officials have assured that side effects are minimal, such as mild fever or pain at the injection site that typically subside quickly. Certificates will be issued to vaccinated girls, and real-time data tracking will support effective monitoring.

During the programme, Naidu encouraged the use of digital health records for vaccination data, directed authorities to maintain cleanliness at health facilities, and stressed that government hospitals should set high standards in service quality. He also recommended the formation of advisory committees to ensure efficient operations at health centres.

The HPV vaccination drive is part of a broader public health strategy to reduce cervical cancer cases in Andhra Pradesh. This action follows alarming cancer statistics in the state and reflects coordinated efforts between health, education, and women and child welfare departments to safeguard the well-being of young girls, aligning with national preventive healthcare goals.

TTD Board Approves ₹5,456 Crore Annual Budget for 2026-27

Amarvathi 28.02.2026 TPN Bureau:

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Trust Board has officially approved its annual budget of ₹5,456.26 crore for the financial year 2026-27, marking a significant development in the planning and enhancement of services for millions of devotees visiting the famed Tirumala temple. The decision was taken at a meeting of the board held at Annamayya Bhavan in Tirumala on Saturday, February 28, 2026, under the chairmanship of B.R. Naidu.

According to budget estimates released after the board meeting, TTD expects total revenue receipts of ₹5,456.26 crore for the upcoming financial year, with hundi collections alone projected at around ₹1,880 crore. Other major income sources include interest earnings of ₹1,205 crore, prasadam sales aggregating ₹650 crore, darshan ticket sales worth ₹310 crore, arjitha seva receipts of ₹135 crore, and talaneelalu (hair offerings) bringing in ₹175 crore.

On the expenditure side, the largest allocation continues to be for human resources (salaries and allowances), with ₹1,859.75 crore earmarked. Significant funds have also been set aside for material purchases (₹974.50 crore), fixed deposits and investments (₹700 crore**), and engineering capital works (₹475 crore**). Maintenance, security, and facility management have also been factored into the budget at ₹301 crore.

Alongside the approval of the budget, the TTD board also announced several key initiatives and development plans for the welfare of devotees and the overall enhancement of temple facilities:



• "Srivari Mudupu Patram Scheme": A modernised system to allow devotees to make digital donations via UPI and receive official receipts that can be directly offered at the Srivari Hundi, easing the process of cash handling.

• Education Support: A dedicated allocation of ₹118.89 crore to improve educational infrastructure in TTD-run institutions, including digital classrooms and additional hostel facilities.

• Annaprasadam Complex: Approval for a new and modern Annaprasadam complex and kitchen, with an expected donation of ₹100-120 crore from Reliance Industries for the project.

• Temple and Pilgrim Facilities: Steps to enhance facilities at various TTD temples across the country, including construction works around Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple, Parvathipuram Divya Kshetram development, and improvements at goshalas and incubation centres.

• Security Enhancements: Deployment of additional security staff—356 in

Tirupati and 371 in Tirumala—and the establishment of a Command and Control Centre at Tirupati with ₹10.75 crore to monitor temple security nationwide.

• Technology Upgrades: Installation of X-ray baggage scanners and door-frame metal detectors at Alipiri Checkpost at ₹8 crore to improve safety for pilgrims.

The budget approval signals TTD's commitment to modernising facilities for devotees, enhancing safety and security, and strengthening infrastructure while ensuring that religious and cultural traditions remain central to its operations in the coming year.

Minister Nara Lokesh Lays Foundation Stone for Blue Jet Healthcare Project in Anakapalli

Amarvathi 28.02.2026 TPN Bureau:

In a significant step towards strengthening industrial growth in the state, Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT and Industries Nara Lokesh laid the foundation stone for the Blue Jet Healthcare manufacturing facility in Anakapalli district. The event was attended by company executives, public representatives, and senior government officials, marking the beginning of a major pharmaceutical investment in the region.

The Blue Jet Healthcare unit is expected to play a crucial role in boosting the pharmaceutical and healthcare manufacturing sector in Andhra Pradesh. The facility will focus on the production of high-quality pharmaceutical ingredients and specialty healthcare products using advanced technology and global manufacturing standards. Once operational, the plant is projected to generate substantial employment opportunities for local youth, offering both direct and indirect jobs across various skill levels.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Nara Lokesh stated that the state government is committed to transforming



Andhra Pradesh into a premier investment destination in India. He emphasized that the government is implementing industry-friendly policies, ensuring transparent governance, and providing speedy approvals to attract both domestic and international investors. He noted that indus-

trial development is essential for creating sustainable employment and accelerating economic growth.

The minister further highlighted that such large-scale investments not only strengthen the state's industrial base but also contribute to regional development. With

improved infrastructure, skilled manpower, and proactive governance, Andhra Pradesh is steadily emerging as a preferred hub for pharmaceutical and healthcare industries.

Officials stated that the Blue Jet Healthcare project will adhere to strict environmental and safety standards while adopting modern manufacturing technologies. The company is expected to contribute to export growth, enhancing the state's reputation in global pharmaceutical markets.

The establishment of this unit in Anakapalli is also seen as a catalyst for attracting ancillary industries and supporting services to the region. Local business communities expressed optimism that the project would stimulate economic activity and create new opportunities for entrepreneurs.

The foundation stone laying ceremony symbolizes the government's continued focus on industrial expansion and job creation. With projects like Blue Jet Healthcare taking shape, Andhra Pradesh aims to strengthen its position as a competitive and forward-looking industrial state.

G. Sai Prasad Takes Charge as New Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh

Amarvathi 28.02.2026 TPN Bureau:

Senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer G. Sai Prasad has formally assumed office as the Chief Secretary of the Government of Andhra Pradesh on February 28, 2026. He took over the reins of the state's top bureaucratic post from outgoing Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand at a ceremony held at the State Secretariat in Amaravati.

Sai Prasad's assumption of office marks an important leadership transition in the state administration. The state government had issued official orders on November 29, 2025, announcing his appointment and extending Vijayanand's tenure by three months to ensure a smooth administrative handover. The formal swearing-in took place at the Secretariat at 11:33 AM on Saturday.

A 1991-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, Sai Prasad brings with him over three decades of extensive ad-

ministrative experience across various departments and regions. He hails from Mattigunta village in the Nagulapallapadu mandal of Prakasam district and is known for his grounded approach and commitment to inclusive governance.

Before becoming Chief Secretary, Sai Prasad held key positions within the state government. He served as the Special Chief Secretary to both the Water Resources and Revenue Departments and also served currently as Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister. Prior to this, he led the Water Resources Department as Special Chief Secretary beginning in June 2024 and took on additional responsibilities in the Revenue Department from January 2025.

Throughout his career, Sai Prasad worked in several pivotal roles including Assistant Collector in Warangal, Collector in Kurnool and Chittoor, and



Commissioner of Guntur Municipal Corporation. He also held leadership roles in the power and energy sectors, such as Joint Managing Director of AP Transco and Chief Managing Director of distribution companies, and contributed at the national level as Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Power.

Colleagues and senior officials at the Secretariat greeted Sai Prasad with warm congratulations as he began his duties. His appointment is seen as a continuation of experienced and stable administration in the state as it pursues developmental priorities and public service reforms.

RRR Strikes Back at IPS Sunil Kumar's Provocative Tweet, Andhra Politics Heats Up

Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

The political atmosphere in the state intensified recently after IPS officer PV Sunil Kumar made a controversial post on social media. In response, Deputy Speaker and political leader K. Raghurama Krishna Raju — widely referred to by his initials "RRR" — hit back strongly, countering the assertions and tone of Kumar's online message. The exchange has quickly become a talking point across political circles and social media platforms.

The episode began when Sunil Kumar, a senior Indian Police Service officer currently suspended amid ongoing legal proceedings, shared a series of social media posts alleging that RRR had influenced witnesses involved in a significant custodial torture case. Kumar's post drew attention by quoting another account and highlighted ongoing criminal cases against RRR, even urging law enforcement agencies like the CBI to probe whether witness influence had taken place.

In reaction, RRR responded with a video



message widely circulated by TV9 Telugu, where he directly addressed Sunil Kumar's statements and attempted to turn the narrative around. In the televised rebuttal, the Deputy Speaker essentially challenged Kumar, using strong language and assertive phrasing that grabbed public attention — a reflection of rising tensions between political leadership and a senior police officer embroiled in controversy.

RRR's counter message stirred political commentary and sparked debate across

Telugu news channels and social media platforms. The video clip circulated widely on Facebook and Instagram, showing RRR boldly dismissing Sunil Kumar's claims and daring critics to confront him. This exchange marked an unusual moment in the intersection of public administration and political discourse, where both sides engaged in a highly public online confrontation.

The backdrop to this spat is a broader legal and political conflict involving the custodial torture case of 2021 and

subsequent investigations. Sunil Kumar's suspension and the extension of that suspension by the Andhra Pradesh government — keeping him suspended until June 30, 2026, or until the conclusion of criminal cases — became a significant point of contention in political debates. Critics and supporters on both sides have used the situation to voice broader opinions about justice, influence, and accountability in governance.

Political analysts say this public exchange reflects growing polariza-

tion in Andhra Pradesh's political scene, especially on issues involving law enforcement officers and high-profile political figures. The clash has prompted observers to question the boundaries of public criticism by government officials and how such disputes impact public trust in institutions.

As the episode continues to unfold, both supporters and detractors of the two figures remain vocal online and offline, keeping the debate alive within Andhra Pradesh's political discourse.

Permanent Solution to Decades-Long Drinking Water Crisis in A. Konduru Mandal



Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau :

A long-pending drinking water problem in A. Konduru Mandal of Tiruvuru constituency is finally set to receive a permanent solution, thanks to the efforts of Kesineni Sivanath, Member of Parliament. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the Krishna water supply project, constructed at an estimated cost of ₹50 crore, has reached its final stage. The initiative aims to provide safe and clean drinking water to kidney-affected villages that have been struggling for decades.

The project ensures 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to all 38 villages in A. Konduru Mandal. A total population of 56,481 people will benefit from this initiative. As part of the works, 43 old Over Head Service Reservoirs (OHSRs) have been repaired and 12 new OHSRs con-

structed. Water filtered from the VTPS canal at Ibrahimpatnam will be supplied to 55 tanks and distributed through newly laid pipelines to villages across A. Konduru, Vissanapeta, and Gampalagudem mandals.

Though the project was sanctioned in 2023, progress remained slow earlier. After the NDA alliance assumed office, MP Kesineni Sivanath closely monitored the works, holding regular review meetings with Rural Water Supply (RWS) officials to ensure speedy completion. On January 10, he personally inspected water tank construction, pipeline works, and quality standards in Koduru and Pedda Thanda villages before the trial run.

Arrangements are underway to inaugurate the Krishna water project in March. There is a possibility that either Chief Minister N. Chan-

drababu Naidu or Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan will attend the launch event.

In the meantime, for 21 CKD-affected villages, temporary relief has been arranged through daily tanker supply of 4,000 liters of drinking water from the Kudapa sump, ensuring uninterrupted access until the project becomes fully operational.

With clean Krishna river water soon reaching households directly through pipelines, residents of all 38 villages have expressed immense happiness and relief. After years of hardship due to contaminated groundwater and kidney-related health issues, the community now sees hope for a healthier future. Villagers have conveyed heartfelt gratitude to MP Kesineni Sivanath for his persistent efforts in delivering a permanent solution to their long-standing drinking water crisis.

Fake Milk Tragedy in Rajamahendravaram: Eight in Critical Condition, Investigations Deepen



Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

The fake milk incident that shook Rajamahendravaram continues to raise concerns as several victims struggle for life and authorities intensify the probe into the suspected adulteration case.

On Saturday, February 28, 2026, medical officials said that 15 affected people remain hospitalized, and eight of them are in

critical condition, prompting doctors and specialists to work around the clock to provide treatment.

According to the latest health bulletin, among those under treatment, 11 patients are on ventilator support and undergoing dialysis after falling seriously ill. The grim situation prompted leading medical experts from Hyderabad's top hospitals — including

specialists from KIMS, Apollo, and AIG — to travel to Rajamahendravaram to assist in managing the complex cases.

The involvement of renowned nephrology specialists aims to strengthen critical care for patients whose kidneys have failed due to suspected toxic exposure from the contaminated milk.

Preliminary findings by health authorities

suggest that the adulteration was caused by the presence of ethylene glycol — a toxic chemical commonly used in anti-freeze and industrial cooling — that leaked into milk stored in faulty refrigeration equipment. Investigators have traced the supply to a local vendor named Ganeswara Rao, whose milk was purchased by numerous families in Rajamahendravaram and nearby areas. Many of the affected individuals developed severe symptoms including anuria (absence of urine), vomiting, abdominal pain, and acute kidney dysfunction within hours of consuming the suspicious milk.

Health officials revealed that the adulterated milk was distributed to around 110 households, and doctors have been continuously monitoring more than 300 residents for any signs of illness. Multiple blood and urine samples have been collected and sent for advanced testing to laboratory facilities to

conclusively identify the toxic substances responsible for the severe reactions.

The police investigation is being carried out concurrently, with authorities questioning the suspected vendor and sealing the implicated milk supply chain source. Forensic teams, food safety inspectors, and veterinary experts are also collaborating to trace how the contamination occurred and whether any negligence or intentional adulteration is involved. Test results from these samples will be crucial in establishing evidence against those responsible.

Amid the crisis, local residents and families of the victims have called for strict action against those found guilty, seeking justice and accountability. The district administration continues to operate emergency medical camps, while senior officials coordinate treatment and follow-up care for the affected patients.

Tiger Sighting In Polavaram Near Tallapalem Triggers Panic Among Villagers

Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau :

A sighting of a large tiger near Tallapalem village in the Rampachodavaram mandal has created widespread alarm and fear among local residents. Over the past few days, the big cat's movements have been noticed in areas close to human habitation, triggering anxiety among villagers and prompting forest department officials to take precautionary measures.

The situation escalated recently when the tiger attacked and killed a buffalo grazing near the village outskirts, confirming that the animal is not just passing through but also posing a real threat to livestock. This incident has intensified fear among the villagers, many of whom

now avoid venturing out, especially after dusk.

According to local reports, the tiger's presence has been confirmed for about four days, with its tracks and movements observed more frequently near fields and grazing areas around Tallapalem. Residents describe living in constant fear, unsure of where and when the big cat might appear next. The proximity of the tiger to human settlements has affected daily routines, with people limiting their outdoor activities and keeping children and livestock indoors.

Forest officials, already on alert, have identified that this may be the same tiger that was relocated recently. Earlier this month, a tiger was captured in parts of East Godavari

and taken to a wildlife center in Visakhapatnam. After a period of monitoring, the animal was released into the Papikonda forests, and it appears to have returned toward human-inhabited areas. The tiger is being tracked using the radio collar fitted around its neck to monitor its movement patterns and predict its location.

The local forest department has issued warnings advising villagers not to go out alone, especially at night, and to keep livestock securely sheltered. Patrols have been intensified in the fringes of nearby forest areas, and officials are working to gather more information on the tiger's movements to strategize its safe capture or relocation.

Community leaders



have also urged residents to stay calm and follow the safety guidelines issued by authorities. While sightings of tigers in forest-adjacent regions are not entirely uncommon in East Godavari, the recent appearance so close to Tallapalem's residential zones has heightened concerns. Authorities are expected to update the public on further action plans as they con-

tinue to monitor the situation closely, balancing public safety with wildlife conservation efforts.

Overall, the tiger's presence near Tallapalem has not only created worry among villagers but also emphasized the importance of community awareness and forest department coordination in managing human-wildlife interactions in tribal and forest border areas.

NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme Stands as the Largest Welfare Programme in the Country: Gadde Anuradha



Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau :

The NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme has emerged as the largest social security programme in the country, said Gadde Anuradha, President of the NTR District Telugu Desam Party (TDP). She emphasized that the coalition government is demonstrating its commitment to welfare not merely through words but through concrete action.

On Saturday morning, Gadde Anuradha participated in the NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme in the 13th Division, Donka Road area, along with local corporator Mumaneni Prasad. She personally distributed pensions to beneficiaries and later visited the Anganwadi centre at Veeranki Dange Kumar Community Hall to review the quality of nutritious food being provided to children.

Speaking on the occasion, she highlighted that while

the previous YSRCP government spent around ₹1,300 crore per month on pensions, the present coalition government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is spending approximately ₹2,700 crore every month. She stated that the government is progressing with the slogan "Welfare and Development Together," balancing infrastructure growth with strong social security measures.

Gadde Anuradha pointed out that bedridden persons with severe disabilities are now receiving ₹15,000 per month, reflecting the government's humanitarian outlook. Senior citizens and widows are receiving ₹4,000 per month, while persons with disabilities are being given ₹6,000. She further stated that dialysis patients, who earlier received pensions selectively, are now each receiving ₹10,000 per month regularly, ensuring financial stability for their

families. Criticizing the previous administration, she remarked that it took five years for the earlier government to raise the pension amount from ₹2,000 to ₹3,000. In contrast, the current government has significantly enhanced pension allocations and ensured timely distribution to all eligible beneficiaries.

She called upon party workers to actively engage with people in every village and division to ensure that government schemes reach all eligible beneficiaries. Reaffirming the government's commitment, she stated that welfare programmes would continue to expand in the future, ensuring comprehensive support to every deserving individual.

Several party leaders and local representatives, including Division TDP President Noothi Srinivas and others, participated in the programme.

TANA Empowers Krishna District Farmers with Agricultural Tools Support

Amaravathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh – In a significant show of support for rural agriculture, the Telugu Association of North America (TANA) has distributed essential farming equipment to farmers in Ponnukumadu village of Unguturu Mandal in the Gannavaram constituency. The event was held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, and was attended by local leaders, community representatives, and beneficiaries.



Organized under the “Raitu Kosam” (For Farmers) initiative, the program aimed at equipping small and marginal farmers with modern tools to enhance productivity and ease labour-intensive work in the field. Around 350 farmers received battery-operated agricultural sprayers and protective tarpaulins, with the equipment worth approximately ₹10 lakh being provided free of cost.

The distribution was conducted under the supervision of TANA Treasurer Raja Kasukurti, who explained that the association’s efforts are guided by a deep commitment to serve

Telugu communities and support grassroots development. He emphasized that farmers form the backbone of the nation’s economy and that providing them with suitable tools is one of the most practical ways to recognize their contributions. Such equipment is expected to reduce drudgery and support more efficient crop protection and spray activities for various agricultural needs.

TANA’s leadership, including President Dr Naren Kodali and Executive Vice President Srinivas Lau, extended appreciation

to the participants and commended the spirit of cooperation. They reaffirmed TANA’s long-term vision to expand similar initiatives in Andhra Pradesh and beyond by rallying support from Telugu communities worldwide.

The chief guest for the program was Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao, who praised TANA for bridging the gap between the diaspora and local agricultural communities. Venkatarao highlighted the importance of efforts that strengthen rural live-

lihoods and enrich the traditional agrarian way of life. He underscored the positive impact of international Telugu organizations in backing local development and said such collaborations set an encouraging example for others to follow.

Local farmers expressed heartfelt gratitude, noting that the battery-operated sprayers would significantly relieve manual labour, particularly during crop protection and spraying tasks. The tarpaulins were welcomed as an effective means of shielding crops from adverse weather conditions like unseasonal rain or intense sun, thus preserving yield quality.

Community leaders and representatives, including members of the Ponnukumadu cooperative bank and former village presidents, attended the event, adding to its inclusive and supportive atmosphere. The consensus among attendees was that initiatives like TANA’s not only provide tangible tools but also strengthen morale and optimism among farming families in Krishna district.

Public Participation Rises as Development Activities Gain Momentum in Amaravati Region

Amaravathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

Development initiatives in the Amaravati region are gaining renewed momentum, with increased public participation and administrative focus marking a fresh phase of activity in the capital area. Officials have intensified efforts to accelerate infrastructure projects while ensuring coordination with local communities and stakeholders.



Over the past few weeks, authorities have reviewed ongoing construction works, including internal road networks, drainage systems, and public utility upgrades. These developments are aimed at strengthening connectivity within Amaravati and improving access to nearby urban centers such as Vijayawada and Guntur. Engineers and planning teams are reportedly working on streamlined execution strategies to avoid delays and ensure quality standards.

Local farmers and residents in capital-region villages have also been part of consultations regarding land use and infrastructure alignment. Meetings were conducted to address concerns related to compensation, land pooling benefits, and long-term development plans. Officials assured villagers that transparency and mutual cooperation remain priorities in implementing projects that impact rural communities.

Meanwhile, civic bodies have stepped up sanitation and environmental measures as part of broader urban planning goals. Plantation drives, lake restoration efforts, and road maintenance works are being carried out to enhance the region’s ecological balance. Authorities emphasized that sustainable development will remain a guiding principle as Amaravati expands.

Public representatives have expressed

optimism about the progress, stating that coordinated planning and timely implementation are essential for transforming Amaravati into a vibrant administrative and economic hub. They highlighted the importance of collaboration between government agencies and local citizens in ensuring smooth project execution.

Educational and youth engagement programs have also been organized in the region to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship. Workshops, skill-development camps, and awareness drives are being conducted to empower young people and prepare them for emerging opportunities linked to the capital’s growth.

While developmental activity is visibly increasing, residents continue to seek clarity on timelines and future phases of major projects. Officials have reiterated their commitment to keeping the public informed through regular updates and community interactions.

Overall, the Amaravati region appears to be entering a phase of steady progress, balancing infrastructure expansion with public dialogue. With renewed administrative attention and growing civic involvement, expectations are high that the capital area will witness sustained and structured development in the coming months.

Amaravati Capital Region Sees New Development Boost Amid Ongoing Public Engagement

Amaravathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

The Amaravati capital region has once again been in the spotlight with fresh developments and public interest as regional projects gather speed and local stakeholders express their views. Over the past week, the area has seen discussions around infrastructure upgrades, planning initiatives, and community involvement—reflecting renewed civic and administrative activity in the state capital zone.

In recent days, authorities have emphasised the importance of integrated planning and infrastructure growth for Amaravati’s evolving role as a modern capital region. Officials from the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) highlighted the need to accelerate construction of key internal road networks, which aim to enhance connec-

tivity within the capital area and with neighbouring cities such as Vijayawada and Guntur. Proposed improvements focus on arterial routes that will support future economic zones and residential hubs across the region.

Local residents and farmers living in villages encompassed by the Amaravati master plan have also been part of the ongoing dialogue about developmental direction. Last month, authorities resumed second-phase land pooling in multiple villages around Amaravati, signalling progress in acquiring land required for broad infrastructure projects including an inner-ring road, rail connectivity, and an International Sports City. Community meetings helped motivate voluntary participation by offering incentives, such as financial support and increased lease benefits,

resulting in positive responses from farmers in initial areas.

Alongside planning and development, the Amaravati region continues to engage the public through educational and youth-focused programmes. A five-day bootcamp on entrepreneurship and innovation concluded recently in Amaravati, with students from across Andhra Pradesh participating in workshops aimed at fostering creative solutions to community challenges. The event, supported by the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub and government education departments, underscored a growing emphasis on empowering youth with skills that can drive future regional growth.

While conversations around capital-region progress continue, local citizens also raise concerns about balancing infrastructure development with



environmental and agricultural preservation. These discussions shape how authorities strategise resources and identify priorities for impending phases of the Amaravati master plan.

Overall, Amaravati’s role as a dynamic centre of development and civic engagement in Andhra Pradesh is being reinforced through a mixture of planning updates, youth-oriented initiatives, and ongoing community input—marking a pivotal period as the capital region accelerates toward broader economic and social goals.

Celebrating Telugu Heritage: Garikipati Narasimha Rao’s Inspiring Address



Amaravathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

At the recently held World Telugu Conference, Maha-Sahasravadhani Dr. Garikipati Narasimha Rao delivered a profound and engaging address that resonated deeply with audiences from diverse backgrounds. The World Telugu Conference—an esteemed global gathering dedicated to promoting and preserving Telugu language, culture, and identity—has historically brought together scholars, writers, artists, and cultural ambassadors from across the Telugu-speaking world. This conference celebrates the richness of Telugu literature, heritage, and thought while reinforcing the importance of linguistic pride and continuity.

Dr. Garikipati—renowned scholar, avadhani, orator, and Padma Shri awardee—used the platform to emphasize the crucial role that language plays in forming cultural identity and shaping collective consciousness. Known for his eloquent and thought-provoking speeches, he wove together philosophical insights with practical reflections on life, culture, and linguistic pride. Drawing from classical texts and contemporary society alike, his address

focused on the timeless value of Telugu as not just a means of communication but as the very repository of history, tradition, and worldviews that define Telugu people. A key highlight of his speech was the emphasis on the responsibility of every Telugu person—especially the youth—to cherish and propagate their mother tongue. He spoke about how language is not merely a tool but a living spirit that carries the nuances of thought, emotion, and collective memory. For Dr. Garikipati, Telugu should be celebrated, spoken with pride, and integrated into educational, cultural, and professional spaces without hesitation. He reiterated that embracing one’s mother tongue empowers communities and strengthens cultural roots in a rapidly globalizing world.

The orator also blended humor with wisdom, making traditional themes accessible and engaging. In other talks at similar forums, he’s been known to humorously relate everyday life experiences—such as marriage and family values—to deeper philosophical lessons, highlighting the relevance of cultural values in modern contexts. The World Telugu Conference itself underscores these collective aspirations—promoting linguistic unity and cultural preservation. Over decades, it has been a platform where luminaries and thinkers affirm the importance of the Telugu language and contribute to policy discussions around its future. With voices like Dr. Garikipati’s, the conference inspires renewed commitments to safeguard Telugu’s legacy for generations to come.

Amaravati Sports Meet Turns Dramatic: Deputy Speaker and Others Hurt in Competitive Games



Amaravathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

What was meant to be a friendly sports competition among elected representatives turned tense and injurious during a recent legislators’ sports meet held at Indira Gandhi Stadium and adjoining sports grounds in Amaravati. The event featured cricket and kabaddi matches involving members of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Council, but competitive fervour saw several leaders sustain injuries, grabbing public attention and concern.

The most serious injury was suffered by Deputy Speaker Kanumuri Raghurama Krishnam Raju, who was participating in a spirited cricket match as part of the meet. While attempting a quick run to avoid being declared run out, Raju dived toward the crease in a bid to save his wicket. Unfortunately, in the process, he lost balance and fell awkwardly, injuring his left shoulder and wrist area. Initial first aid was provided on the field, but persistent pain led to his transfer first to a local hospital and then to Hyderabad for further medical examinations and advanced care. The sports meet was meant to foster unity and camaraderie among legislators from various parties, but the intensity of the competition inadvertently led to more injuries. During kabaddi matches

held the day before the cricket game, Minister Parthasarathi also injured his foot while attempting a defensive tackle. On the same day, MLC Kancharla Srikanth suffered a collarbone fracture when he fell under pressure from other players making aggressive moves during the match. Despite his fracture and arm in a sling, MLC Srikanth showed remarkable determination by attending the next day’s cricket matches to support his team members. His presence, even with an injury, showcased the spirited enthusiasm with which legislators engaged in these sports activities beyond their usual political roles. This incident was widely shared on social media and news channels, highlighting both the competitive zeal and physical risks involved in such inter-legislator sports events. While the primary aim of the event was to promote physical fitness, teamwork and inter-party goodwill, the injuries have sparked discussions around enhancing safety measures and securing proper medical support at such gatherings in the future. Organizers have assured that improved precautions will be implemented to ensure player safety without dampening the spirit of enthusiastic participation among public representatives.

Amaravati Region Sees Renewed Focus on Development and Community Engagement



Amaravathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

The Amaravati capital region is witnessing a renewed wave of developmental activity and public engagement as government authorities and local stakeholders push forward key infrastructure initiatives and land-use planning goals. These developments are part of a broader effort to strengthen Amaravati’s role as the administrative and economic hub of Andhra Pradesh.

In recent months, government planners have accelerated the second phase of land pooling across multiple villages in the Amaravati Capital Region. This voluntary land pooling has been viewed as a crucial step in enabling long-term infrastructure investments, such as proposed road expansions and civic facilities. Officials explained that the process includes incentives for participating farmers, like enhanced lease benefits and financial support packages, which has helped garner early community support.

Land pooling serves multiple strategic purposes, including creating space for the planned Inner Ring Road, rail network connectivity, and an International Sports City in the capital area. These projects are designed to improve transportation links and foster growth sectors that can attract business and tourism to Amaravati.

Local residents have also responded to environmental and urban planning efforts focused on sanitation and ecological enhancement. Community clean-up campaigns, tree plantations, and waterbody restoration work have been carried out in coordination with civic bodies. These projects aim to balance rapid development with ecological sustainability, helping ensure that growth does not come

at the cost of environmental damage.

Public representatives and local leaders have highlighted the benefits of increased dialogue between authorities and village communities. Public meetings have allowed officials to explain upcoming phases of infrastructure development while addressing concerns from residents about compensation, land use, and timelines. Such interactions have helped ease uncertainties and reinforce trust in the development process.

In parallel, youth-oriented programs are gaining traction in and around Amaravati, encouraging skill development, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Workshops and boot camps in sectors such as technology and business planning have been organized to prepare younger generations for emerging career opportunities that could arise from the region’s economic expansion.

While progress is evident, residents and civic groups continue to emphasise the need for transparent communication and accountability throughout the implementation of major projects. Government officials have reassured the public that regular updates and community consultations will continue as part of their commitment to inclusive development in the Amaravati region.

As Amaravati transitions into a new stage of development, the convergence of infrastructure planning, environmental stewardship, and public involvement underscores the dynamic future being envisioned for the capital area—one that balances modern growth with community priorities and sustainability goals.

Third World Telugu Conference Begins with Grandeur in Amalapuram

Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

The Third World Telugu Conference (Prapancha Telugu Mahasabhalu) was inaugurated with great fanfare on February 28, 2026, at the KIMS Medical College premises in Amalapuram in Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema district, Andhra Pradesh. The two-day cultural and literary festival, running through March 1, is dedicated to celebrating and promoting the Telugu language, literature, and cultural heritage.

Organised by KVV Satyanarayana Raju, chairman of KIMS and Chaitanya Educational Institutions, the event marks a continuation of efforts to foster interest in Telugu among the younger generation. Competitions in literary and cultural categories — including essay writing, elocution, painting, poetry recitation, traditional costume presentation, and mono acting — were conducted for school students across the district. Winners will be awarded cash prizes to encourage their participation and appreciation of Telugu arts and culture.



formally launched in the presence of several dignitaries. Distinguished guests included Governors from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Telangana, Union and State ministers, Members of Parliament, legislators, judges, political figures, film personalities, scholars, writers, and poets. Esteemed discourse speakers such as Chaganti Koteswara Rao and Garikapati Narasimha Rao were part of

the inaugural session. To honour the memory of the iconic Telugu actor and former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao, the main conference stage was named after him. In addition to contests and speeches, the conference features a variety of cultural programmes, literary seminars, poets' meets, and exhibitions showcasing Telugu heritage. Replica models of prominent temples like the

Annavam Satyanarayana Swamy Temple, Bhadrachalam Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple, Simhachalam Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Dwaraka Tirumala Venkateswara Swamy Temple, and Ainavilli Siddhi Vinayaka Temple have been set up to highlight the rich cultural traditions of Telugu people. The World Telugu Conference, a significant

platform for Telugu speakers worldwide, aims to strengthen linguistic pride and foster cultural bonds among Telugu communities at home and abroad. By bringing together scholars, artists, and young enthusiasts, the event not only honours the historical legacy of the Telugu language but also seeks to inspire future generations to uphold and propagate their linguistic traditions.

Andhra University's Glory to Be Restored, Says Minister Nara Lokesh

Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh's Education and IT Minister, Nara Lokesh, has pledged to restore Andhra University to its former prestige and transform it into a globally recognised centre of excellence as the institution gears up for its centenary celebrations. The minister's announcement came during a review of preparations for the university's 100th anniversary, academic, cultural and historic legacy.

Lokesh emphasised that the centenary should not only honour Andhra University's past achievements but also serve as a springboard for future growth. He instructed officials to organise the celebrations on a grand scale, ensuring that the events reflect the institution's rich legacy across disciplines. The minister stressed the importance of involving both alumni and current students in the



festivities, particularly through arts, music and literature programmes that highlight the vibrant culture of the university community. In his review, Lokesh also recommended that esteemed scholars and personalities be invited to participate in conferences on critical issues, making the centenary an

intellectual as well as celebratory milestone. Committees will be formed to coordinate various aspects of the events, with a strong emphasis on media publicity to boost the university's visibility at state, national and international levels. A significant part of Lokesh's directive was

the call to develop a 100-year vision plan for Andhra University. This long-term strategic framework is intended to guide academic excellence and institutional development well beyond the immediate celebrations, positioning the university as a hub of innovation and research in the years to

come. During the meeting, Andhra University Vice-Chancellor Prof. G.P. Rajasekhara briefed the minister on the agenda for the centenary foundation day on April 26 and confirmed that affiliated colleges would also participate in the celebrations, reinforcing the reach and impact of the milestone. Lokesh reiterated the government's firm commitment to elevating the university's stature and reaffirmed that the flagship institution should mirror the aspirations of students and the people of North Andhra. State legislators and senior officials attended the review, underlining the broad political and public support for the initiative. With these concerted efforts, the government aims to not just commemorate a century of learning but also to chart a dynamic course for Andhra University to excel on the global academic stage.

Biomedical Waste Risks Must Be Curbed, Says Chittoor Collector

Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

In a strong call to action against environmental and health risks, the District Collector of Chittoor, Sumit Kumar, emphasised the urgent need to improve biomedical waste management across government healthcare facilities. Speaking at a District-Level Monitoring Committee meeting held at the collectorate in Nellore, he underlined that improper handling of medical waste poses significant dangers not only to public health but also to the environment.

The collector pointed out that biomedical waste generated in hospitals, clinics and blood banks — including materials such as blood and placental waste — must be treated in a scientific manner. This requires strict compliance with the regulations that gov-

ern every stage of its lifecycle: from segregation and collection to transport and final disposal. He urged officials to enforce proper procedures in accordance with the prescribed norms and standards. A central focus of his directives was the mandatory segregation of biomedical waste into four colour-coded categories — yellow, red, white (translucent) and blue — to ensure safe and effective processing. The collector also warned that any violation of these norms would lead to penalties, reinforcing that hospital administrations must take full responsibility for how their facilities handle, document and report on medical waste. Regular compliance reports are to be submitted every two months. To enhance transparency and traceability in

waste disposal, Mr. Kumar instructed that all biomedical waste generated in government hospitals should be geotagged from the point of origin all the way to final disposal. This process is expected to help authorities monitor every step of waste management with greater precision. He also stressed the importance of implementing a barcode system for tracking biomedical waste and directed that there should be no delays in collection by the Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CB-MWTF) agencies. The collector's directives will be jointly monitored by several departments, including the District Medical and Health Department, the Pollution Control Board, municipal health officials and representatives from Apollo Hospital. Their presence underscores the shared responsibility across government and private healthcare sectors in



aims to ensure that biomedical waste handling is not only efficient but also compliant with legal and environmental standards. Officials attending the meeting included DRO G. Mohan Kumar, Pollution Control Board officer Rajasekhara, DMHO Dr. Sudharani, municipal health officials and representatives from Apollo Hospital. Their presence underscores the shared responsibility across government and private healthcare sectors in

tackling biomedical waste risks. Effective biomedical waste management is critical, as untreated or improperly disposed waste can lead to the spread of infections and contamination of land and water resources. The collector's emphasis on stringent monitoring and technological support systems highlights the administration's commitment to reducing these hazards and safeguarding public health and the environment.

Kuppam to Become Energy-Self-Sufficient Through Local Renewable Power



Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

Kuppam constituency in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh, is being developed to generate its entire electricity demand locally through renewable energy, according to Siva Sankar Lotheti, Chairman and Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL). He outlined the ambitious energy plan during a review meeting on power infrastructure and projects in the region, emphasising that the initiative aligns with the state government's broader vision for sustainable and self-reliant energy solutions.

At present, Kuppam's peak power requirement is around 250 megawatts (MW). To meet this entirely through clean energy sources, APSPDCL has begun several key projects. Feeder-level solarisation works are underway to generate 141 MW

of solar power, providing a significant base for local renewable generation. In addition, rooftop solar systems with a combined capacity of 4.36 MW are being installed specifically for SC and ST households to support both sustainable power and social equity goals. To enhance flexibility and reliability, the power company is progressing with tenders to install a 50 MW battery storage system, which will store excess solar energy for use during peak demand or low sunlight periods. Preparations are also being made to equip approximately 49,000 additional households with rooftop solar units, potentially adding another 40 MW of capacity. Once these projects are complete, Kuppam is expected to produce a total of 250 MW of renewable energy locally, enabling the constituency to meet its full electricity demand from green

sources by the end of the year. During the meeting, Lotheti instructed officials and vendors to expedite work and complete all installations on schedule. He also emphasised the urgency of acquiring land for a proposed TRANSCO substation, which will be crucial for effective grid integration and energy distribution throughout the area. Coordination with local authorities has been directed to ensure timely progress on all related infrastructure. The initiative reflects a growing focus on renewable energy at both state and local levels, contributing to energy independence and environmental sustainability goals. If successful, Kuppam could serve as a model for other constituencies aiming to transition toward cleaner and more self-sufficient power systems, further strengthening Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy landscape.

Kurnool Range DIG Warns Parents: Don't Allow Minors to Drive Vehicles



Amarvathi 28.02. 2026 TPN Bureau:

The Kurnool Range Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Koya Praveen, has issued a stern advisory urging parents not to allow their minor children to drive vehicles, highlighting a worrying rise in accidents involving underage riders. Praveen's call comes amid heightened efforts by the police to improve road safety and reduce traffic mishaps in the region.

Addressing safety concerns, the DIG emphasised that many accidents are being caused by minors who attempt to operate powerful bikes and other vehicles beyond their skill level, putting their lives and those of others at risk. He stressed that parents and guardians must take responsibility and ensure that children comply with traffic laws and do not get behind the wheel or handlebars until they are of legal driving age.

As part of a sustained road safety initiative, Praveen also directed police teams to hold road safety awareness programmes every Saturday. These sessions aim to educate the public about the importance of following traffic rules, wearing helmets, and avoiding dangerous behaviours like over-speeding, overloading, and drunken driving, all of which contribute significantly to road accidents in the state. During recent enforcement drives, the traffic police took tough action against hundreds of motorists for traffic violations as part of the crackdown on unsafe driving practices. Authorities issued 1,536 e-challans for over-speeding, 1,388 for not wearing helmets, 63 for triple riding, and 392 for using mobile phones while driving — all infractions that increase the likelihood of serious crashes. In addition, the police registered 548 cases of drunken driving and

1,107 cases of open alcohol consumption on the road, indicating persistent safety challenges. Praveen's advisory underscores a broader push by the police to instil greater discipline among all road users. Wearing proper protective gear, obeying speed limits, and steering clear of intoxicated driving were reiterated as key measures that can save lives and reduce the human and economic costs of traffic collisions. Traffic safety remains a significant concern across Andhra Pradesh, with minors driving vehicles adding an extra layer of risk. Police officials believe stringent enforcement combined with public awareness campaigns will make roads safer for everyone. The DIG's warning serves as a reminder to parents to take an active role in preventing underage driving and encouraging responsible behaviour among young people.

Boong and the Memory of a Vanishing Town: How a Small Manipuri Film Reached the Global Stage

The global success of *Boong* is not just a cinematic achievement—it is a cultural moment that has brought long-overlooked stories from India's northeast into international focus. Its recognition at the BAFTA Awards marks a turning point, signaling that deeply local narratives can resonate across borders when told with sincerity and emotional depth.

At its heart, *Boong* is a coming-of-age story seen through the eyes of a young boy navigating a fragile world. His simple wish—to reunite his broken family—drives the narrative forward. Yet beneath this seemingly straightforward journey lies a complex exploration of identity, loss, and belonging. The child's innocence becomes a lens through which audiences witness the subtle yet profound impact of socio-political realities on everyday life.

The film is set in Manipur, a region rich in culture but often marginalized in mainstream discourse. By placing this setting at the center of its story, *Boong* challenges the invisibility that has long surrounded the northeast in Indian cinema. Instead of presenting the region through stereotypes or conflict-driven headlines, the film offers a nuanced portrayal of its people, traditions, and emotional landscapes.

What makes *Boong* particularly powerful is its restraint. It avoids dramatic exaggeration and instead embraces quiet storytelling. Moments of silence, everyday interactions, and small gestures carry significant emotional weight. This understated approach allows the audience to engage deeply with the characters and their world, making the narrative feel authentic and immersive.

The town depicted in the film is more than just a backdrop—it is almost a character in itself. It reflects a space caught between past and present, where memories linger even as change becomes inevitable. There is a sense of something slipping away—whether it is a way of life, a sense of community, or the innocence of childhood. This idea of a “vanishing town” becomes central to



the film's emotional core, symbolizing broader concerns about cultural erosion and displacement.

Through the boy's journey, the film also explores the theme of family—not just as a unit of relationships, but as a source of identity and emotional grounding. His longing for his father is not merely about reunion; it represents a deeper need for stability in a world that feels uncertain. This emotional thread connects audiences universally, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries.

The international recognition of *Boong* is significant for another reason: it highlights the evolving landscape of global cinema. Audiences today are increasingly drawn

to authentic stories that offer fresh perspectives. The success of a Manipuri-language film on such a prestigious platform proves that language and geography are no longer barriers when storytelling is genuine and compelling.

For Indian cinema, this moment represents a shift in narrative focus. For decades, mainstream industries dominated the global perception of Indian films. While these industries continue to thrive, *Boong* demonstrates that regional cinema has its own unique voice—one that deserves equal attention and appreciation. It opens the door for more filmmakers from underrepresented regions to tell their stories

without feeling the need to conform to conventional formats.

The film also raises important questions about representation. Whose stories are being told? And who gets to tell them? By centering its narrative in Manipur and using local voices, *Boong* ensures authenticity while also giving agency to a community that is often spoken about rather than heard.

Another striking aspect of the film is its ability to balance heaviness with hope. While it does not shy away from difficult realities, it also captures moments of warmth, humor, and resilience. These moments remind viewers that even in challenging circumstances,

life continues with dignity and quiet strength. The child's perspective plays a crucial role here, offering glimpses of optimism even when the world around him feels uncertain.

Cinematically, *Boong* relies on simplicity rather than spectacle. Its visual language is grounded, focusing on natural settings and realistic portrayals. This approach enhances the emotional authenticity of the story, allowing viewers to feel as though they are part of the world being depicted rather than mere observers.

The BAFTA recognition is not just an award—it is validation. It acknowledges that stories from India's margins are not niche or peripheral

but are integral to the broader narrative of human experience. It also challenges the industry to look beyond commercial formulas and invest in meaningful storytelling.

For audiences, *Boong* offers an opportunity to engage with a different side of India—one that is rarely seen on screen. It encourages viewers to move beyond familiar narratives and explore the country's diverse cultural and emotional landscapes. In doing so, it fosters empathy and understanding, bridging gaps between regions and communities.

Ultimately, *Boong* is more than a film about a boy or a town. It is about memory, identity, and the quiet resilience of people living on the

margins. It captures the delicate balance between holding on and letting go, between remembering and moving forward.

Its success serves as a reminder that cinema has the power to amplify voices, preserve stories, and create connections across the world. In bringing a small Manipuri town to the global stage, *Boong* has not only made history but has also redefined what Indian cinema can represent.

As the film continues to receive recognition and appreciation, it paves the way for a more inclusive and diverse cinematic future—one where every story, no matter how small or distant, has the chance to be seen and heard.

India's Enduring Embrace: A History of Warmth Toward the Jewish Community

India has long stood apart in the global narrative of Jewish history. Across centuries marked by exile, persecution, and displacement in many parts of the world, the Jewish community found in India not only refuge but also acceptance, dignity, and opportunity. The story of Jewish life in India is not one of survival under pressure, but of coexistence, cultural exchange, and mutual respect. It is a rare and remarkable chapter that reflects India's civilizational ethos of inclusivity.

The arrival of Jewish communities in India dates back thousands of years. Different groups came at different times, often fleeing hardship elsewhere. Among the earliest were the Cochin Jews, believed to have arrived on the Malabar Coast possibly during the time of ancient trade links. Later came the Bene Israel, who settled in western India, and the Baghdadi Jews, who arrived during the colonial era from parts of the Middle East. Each group brought its own traditions, languages, and customs, yet all found a way to integrate into Indian society without losing their identity.

What distinguishes India from many other regions is the absence of systemic antisemitism in its history. While Jewish communities in Europe and elsewhere faced discrimination, violence, and exclu-

sion, in India they were allowed to live freely, practice their religion openly, and participate in public life. This was not due to any formal policy but rather a reflection of the broader social fabric, which historically accommodated diverse beliefs and practices.

In Kerala, for example, Jewish settlers established thriving communities that contributed to trade and commerce. They built synagogues, engaged with local rulers, and became part of the region's multicultural landscape. The local population did not view them as outsiders but as fellow residents. This acceptance was not merely passive tolerance; it often involved active cooperation and mutual respect.

Similarly, the Bene Israel community in Maharashtra integrated deeply into local society while maintaining their distinct religious practices. They adopted local languages and customs in daily life but preserved their Jewish identity through rituals, dietary practices, and community structures. Over time, they became known for their contributions to various fields, including education, administration, and the arts.

The Baghdadi Jews, who arrived later, played a significant role in India's urban and commercial development. Settling primarily in cities like Mumbai and Kolkata, they became



prominent in trade, industry, and philanthropy. Their legacy includes educational institutions, charitable organizations, and architectural landmarks that continue to serve the public.

One of the most striking aspects of Jewish life in India is the absence of ghettos or enforced segregation. Jewish communities lived alongside people of other faiths, sharing neighborhoods, markets, and

public spaces. Interactions were marked by familiarity rather than suspicion. Festivals and cultural practices often became occasions for shared celebration, further strengthening social bonds.

India's pluralistic traditions played a crucial role in fostering this environment. The concept of accepting multiple paths to truth allowed different religious communities to coexist without feeling threat-

ened. This philosophical openness translated into everyday life, where diversity was seen as a strength rather than a challenge.

Education and professional advancement were also accessible to Jewish communities in India. They participated in public institutions, contributed to the freedom movement, and held positions of responsibility in various sectors. Their achievements were recognized

not as exceptions but as part of the broader national narrative.

Even after the establishment of Israel, when many Jews migrated from India, the connection between the community and the country remained strong. Those who left often carried with them memories of a homeland where they had lived without fear. Many maintained cultural ties, and some continued to visit or support institutions in India.

In recent years, there has been renewed interest in preserving and celebrating the heritage of Jewish communities in India. Synagogues are being restored, archives documented, and stories recorded for future generations. These efforts highlight the importance of remembering a past that offers valuable lessons for the present.

At a time when religious intolerance and cultural divisions are evident in many parts of the world, India's historical relationship with its Jewish population serves as a powerful example. It demonstrates that coexistence is not only possible but can be deeply enriching for all involved. The mutual respect between communities did not erase differences; rather, it allowed those differences to exist harmoniously.

The Indian experience also challenges the notion that di-

versity inevitably leads to conflict. Instead, it shows that when societies are built on principles of respect and openness, diversity can become a source of resilience and creativity. The Jewish community in India thrived not despite its distinct identity, but alongside it.

This legacy is particularly relevant today, as nations grapple with questions of identity, belonging, and inclusion. The Indian model offers a perspective rooted in lived experience rather than abstract ideals. It suggests that acceptance does not require uniformity, and that communities can retain their uniqueness while contributing to a shared society.

Ultimately, the story of Jews in India is not just about one community; it is about the values that define a civilization. It reflects a tradition of hospitality that extends beyond mere tolerance to genuine acceptance. It is a reminder that history need not always be marked by conflict and division.

As the world looks for examples of peaceful coexistence, this chapter of India's past stands out as both inspiring and instructive. It underscores the possibility of building societies where differences are not feared but embraced, and where every community can find a place to call home.

Supreme Court's Strong Response to NCERT Chapter Triggers Curriculum Debate

A recent development involving the Supreme Court of India and NCERT has sparked widespread discussion over how the judiciary is represented in school textbooks.

The controversy arose after a revised Class 8 social science chapter included references to "corruption in the judiciary" as one of the challenges within India's legal system. This marked a shift from earlier textbooks, which largely focused on explaining the structure and functioning of courts without delving into internal issues.

The matter drew sharp attention within the legal community and reached the Supreme Court, where strong concerns were expressed. Justice Surya Kant voiced displeasure over the portrayal, stressing that the judiciary's image must not be presented in a way that could undermine public trust. The court signaled that it would not tolerate any content perceived as defaming the institution.

The developments also unfolded beyond the courtroom, with reports suggesting that judges across various High Courts shared similar concerns. The issue quickly evolved into a broader institutional response, reflecting the sensitivity surrounding the judiciary's public perception.



tion and its role in maintaining confidence among citizens.

At the heart of the debate lies a key question about education: how should complex and sensitive issues be presented to young students? Critics argue that introducing topics like judicial corruption at an early stage could confuse learners or create mistrust toward institutions that are fundamental to democracy. They believe that school curricula should prioritize clarity and foundational understanding over controversial discussions.

On the other hand, some educators and observers see the inclusion as part of a more realistic approach to learning. They argue that acknowledging challenges within institutions can encourage critical thinking and awareness among students, helping them better understand how systems function in real life.

The chapter reportedly also touches upon broader issues such as case backlogs, shortage of judges, and systemic inefficiencies, placing the discussion within a wider context rather than focusing solely on corruption.

As the debate continues, the issue has expanded into a larger conversation about transparency, accountability, and the purpose of education in shaping informed citizens. The response from both the judiciary and educational authorities will play a crucial role in determining how such sensitive topics are handled in future textbooks.

The outcome could ultimately set an important precedent for balancing institutional respect with the need to present a comprehensive and honest view of governance in India's education system.

Fair Revenue for Content Creators Essential, Says Ashwini Vaishnaw



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has stressed the urgent need for a fair revenue-sharing system for content creators, calling it a key requirement in today's rapidly evolving digital ecosystem. Speaking at the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA) Conclave, the minister highlighted the imbalance between digital platforms and those who generate original content.

Vaishnaw pointed out that content creators—including journalists, media organisations, and independent creators—play a crucial role in producing valuable information and engaging material. However, the financial rewards from this content are often disproportionately captured by large digital platforms. He emphasized that this imbalance must be addressed through policy measures and industry cooperation.

According to the minister, social media and digital platforms should ensure that creators receive a fair share of the revenue generated from their work. He under-

lined that content is not a free commodity and that those who invest time, effort, and expertise into creating it deserve appropriate compensation.

The issue becomes even more significant in the age of artificial intelligence and algorithm-driven platforms. Vaishnaw noted that emerging technologies are increasingly relying on vast amounts of content, often sourced from publishers and creators, to function effectively. In such a scenario, ensuring fair remuneration becomes not just an economic issue but also a matter of ethical responsibility.

The minister also touched upon the importance of safeguarding users in the digital space. He called for stronger measures to tackle cyber fraud and misuse of technology, urging platforms to take proactive responsibility. Additionally, he emphasized that user consent must be a priority, especially when dealing with synthetic or AI-generated content.

The remarks reflect the government's broader push

toward creating a more balanced and transparent digital economy. With the rapid growth of online platforms and content consumption, policymakers are increasingly focusing on ensuring that the benefits of this growth are shared equitably.

The discussion at the conclave aligns with global conversations around digital regulation, particularly regarding how tech giants compensate content providers. Many countries are exploring similar frameworks to ensure that publishers and creators are not sidelined in the digital value chain.

Vaishnaw's statement signals a clear intent to move toward policies that protect the interests of creators while fostering innovation in the digital space. As debates around content ownership, monetisation, and platform accountability continue to evolve, the call for fair revenue sharing is likely to remain a central issue in shaping the future of the digital economy.

BJP Alleges TMC Links to Accused in West Bengal Realtor Murder Case

A fresh political controversy has erupted in West Bengal after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleged links between leaders of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and a suspect in the murder of a real estate businessman. The incident has intensified the already heated political climate in the state, with both parties trading sharp accusations.

The BJP claimed that the prime accused in the realtor's killing had close connections with certain TMC leaders. According to the party, these alleged links raise serious concerns about law and order and suggest possible political protection for criminal elements. BJP representatives argued that the case is not just a criminal matter but reflects a broader pattern of political patronage and violence in the state.

A BJP leader stated that the accused had been operating freely despite previous allegations, hinting that this may have been due to backing from



influential figures. The party has demanded a thorough and impartial investigation into the case, insisting that all political connections, if any, must be uncovered.

In response, the Trinamool Congress strongly denied the allegations, dismissing them as baseless and politically motivated. TMC leaders accused the BJP of attempting to malign the state government's image and divert attention from

other issues. They maintained that the law will take its course and that anyone found guilty will be punished, regardless of political affiliation.

The TMC also questioned the timing of the accusations, suggesting that the BJP was using the incident to gain political mileage. Party spokespersons emphasized that West Bengal's law enforcement agencies are capable of handling the case and ensuring

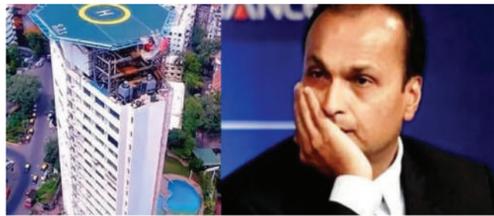
justice.

Meanwhile, the murder of the realtor has sparked concern among residents and the business community. Many have called for increased security and stricter measures to curb crime, especially in sectors like real estate where disputes can sometimes turn violent.

The case has also reignited the larger debate over political violence in West Bengal, an issue that has frequently been raised by opposition parties. The BJP has repeatedly accused the TMC of fostering an environment where such incidents can occur, while the ruling party has consistently rejected these claims.

As investigations continue, all eyes are on the authorities to determine the facts and bring those responsible to justice. The outcome of the probe could have significant political implications, particularly as tensions between the BJP and TMC show no signs of easing.

ED Attaches Anil Ambani's Mumbai Residence in ₹3,716 Crore Probe



Mumbai:

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached a residential property linked to industrialist Anil Ambani in Mumbai as part of an ongoing investigation into an alleged ₹3,716 crore financial irregularity case.

The property, located in one of Mumbai's prime residential areas, has been provisionally attached under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Officials said the action is part of a broader probe into suspected diversion of funds and financial misconduct involving companies associated with the Reliance Group led by Ambani. According to agency sources, the investigation pertains to loans allegedly obtained from banks and financial institutions, which are under scrutiny for possible irregularities in usage and repayment. The ED claims that a portion of these funds may have been diverted, leading to significant losses.

The attachment of the

property means that it cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise dealt with until further orders. Authorities indicated that additional assets may also be examined as the probe progresses.

There has been no immediate detailed response from Ambani or his representatives regarding the attachment. However, sources close to the business group have previously maintained that they are cooperating with investigating agencies and that all transactions were carried out in accordance with applicable laws.

The case marks another major development in the series of financial investigations involving high-profile corporate figures in India, as enforcement agencies continue to tighten scrutiny over large-scale loan defaults and alleged economic offences.

Further proceedings in the matter are expected in the coming weeks as investigators continue to examine financial records and related transactions.

Supreme Court Questions Fear Around "Gagging" in Fake Cases Debate

The Supreme Court of India made a strong observation while hearing matters related to alleged fake cases, questioning why there should be any fear of "gagging" if the intention is to prevent misuse of the legal system.

During the proceedings, the bench highlighted concerns over the growing trend of false or frivolous cases being filed, which not only burden courts but also cause harassment to individuals. The judges indicated that measures aimed at curbing such misuse should not be seen as an attempt to silence genuine voices.

The court remarked that the real issue lies in distinguishing between legitimate grievances and malicious litigation. It stressed that while access to justice must remain open and protected, safeguards are equally necessary to ensure that the system is not exploited for ulterior motives.

Addressing apprehensions raised during the hearing, the bench questioned why actions against fake cases are being perceived as restrictions on freedom. It noted that preventing abuse of the legal process is essential for maintaining the credibility and efficiency of the judiciary.

The judges further observed that unchecked filing of false cases leads to unnecessary de-



lays in delivering justice. This not only affects those directly involved but also impacts the broader judicial system by diverting time and resources away from genuine matters.

At the same time, the court acknowledged the importance of protecting individuals who approach the judiciary with legitimate concerns. It emphasized that any steps taken must strike a balance—detering misuse without discouraging rightful claims.

The discussion reflects the judiciary's ongoing effort to address systemic challenges, including case backlog and misuse of legal provisions. By raising these concerns, the Supreme Court signaled its intent to ensure that justice is both accessible and responsibly sought.

The matter remains under consideration, with the court expected to further examine how best to prevent abuse while upholding fundamental rights.

Actress Ranya Rao Named in ₹102 Crore Gold Smuggling Case, Chargesheet Filed



Kannada actress Ranya Rao has been named in a major gold smuggling case, with authorities filing a detailed chargesheet that outlines her alleged involvement in a high-value illegal network. The case, estimated to be worth around ₹102 crore, has drawn significant attention due to the scale of operations and the actress's connection to the alleged racket.

According to officials, the chargesheet has been filed after months of investigation into an organised syndicate accused of smuggling gold into India from abroad. The probe revealed that the network used various methods to evade customs duties and transport gold illegally across borders. Investigators believe the operation was well-coordinated and involved multiple individuals working in tandem.

Ranya Rao has been accused of playing a role in facilitating certain aspects

of the smuggling activities. While authorities have not disclosed every detail publicly, the chargesheet reportedly includes evidence gathered from financial transactions, communication records, and other material collected during the investigation. These findings are said to link her to the broader network.

The case first came to light earlier when enforcement agencies began tracking suspicious movements and transactions connected to gold imports. As the investigation progressed, it uncovered a larger conspiracy involving several people, including individuals with alleged international connections.

Officials have emphasized that the chargesheet marks a significant step forward in the case, as it formally lays out the allegations and evidence before the court. Legal proceedings are expected to continue, with the court set to examine the

charges and determine the next course of action.

The case has also generated public interest due to its high-profile nature and the involvement of a film personality. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to cracking down on smuggling networks, stating that such illegal activities not only violate the law but also impact the country's economy.

Meanwhile, the actress is likely to contest the allegations in court, as the legal process unfolds. The outcome of the case will depend on how the evidence presented in the chargesheet holds up during trial.

As investigations continue, officials are also working to identify other individuals who may be connected to the smuggling ring. The case underscores ongoing efforts by enforcement agencies to tackle organised economic crimes and strengthen border controls against illegal imports.

Modi's 'Carplomacy' Continues with Netanyahu Ride in Israel



Prime Minister Narendra Modi added another memorable moment to his signature style of diplomacy—often dubbed “carplomacy”—during his visit to Israel, as he shared a car ride with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The moment followed Modi's address at the Knesset, where he outlined the growing partnership between India and Israel. After the speech, the two leaders travelled together in the same vehicle to attend a technology and innovation exhibition. The re-

laxed setting, captured in widely shared visuals, reflected a warm rapport between the leaders and highlighted a more personal side of diplomacy.

Modi described the ride as an extension of their ongoing discussions on innovation and future collaboration. The informal interaction quickly gained attention as yet another example of his distinctive diplomatic approach—building strong ties through personal gestures alongside formal meetings.

This concept of “carplomacy”

has become closely associated with Modi's global engagements. Over the years, he has shared similar rides with several world leaders, using these moments to foster a sense of trust and camaraderie. One of the earliest instances was during his meeting with former US President Barack Obama, where the two leaders were seen travelling together in the presidential limousine.

Since then, such interactions have continued with other prominent figures, including Russian

President Vladimir Putin, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and French President Emmanuel Macron. These moments often step outside rigid diplomatic protocol, creating a more approachable and human connection between leaders.

The recent ride with Netanyahu underscores the strengthening relationship between India and Israel. Over the years, both nations have expanded cooperation across multiple sectors, including defence, agriculture, technology, and innovation. Modi's visit is seen as another step toward deepening these strategic ties.

Beyond formal agreements and policy discussions, such symbolic gestures play an important role in international relations. A simple act like sharing a car ride can convey mutual respect, comfort, and a willingness to engage on a personal level—factors that often contribute to stronger diplomatic partnerships.

In this case, the image of Modi and Netanyahu travelling together serves as a visual representation of the growing closeness between the two countries. It highlights not only official collaboration but also the personal chemistry between the leaders.

As “carplomacy” continues to define Modi's diplomatic style, these moments illustrate how global relationships are shaped not just in meeting rooms, but also through informal, human interactions that leave a lasting impact.

India Rebukes Pakistan at UN, Highlights J&K's Development Progress

India delivered a strong response to Pakistan at the United Nations Human Rights Council, rejecting its claims about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and emphasizing the region's rapid development.

Addressing the council, India's representative sharply criticised Pakistan for what it described as repeated attempts to spread misinformation on international platforms. In a pointed remark, she said Pakistan appeared to be living in a “La La Land” if it could not acknowledge the visible progress being made in Jammu and Kashmir.

A major highlight of India's statement was the comparison between Jammu and Kashmir's development budget and Pakistan's economic condition. India noted that the Union Territory's development allocation is significantly higher than the financial assistance Pakistan recently sought from the International Monetary Fund. The comparison was presented to underline the contrast between India's focus on growth and Pakistan's ongoing financial struggles.

India also rejected comments made by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, accusing the



group of acting as an echo chamber for Pakistan's narrative. According to India, such statements lack credibility and are politically motivated rather than based on facts.

Highlighting tangible progress in the region, India pointed to major infrastructure developments, including the Chenab Rail Bridge. Described as one of the tallest railway bridges in the world, the project was cited as a symbol of the transformation taking place in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reaffirming its position, India

reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir “was, is, and will always remain” an integral part of the country. It stressed that the region's accession in 1947 was legal and final, aligning with established international principles.

On the democratic front, India highlighted strong voter turnout in recent elections in the region. It said this reflects people's growing participation in governance and their rejection of violence, choosing instead a path of stability and development.

India also accused Pakistan of continuing to support cross-border

terrorism, stating that such actions remain a major obstacle to peace in the region. It urged Pakistan to focus on addressing its internal challenges instead of making allegations against India on global platforms.

The exchange marks yet another instance of diplomatic tension between the two countries at international forums. It also underscores how Jammu and Kashmir continues to be a focal point in India-Pakistan relations, with both nations presenting sharply contrasting narratives to the global community.

JD Vance Warns Iran Ahead of Nuclear Talks, Signals Tough US Stance

U.S. Vice President JD Vance issued a strong warning to Iran ahead of crucial nuclear negotiations, making it clear that Washington will not allow Tehran to develop nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

Speaking just before a new round of talks in Geneva, Vance urged Iran to take American warnings seriously, emphasizing that the United States is prepared to act if diplomacy fails. He described Iran as one of the most dangerous regimes and stressed that allowing it to possess nuclear weapons would pose a major global threat.

The remarks come amid heightened tensions in the Middle East, with the U.S. increasing its military presence in the region. President Donald Trump has also sharpened his rhetoric, alleging that Iran is advancing missile capabilities and pursuing nuclear ambitions that could threaten global security.

Despite the strong language, Vance reiterated that diplomacy remains the preferred path. He



expressed hope that ongoing negotiations between U.S. and Iranian officials would lead to a peaceful resolution. However, he made it clear that military options remain on the table if Iran does not comply with international expectations.

The upcoming talks in Geneva are part of continued efforts to resolve long-standing disputes

over Iran's nuclear programme. U.S. officials believe Tehran may be attempting to rebuild its nuclear capabilities, especially after previous setbacks to its facilities. Iran, however, has consistently denied seeking nuclear weapons, maintaining that its nuclear activities are intended for peaceful purposes.

The situation reflects a deli-

cate balance between diplomacy and the risk of escalation. While the United States continues to push for strict limits on Iran's nuclear programme, Iran has pushed back against what it calls exaggerated accusations and political pressure.

Vance emphasized that the U.S. administration has multiple options to ensure Iran does not become a nuclear-armed state. He noted that while negotiations remain the priority, the leadership is prepared to take stronger action if required.

The renewed tensions and firm statements highlight the high stakes involved in the Geneva talks. With both sides holding strong and often opposing positions, the outcome of these discussions could significantly impact regional stability and global security.

As negotiations begin, global attention is focused on whether diplomacy will prevail or tensions will escalate further, shaping the future of U.S.-Iran relations and the broader geopolitical landscape.

Photo of Stephen Hawking in Epstein Files Sparks Debate Over Context



A recently surfaced photograph of Stephen Hawking from newly released documents linked to Jeffrey Epstein has triggered widespread discussion online, with many questioning the context behind the image.

The photograph, believed to have been taken in 2006, shows the renowned physicist seated on a sun lounger with a drink in hand, flanked by two women in bikinis. The image quickly went viral after appearing in the latest batch of documents related to investigations into Epstein's network and associations.

However, clarification from Hawking's representatives has pushed back against speculation. According to statements shared by those close to the late scientist, the two women seen in the picture were not partygoers or associates of Epstein, but his long-term professional caregivers. Due to Hawking's medical condition, he required continuous assistance, and the

women were part of the team responsible for his daily care.

The image was reportedly taken during a scientific conference held in the Caribbean, where Hawking had been invited to speak. The event brought together leading scientists to discuss advanced topics in physics, including cosmology and quantum theory. Epstein is known to have funded or supported such gatherings, which often attracted prominent academics and researchers.

Despite the renewed attention, there is no evidence suggesting any wrongdoing by Hawking. His name appears multiple times in the broader set of documents, but experts and reports emphasize that being mentioned in such files does not imply involvement in criminal activity. In fact, several claims circulating online have been described as unverified or misleading.

Hawking's family has strongly criticized attempts to link him to Epstein's crimes based solely

ly on the photograph. They have described such interpretations as inaccurate and unfair, stressing that the image has been taken out of context. The family also reiterated Epstein's legacy as one of the most influential scientists of modern times, known for his groundbreaking work in theoretical physics.

The release of these documents has once again highlighted the wide network of individuals who had, at various points, crossed paths with Epstein. However, experts caution against drawing conclusions without concrete evidence, noting that many individuals listed in the files were associated with legitimate events or professional engagements.

As public scrutiny continues, the episode underscores the importance of context when interpreting archival material. While the photograph may appear sensational at first glance, a closer look reveals a far more routine and benign explanation behind it.

China Steps In As US Charges Three Scientists Over Smuggling Case



A diplomatic intervention by China helped support three of its scientists who were charged in the United States over allegations of smuggling biological materials, highlighting growing tensions between the two nations in the field of scientific research.

The case involved three Chinese researchers accused by U.S. authorities of illegally transporting biological samples, including growing tissues linked to worms, into the country without proper declarations or permits. Officials raised concerns that such materials could pose risks to agriculture and biosecurity if not handled under strict regulatory frameworks.

According to reports, U.S. investigators treated the incident seriously, viewing it through the lens of national security and scientific compliance. The allegations focused on violations of import rules and failure to follow established procedures for transporting sensitive biological substances.

In response, the Chinese government moved

quickly to assist its nationals. Diplomatic channels were activated to ensure the scientists received consular access and legal support. Beijing also engaged with U.S. authorities to closely monitor the case and advocate for fair treatment.

China maintained that the matter should be handled appropriately and emphasized the importance of protecting the legitimate rights of its citizens abroad. The intervention reportedly helped shift the tone of the case, with the scientists being treated more as individuals who may have violated procedural rules rather than as intentional wrongdoers.

The developments come at a time when scientific exchanges between China and the United States are increasingly under scrutiny. Issues related to biosecurity, intellectual property, and cross-border research have become sensitive areas, often intersecting with broader geopolitical tensions.

Experts note that inci-

dents involving undeclared biological materials are not uncommon in global research collaborations. However, stricter enforcement and heightened suspicion have led to more serious consequences in recent years, especially in cases involving foreign researchers.

While the allegations initially raised concerns about potential risks, there has been no clear indication that the materials were intended for harmful use. Instead, the case appears to revolve around compliance failures and regulatory lapses.

The episode underscores the delicate balance between maintaining scientific collaboration and ensuring national security. It also highlights how quickly such cases can escalate into diplomatic matters when foreign nationals are involved.

As investigations continue, the case is likely to remain a point of discussion in the broader context of U.S.-China relations, particularly in areas where science, security, and international cooperation intersect.

Indian Markets Rally on February 26; Sensex, Nifty Hit Higher Levels Amid Broad Buying



Indian equity markets witnessed a positive trading session on February 26, with benchmark indices advancing as investors responded to upbeat cues. Both the BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty 50 ended higher, supported by strong buying momentum across key sectors.

The Sensex climbed steadily during the session, while the Nifty maintained its position above the 22,000 level, reflecting broad confidence among market participants. Gains were seen in major heavy-weight stocks, which helped offset pressure in some laggard scrips.

Investor sentiment was also bolstered by positive developments in the debt markets, as government and state bond auctions saw good demand, easing concerns over heavy supply. This helped reduce volatility and provided comfort to equity traders.

Sector wise, financials, banking, and technology stocks led the rally, with select large cap names drawing fresh inflows. Banking stocks, in particular, attracted attention as traders remained optimistic about credit

growth and asset quality trends. Meanwhile, IT shares gained from global cues as tech stocks showed strength overseas.

The broader market also advanced, with indices representing mid and small caps participating in the upmove. Market breadth remained positive, indicating that more stocks advanced than declined on the exchanges.

Trading activity in the derivatives segment also showed high interest, with the Nifty's key support and resistance levels attracting significant option contracts. This suggests that traders were positioning ahead of expected near term volatility.

Among individual stocks, several newly listed and near IPO companies saw robust action, with retail and institutional flows supporting their price performance. Some corporate actions, including stock splits and upcoming earnings announcements, also influenced stock specific moves.

In global markets, major indices closed higher overnight, providing an encouraging backdrop

for Indian equities. Crude oil prices maintained a downward bias, easing inflation concerns and supporting rallies in rate sensitive sectors.

Meanwhile, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained active, with mixed flows reported in equity and debt segments. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs), including mutual funds and insurance companies, were net buyers, helping sustain the uptrend.

Overall, the market's strong performance on February 26 reflected a combination of domestic and global positives, active participation from multiple investor groups, and favourable technical conditions. Analysts noted that if the broader trend persists, the market could be poised for further gains in the near term, with key support zones being closely watched by traders.

As the trading week progresses, participants will closely track macro-economic data, corporate earnings, and developments in global markets to gauge the sustainability of the current rally.

Indian Bonds Edge Higher as Strong State Debt Auction Lifts Market Mood

Indian government bonds recorded a modest rise, with yields easing slightly after a strong response to a major state debt auction boosted overall market sentiment. The movement reflects cautious optimism among investors, who have been closely monitoring borrowing trends and liquidity conditions.

The benchmark 10-year government bond yield slipped by about 1 basis point, trading near 6.70 percent. This marginal decline in yields indicates a corresponding increase in bond prices, suggesting that demand improved following the auction. Market participants had been awaiting the outcome of the large-scale borrowing by state governments, which played a crucial role in shaping trading activity.

A key factor behind the positive sentiment was the robust demand seen in the state debt auction. Indian states raised a substantial amount of funds through bond sales, and the cut-off yields were lower than many market participants had anticipated. This stronger-than-expected appetite reassured investors that the market could comfortably absorb the heavy supply of bonds without causing sharp disruptions.



In recent weeks, concerns had been building over the large volume of bond issuances by both central and state governments. Heavy supply typically puts upward pressure on yields, as investors demand higher returns to absorb increased borrowing. However, the latest auction outcome eased some of these worries, signaling that demand remains resilient.

Liquidity conditions have also played an important role in supporting the bond market. The Reserve

Bank of India has maintained a relatively accommodative stance, ensuring that sufficient liquidity is available in the banking system. This has encouraged institutional investors such as banks, insurance companies, and pension funds to continue buying government securities.

Global cues have further contributed to the stability of Indian bonds. Softer U.S. Treasury yields and easing inflation expectations have reduced pressure on emerging market debt, including

India's. These external factors have helped create a more favorable environment for bond investors.

Despite the recent uptick, traders remain cautious. The market is still dealing with a heavy borrowing calendar, with state governments planning large issuances toward the end of the financial year. In one instance, states aimed to raise around ₹44,500 crore in a single week, marking one of the biggest borrowing exercises of the year.

Looking ahead, the di-

rection of bond yields will largely depend on how smoothly upcoming debt auctions are absorbed and whether liquidity conditions remain supportive. Any signs of strain in demand could push yields higher again, while continued strong participation may help keep them stable or even lower.

Overall, the slight easing in yields reflects a balancing act between supply pressures and steady demand, with investors carefully navigating both domestic and global influences.

IDFC First Bank Shares Rally to Four Day High as Market Signals Recovery Hope

As India's investment ecosystem becomes more sophisticated, fund managers are increasingly highlighting that Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs) and Category III Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) are not competing products but complementary tools designed for different investor needs.

SIFs, introduced recently by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), aim to bridge the gap between traditional mutual funds and high-end investment products. They are designed for relatively affluent investors who seek more advanced strategies than conventional mutual funds but may not meet the steep entry requirements of AIFs. Typically, SIFs require a minimum investment of around 10 lakh and allow fund managers to deploy strategies such as long-short investing and derivatives usage, offering greater flexibility compared to standard mutual funds.



On the other hand, Category III AIFs cater primarily to high-net-worth individuals and institutional investors. These funds employ complex and often aggressive strategies aimed at generating absolute returns, including leveraging, short-selling, and dynamic portfolio allocation. They can invest across asset classes such as equities, debt instruments, and structured

products, making them more versatile but also inherently riskier.

Fund managers emphasize that the choice between SIFs and Category III AIFs should not be viewed as an either-or decision. Instead, both serve distinct purposes within a diversified portfolio. SIFs are positioned as a more accessible entry point into advanced investment strategies, offering a bal-

ance between risk and regulatory oversight. In contrast, Category III AIFs provide seasoned investors with opportunities to pursue higher returns through sophisticated and often less constrained approaches.

The growing popularity of Category III AIFs reflects increasing investor appetite for strategies that can hedge against market volatility. Data indicates

strong inflows into these funds, driven by investors seeking diversification beyond traditional equity and debt products.

Meanwhile, SIFs are gaining traction as a democratizing force in the investment landscape, enabling a broader segment of investors to access strategies previously reserved for ultra-wealthy individuals. Industry experts believe this new category could reshape how investors allocate capital, particularly in volatile or uncertain market conditions.

Ultimately, both SIFs and Category III AIFs are expected to coexist and grow, each fulfilling a unique role. While SIFs offer accessibility and structured flexibility, AIFs deliver depth and sophistication. Together, they expand the spectrum of investment options available, helping investors better align their portfolios with their financial goals and risk tolerance.

Angel One Shares Appear to Crash 90% – Here's the Real Reason Behind the Sharp Fall



Shares of Angel One caused panic among investors on February 26 after appearing to plunge nearly 90% in a single trading session. However, the dramatic fall was not due to any financial trouble or market crash, but a technical adjustment following a stock split.

The brokerage firm's stock opened at around ₹251, compared to its previous closing price of nearly ₹2,490. At first glance, this steep drop triggered concern among retail investors, with many fearing a major loss in value. But in reality, there was no destruction of wealth.

The sharp decline occurred because Angel One implemented a 1:10 stock split. Under this corporate action, each existing share with a face value of ₹10 was divided into ten shares with a face value of ₹1 each. As a result, while the number of shares held by investors in-

creased tenfold, the price per share reduced proportionally.

A stock split does not change the overall value of an investor's holdings. For example, if someone owned shares worth ₹25,000 before the split, the total value remains almost the same after the split—only the number of shares increases and the price per share decreases accordingly.

The stock began trading on an "ex-split" basis on the record date, meaning the price was automatically adjusted to reflect the new share structure. This adjustment often appears as a sharp fall on trading platforms, but it is purely mathematical and not linked to company performance.

Angel One had announced this move earlier in January while declaring its quarterly results. The primary objective of the stock split is to make shares

more affordable for retail investors and improve liquidity in the market. Lower-priced shares tend to attract more participation, which can increase trading volumes.

Despite the initial confusion, market experts have advised investors not to panic. The company's fundamentals, earnings outlook, and overall market value remain unchanged by this action. The apparent 90% drop is simply a reflection of the revised share price after the split.

Such events highlight the importance of understanding corporate actions in the stock market. While price movements may look alarming, they do not always indicate real losses. In this case, Angel One's "crash" was nothing more than a technical adjustment designed to make the stock more accessible to a wider base of investors.

Reva Diamond Jewellery IPO Fully Subscribed on Final Day, Strong Demand from NII and Retail Investors

The initial public offering (IPO) of Reva Diamond Jewellery was fully subscribed on the final day of bidding, driven by strong interest from both non institutional investors (NIIs) and retail participants. The upbeat response highlights healthy demand for new listings in the jewellery and luxury goods segment.

The public issue drew significant participation across categories, indicating confidence among investors in the company's business model and growth prospects. Retail investors showed particular enthusiasm, contributing to a substantial portion of the overall subscription. At the same time, non institutional bidders also played a key role in ensuring the offer reached full subscription.

As of the close of bidding, subscription levels had comfortably surpassed issue size requirements, reflecting strong appetite in the market. This outcome comes amid



a broader trend of renewed interest in IPOs, as investors seek opportunities for long term wealth creation and portfolio diversification.

Grey market activity suggests that demand for Reva Diamond Jewellery shares remains robust. The share price in unofficial trading continued to show a positive premium, indicating expectations of strong listing gains once the shares begin trading on the stock exchange. Such grey market movements are often seen as an

early signal of investor sentiment before an IPO debut.

Analysts noted that the company's focus on branded diamond jewellery, expanding retail footprint, and consistent performance could have contributed to investor confidence. The branded jewellery segment in India has been growing steadily, supported by rising consumer demand and increasing acceptance of organised players in a traditionally unorganised market.

The successful subscription also underscores the continued participation of retail investors in equity markets. Despite volatility and changing market conditions, individual investors have been participating actively in IPOs, driven by the potential for listing gains and long term investment opportunities.

The participation of non institutional investors—such as high net worth individuals and corporate bodies—added depth to the bidding, fur-

ther reinforcing the strength of the issue. Broad participation across categories is typically viewed as a positive sign for the aftermarket performance of newly listed stocks.

With the IPO fully subscribed, the company and its lead managers will now move toward the allotment process and finalise listing plans. Market watchers will be looking closely at how shares perform on debut, with strong subscription often translating into positive listing premiums.

Overall, the successful closure of the Reva Diamond Jewellery IPO reflects resilient investor interest in well positioned growth stories and favourable market sentiment toward new public offerings. It also highlights the ongoing appeal of India's IPO market as a platform for companies to raise capital and for investors to engage with emerging growth opportunities.

From American Dream to Indian Reality: NRI Shares 6 Reasons They're Grateful to Be Back Home



An NRI who returned to India after spending nearly a decade in the United States has sparked an online conversation by sharing six reasons why the move back home turned out to be deeply fulfilling. The individual revealed that despite initial adjustment challenges, relocating to India in 2024 was one of the best decisions they had made.

In a social media post, the returnee reflected on trading the so-called "American dream" for a life rooted in familiarity, family, and comfort. While life in the US offered professional growth, the emotional and practical advantages of living in India ultimately outweighed those benefits.

One of the biggest reliefs, the NRI noted, was escaping the stress associated with the H-1B visa system. The uncertainty of visa renewals and the pressure of finding a job within limited timeframes had been a constant source of anxiety. Returning to India removed that burden entirely.

Another major advantage was access to affordable and fresh food. The individual appreciated the availability of homemade vegetarian meals and reasonably priced groceries, something they found difficult to maintain in the US.

Equally significant was the ease of hiring domestic help. Services such as cooks and housemaids are far more

accessible and affordable in India, contributing to a better work-life balance.

The NRI also highlighted the quality of urban living, particularly in cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Well-maintained gated communities with modern amenities provided a comfortable and secure lifestyle comparable to global standards. Additionally, the presence of green spaces like Lalbagh Botanical Garden and Cubbon Park added to the appeal of city life.

However, the most meaningful aspect of the move was the opportunity to be close to family—especially aging parents. Being physically present and spending time with loved ones brought a sense of emotional satisfaction that life abroad could not offer.

The post quickly gained traction online, with many users agreeing that proximity to family and cultural familiarity often outweigh the financial or professional advantages of living overseas. Some even shared similar experiences, reinforcing the idea that returning home can be both a practical and emotional win.

Ultimately, the story highlights a growing sentiment among some NRIs: success is not just about career growth abroad, but also about quality of life, relationships, and peace of mind back home.

Mumbai Police Turns Viral Baby Monkey Story Into Powerful 112 Awareness Campaign



Mumbai Police has taken a creative approach to public awareness by using the viral story of a baby monkey named Punch to promote India's emergency helpline number, 112.

Punch, a young Japanese macaque, recently captured global attention after heartwarming videos showed him clinging to a soft toy for comfort. Abandoned by his mother at birth, the monkey's emotional journey resonated widely with social media users, turning him into an internet sensation.

Leveraging this popularity, Mumbai Police shared a series of posts on Instagram that combined the monkey's story with an important public message. The campaign cleverly used the traditional "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" concept, featuring images of monkeys paired with messages like "Bura Mat Dekho," "Bura Mat Suno," and "Bura Mat Kaho." The final slide included Punch's image along with a strong message encouraging people not to engage in wrongdoing and to report crimes responsibly.

The campaign also introduced catchy phrases and hashtags such as "Just Punch in 112" and "Wise Monkey Advise," creatively linking the monkey's name to the helpline number. This wordplay made the message more engaging and easier to remember, es-

pecially for younger audiences active on social media.

The 112 helpline is a nationwide emergency number that connects citizens to police, fire, and ambulance services. It can be accessed through calls, SMS, email, panic buttons, and even a dedicated mobile application, making it a critical resource during emergencies.

Delhi Police also joined the trend, using Punch's story in their own social media outreach. Their message emphasized that help is always available and encouraged people to dial 112 whenever needed.

The campaign received widespread appreciation online, with many users praising the police for using a viral and emotional story to spread an important civic message. Social media reactions suggested that such creative strategies are more effective in capturing public attention than traditional awareness campaigns.

Overall, the initiative highlights how law enforcement agencies are adapting to digital trends to communicate with the public. By blending emotion, storytelling, and social relevance, Mumbai Police successfully transformed a viral moment into a meaningful awareness drive, reminding citizens that help is just a call away.

"Tried To Trap Me": Tenant Exposes Hidden Clause in Bengaluru Rent Agreement

A tenant in Bengaluru has gone viral after accusing their landlord of quietly altering the rent agreement without prior notice, bringing attention to transparency issues in the city's rental market.

The situation emerged when the tenant, who had been living in the same apartment since 2022, renewed their lease in 2026. Before signing the updated agreement, they reportedly confirmed with the landlord whether any terms had changed. The landlord allegedly assured them that everything remained the same. However, upon closely reviewing the document, the tenant noticed a significant modification that had not been communicated.

The key change involved the notice period required before vacating the property. While the earlier agreement specified a one-month notice, the new version extended it to two months. The tenant described this as an attempt to "trap" them, as the change could limit flexibility and create inconvenience if they needed to move out quickly.

The tenant later shared their experience on social media, explaining that they only discovered the alteration by carefully



comparing the new agreement with the previous one. They urged others to read rental documents thoroughly instead of relying solely on verbal assurances from landlords.

Despite maintaining a good relationship with the landlord—paying rent on time and adhering to rules—the tenant felt disappointed by what they viewed as a lack of trans-

parency. After identifying the discrepancy, they decided to vacate the property and informed the landlord of their concerns.

The story quickly gained traction online, with many users sharing similar experiences. Several people reported encountering unexpected changes in agreements, such as longer notice pe-

riods, increased security deposits, or additional clauses introduced without proper explanation.

The incident highlights broader challenges faced by tenants in competitive housing markets. In cities with high demand, renters often feel they have limited bargaining power and must remain cautious when signing agreements.

Overall, the episode serves as a reminder for tenants to carefully review lease documents, compare them with previous versions, and clarify every detail before signing. It also underscores the importance of honesty and clear communication between landlords and tenants to prevent disputes and build trust.

Giant Python Spotted Swimming Through Flooded Streets in Bali



A shocking video from Bali has gone viral, showing a massive python gliding through floodwaters after days of heavy rainfall submerged large parts of the island.

The unusual sight emerged after nearly three days of continuous rain turned roads into streams and residential areas into waterlogged zones. As floodwaters rose, locals

and tourists began spotting large snakes moving through the streets, with some reportedly measuring up to five metres in length.

Videos captured from balconies and nearby buildings show the python calmly swimming across submerged roads and villa courtyards, creating a mix of fear and fascination among viewers online.

The clips quickly spread across social media, with many users expressing shock at seeing such a large reptile navigating urban floodwaters.

The presence of these snakes is not entirely unusual for the region. Bali is home to several species of large reptiles, including the reticulated python, which is native to Indonesia and known for its

strong swimming ability. During extreme weather events like floods, wildlife is often displaced from natural habitats and forced into human-populated areas.

The flooding itself has caused widespread disruption across the island. Streets in several towns became impassable, vehicles were partially submerged, and residential

properties experienced water ingress. Authorities issued warnings urging people to avoid flooded areas and remain cautious, as conditions can be unpredictable during intense rainfall.

Emergency teams were deployed to assist affected residents and secure vulnerable zones. In some heavily impacted areas, rescue operations were carried out using boats to move people to safer locations. Despite the alarming visuals, no snakebite incidents have been reported so far.

The viral video has once again highlighted how extreme weather can lead to unexpected encounters between humans and wildlife. Experts note that such incidents tend to increase during monsoon seasons, when heavy rains disturb ecosystems and push animals out of their usual environments.

Overall, while the sight of a giant python swimming through city streets may appear dramatic, it also serves as a reminder of nature's adaptability—and the growing impact of extreme weather events on both people and wildlife.

Viral Challenge Backfires: China Boy Promises Skipping for Every Like, Gets 1.8 Million



A seven-year-old boy in China has gone viral after making a bold promise that quickly spiralled out of control. What began as a simple fitness challenge turned into an overwhelming task when the internet responded in massive numbers.

The young boy, nicknamed Tangdou, agreed to skip rope once for every "like" his video received online. The idea was introduced by his father as a fun way to encourage exercise and weight loss. Confident and unaware of the potential outcome, the boy happily accepted the challenge on camera.

However, the video soon gained massive attention on social media, far beyond what the family had expected. Within just a day, it crossed an astonishing 1.8 million likes, leaving both the boy and his father shocked.

The challenge, which initially seemed manageable, quickly became unrealistic. Skipping rope over a million times was clearly impossible for a child. Realising this, Tangdou admitted he could not complete the task and humorously asked his father

to help him finish it.

The story resonated widely with viewers, who found the situation both amusing and relatable. The combination of innocence, ambition, and an unexpected twist contributed to the video's viral

success.

The idea reportedly stemmed from the boy's school routine, where daily rope-skipping was assigned as part of physical activity. His father decided to build on this by creating a structured plan to im-

prove his fitness. To make it more engaging, he introduced a reward system, offering incentives for weight loss and mild penalties for weight gain.

Despite the humorous outcome, the father later clarified that the intention was never to push his son beyond his limits. Instead, he planned to monitor the activity carefully and ensure it remained safe and beneficial.

The incident highlights how quickly social media challenges can escalate once they capture public attention. What starts as a simple idea can grow unexpectedly when it reaches a large audience.

In the end, the viral moment served as both entertainment and a reminder about setting realistic goals—especially in the age of social media, where even the smallest challenges can take on a life of their own.

Shoaib Akhtar Reveals Playing Through Pain in Fierce India-Pakistan Rivalry

In a striking revelation that underscores the intensity of cricket's most heated rivalry, former Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has admitted that he played through severe physical pain during matches against India, relying on pills and injections to stay match-fit.

Speaking about Pakistan's tour of India in 1998-99, Akhtar disclosed that both he and legendary spinner Saqlain Mushtaq struggled with serious knee problems at the time. Despite their injuries, the duo pushed themselves to compete in what remains one of the most emotionally charged rivalries in world sport.

Akhtar said their conditions were so severe that fluid had accumulated in their knees, making it difficult to even stand, let alone bowl at the highest level. Yet, the pressure to perform in high-stakes matches against India drove them to continue playing. He revealed that they secretly took medication and injections to manage the pain and remain available for selection.

The former speedster explained that such measures were taken discreetly, as team management might not have approved of players continuing under those circumstances. The fear of being dropped from



the squad also added to the urgency to stay on the field, particularly during a series of such magnitude.

The 1999 tour remains memorable in cricket history. Pakistan secured a famous victory in the Chennai Test, marking their first Test win in India in over a decade. The match is also remembered for Sachin Tendulkar's heroic century in a losing cause, highlighting the fierce competition between bat and ball during that era.

Akhtar also shared an interesting anecdote

from that tour, revealing that he and Saqlain had a friendly wager over who would dismiss Tendulkar. Both bowlers were determined to claim the prized wicket, reflecting not just competitive spirit but also the immense value attached to dismissing one of the world's greatest batsmen.

Despite the physical toll, Akhtar's recollection paints a picture of resilience and determination. He emphasized how players often pushed their bodies beyond limits, especially in matches against arch-rivals,

where national pride and personal legacy were at stake.

The India-Pakistan cricket rivalry has long been regarded as one of the most intense in global sports, drawing massive audiences and generating immense pressure on players. Matches between the two nations are often seen as more than just sporting contests, carrying deep emotional and historical significance.

Akhtar's admission sheds light on the unseen challenges faced by athletes, particularly in high-pressure environ-

ments. While modern sports science emphasizes player welfare and injury management, his experience reflects a time when players often prioritized participation over long-term health.

The revelation has sparked conversations among fans and experts about the physical and mental demands placed on cricketers during that era. It also highlights how far the sport has evolved in terms of medical support, fitness standards, and player safety.

Today, bilateral series between India and Pakistan are rare, with the two teams mostly meeting in international tournaments. However, memories of past encounters, such as the 1999 series, continue to resonate strongly with fans.

Akhtar's candid account serves as a reminder of the sacrifices players make to compete at the highest level. It also adds another layer to the legacy of a rivalry that has produced countless unforgettable moments in cricket history.

Ultimately, his story is not just about pain and perseverance, but about the passion that defines sport at its most intense—where players are willing to endure extraordinary hardship for the chance to represent their country on the biggest stage.

Vinicius Shines as Real Madrid Advance, PSG Survive Monaco Scare

Real Madrid booked their place in the knockout stage of the UEFA Champions League with a composed performance, as Vinicius Junior once again proved decisive on the big stage.

The Spanish giants secured a 2-1 win over Benfica in the second leg, completing a 3-1 aggregate victory. Vinicius played a key role, scoring a crucial goal that helped seal qualification. His pace and attacking threat kept the opposition under constant pressure, underlining his importance to the team in high-stakes matches.

Despite the win, the game had a tense moment when defender Raúl Asencio was involved in a heavy collision that briefly halted play. The incident raised concerns, but Real Madrid quickly regrouped and maintained control to finish the job.



Meanwhile, Paris Saint-Germain endured a far more dramatic night against AS Monaco. The French champions were pushed to the brink before staging a comeback to secure their place in the next round.

Monaco initially

looked poised to pull off an upset, but the turning point came when they were reduced to ten men following a red card. PSG took advantage of the situation, scoring twice to turn the tie around and progress with a narrow 5-4 aggregate victory.

The contrasting paths taken by the two teams highlighted the unpredictable nature of the competition. Real Madrid displayed composure and efficiency, while PSG relied on resilience and late momentum to survive a challenging encounter.

Vinicius' performance stood out as one of the defining moments of the night. The Brazilian winger continues to establish himself as a key figure for Real Madrid, consistently delivering in crucial matches. His ability to influence games at the highest level makes him one of the most dangerous attackers in European football today.

As the tournament moves into the knockout phase, both teams will look to build on their performances. Real Madrid appear confident and well-organized, while PSG will hope their comeback win serves as a catalyst for stronger displays in the rounds ahead.

With Europe's top clubs now set for intense battles, the race for Champions League glory promises more drama, excitement, and unforgettable moments.

Lionel Messi Admits Regret Over Not Learning English Early in Life



Football legend Lionel Messi has opened up about one of his biggest personal regrets, despite achieving unparalleled success on the field. The Argentine superstar recently revealed that not learning English during his younger years is something he deeply

wishes he had done differently.

Speaking candidly in an interview, Messi reflected on his upbringing and career, acknowledging that while football gave him immense global exposure, he missed an important opportunity to develop language skills

that could have enriched his experiences. He admitted that he had enough time as a youngster to learn English but did not take it seriously, a decision he now regrets.

Messi explained that throughout his career, he has met numerous influential personalities from

around the world. However, the inability to communicate fluently in English sometimes made him feel limited in expressing himself. He described moments where he wished he could engage in deeper conversations but felt held back due to the language barrier. This, he said, occasionally left him feeling "half ignorant" in social and professional situations.

The football icon also shared that this realization has shaped how he advises his children. He encourages them to value education and make the most of opportunities to learn, especially when it comes to languages. According to him, having a strong educational foundation is just as important as pursuing one's passion.

Now playing in the United States with Inter Miami, Messi's reflections on language have become even more relevant. Living in an English-speaking environ-

ment has made him more aware of the importance of communication beyond football. While his talent continues to transcend language, he recognizes that being able to connect verbally adds another dimension to personal and professional growth.

Despite this regret, Messi emphasized that football itself has been a great teacher. Through the sport, he has learned valuable life lessons, traveled extensively, and experienced diverse cultures. He believes that these experiences have contributed significantly to his personal development, even if formal education in certain areas was lacking.

Messi's honesty offers a relatable perspective, reminding fans that even the most accomplished individuals have regrets. His message underscores the importance of making use of available opportunities and striving for well-rounded growth, both on and off the field.

Pakistan's Semi-Final Hopes Hang by a Thread After New Zealand Win



Pakistan's chances of reaching the semi-finals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 have become increasingly complicated following New Zealand's crucial victory over Sri Lanka. The result has significantly tightened the group standings, leaving Pakistan dependent on a combination of results rather than just their own performance.

With New Zealand securing an important win, they have strengthened their position in the points table, pushing Pakistan into a must-win situation. Pakistan now not only need to win their remaining group-stage match but must also rely on other outcomes to go in their favour. Their qualification scenario is no longer straightforward and hinges on net run rate and the performance of rival teams.

For Pakistan to ad-

vance, the first requirement is a convincing win in their final group match. A narrow victory may not be sufficient, as net run rate could play a decisive role in determining which teams progress. A dominant performance would improve their chances, but even that alone may not guarantee qualification.

Additionally, Pakistan need Sri Lanka to lose their remaining fixture or fail to significantly boost their net run rate. If Sri Lanka manage a big win, it could further complicate Pakistan's path. At the same time, New Zealand's strong position means they are likely to secure a semi-final berth, reducing the number of available spots.

Another key factor is the overall points tally. If multiple teams finish with the same number of points, net run rate

becomes the deciding criterion. This makes the margin of victory and defeat in each game critically important. Pakistan must therefore aim not only to win but to do so emphatically.

The situation reflects how competitive the group stage has been, with several teams still in contention heading into the final round of matches. Pakistan's campaign, marked by inconsistent performances, has left them vulnerable at a crucial stage of the tournament.

In summary, Pakistan's route to the semi-finals is still alive but highly uncertain. They must deliver a strong performance in their last match and hope that other results align in their favour. The coming fixtures will ultimately determine whether they can keep their title hopes alive or face an early exit from the tournament.

Santner's Leadership Inspires Confidence as New Zealand Dominate Sri Lanka



New Zealand's impressive victory over Sri Lanka in the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 has not only strengthened their campaign but also highlighted the growing confidence within the squad under captain Mitchell Santner. Following the emphatic win, all-rounder Rachin Ravindra credited Santner's leadership for creating a fearless environment in the team, saying it makes players feel "bulletproof" on the field.

New Zealand delivered a commanding performance, outplaying Sri Lanka in all departments. After posting a competitive total, their bowlers executed plans with precision, restricting Sri Lanka well short of the target. The convincing margin of victory underlined New Zealand's strong form and intent in the tournament.

Ravindra, who has been one of the standout performers, emphasized the impact of Santner's calm and composed captaincy. He noted that the skipper's

clarity and trust in players allow them to express themselves freely, even in high-pressure situations. According to Ravindra, this belief instilled by Santner helps the team stay positive and aggressive, regardless of the match scenario.

Santner's tactical awareness was evident throughout the game. His bowling changes, field placements, and ability to read the match situation played a key role in dismantling Sri Lanka's batting lineup. The bowlers responded well, maintaining tight lines and building pressure consistently, which resulted in crucial breakthroughs at regular intervals.

On the batting front, New Zealand showed resilience and adaptability. After a slightly shaky start, the middle order stepped up to accelerate the scoring and post a challenging total. Ravindra contributed significantly, showcasing both composure and attacking intent, further cementing his role as a dependable all-rounder in

the squad. The win also has important implications for the tournament standings, boosting New Zealand's chances of progressing to the next stage. With momentum on their side, the team looks well-balanced and confident heading into the crucial matches ahead.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, struggled to find rhythm in both batting and bowling. Their inability to build partnerships and contain runs proved costly. The defeat puts them in a difficult position, requiring strong performances in upcoming games to stay in contention.

As the tournament progresses, New Zealand's blend of experienced leadership and emerging talent continues to make them a formidable side. With players like Ravindra thriving under Santner's guidance, the team appears well-equipped to push for the title and maintain their strong presence in world cricket.

Ustaad Bhagat Singh Creates Massive Buzz with Record Pre-Release Business

The upcoming film Ustaad Bhagat Singh, starring Pawan Kalyan, is generating tremendous excitement in the Telugu film industry, with its pre-release business figures becoming a major talking point among trade circles.

Following the massive success of his previous projects, the actor has once again demonstrated his strong box office pull. The film is directed by Harish Shankar, marking their reunion after the blockbuster Gabbar Singh, which has significantly raised expectations among fans.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers on a grand scale, the film is being made with high production values and is expected to deliver a commercial entertainer packed with action and drama. The makers are planning a strategic release, aiming to capitalize on a festive or holiday window.

In the film, Pawan Kalyan is set to appear in a powerful police officer role, a character that has already sparked interest among fans. Adding to the excitement is the music composed by Devi Sri Prasad, known for delivering chart-topping soundtracks.

On the business front, the film has already made headlines. The non-theatrical rights, including digital and satellite deals, have reportedly been sold for impressive prices, driven by the strong buzz and the actor's massive fan following.

However, the theatrical business presents a



slightly mixed scenario. While the film is commanding high rates in several regions, some distributors are said to be cautious about investing heavily. One of the reasons behind this hesitation is ongoing speculation about the film's storyline, which has created some uncertainty in trade circles.

Addressing such concerns, director Harish Shankar has clarified that the film offers fresh content and is not merely a routine remake, promising audiences a unique cinematic experience.

Promotional content released so far has received varied responses. While one song generated strong buzz, another did not meet expectations,

leading the team to reassess their promotional strategy. The focus is now on upcoming trailers and songs, which are expected to play a key role in strengthening the film's hype.

Industry experts believe that a powerful trailer could significantly boost the film's prospects. Given Pawan Kalyan's massive fan base, even a single impactful promotional release could drive huge demand.

With high expectations, strong pre-release business, and considerable buzz, Ustaad Bhagat Singh is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases. All eyes are now on whether it will live up to the hype and deliver at the box office.

Priyanka Chopra's Global Reveal Sparks Buzz Around Mahesh Babu-Rajamouli Film



A major upcoming project starring Mahesh Babu and Priyanka Chopra Jonas under the direction of S. S. Rajamouli has found itself at the center of widespread discussion after details about its storyline were reportedly revealed on an international platform.

The film, tentatively titled Varanasi, is already one of the most anticipated Indian cinematic ventures due to its scale, star cast, and Rajamouli's reputation for delivering global blockbusters. However, what has now intensified curiosity is the unexpected disclosure of story elements during a global interaction.

Priyanka Chopra, who plays a key role in the film, spoke about the project while addressing an international audience. During the conversation, she reportedly shared insights into the narrative, offering a

glimpse into the film's core theme and setting. This has triggered significant chatter among fans and industry circles, as the makers had been carefully maintaining secrecy around the storyline.

The film is believed to be a grand action-adventure that blends mythology, history, and global exploration. It reportedly follows a protagonist on an epic journey connected to ancient Indian traditions and spiritual lore, with the story spanning multiple timelines and locations. The city of Varanasi is expected to play a central role, both as a symbolic and narrative anchor.

Mahesh Babu is said to portray a rugged and intense character, marking a departure from his previous roles. Meanwhile, Priyanka Chopra's character is expected to be strong and action-oriented, contributing significantly to the story's pro-

gression. Their pairing, combined with Rajamouli's vision, has already raised expectations to extraordinary levels.

The scale of the film is said to be massive, with international locations, high-end visual effects, and a production design aimed at appealing to global audiences. It is also expected to incorporate elements of Indian epics, a hallmark of Rajamouli's storytelling style.

While the early reveal of story details has surprised many, it has also amplified excitement around the project. Fans are now eagerly waiting for official announcements, teasers, and promotional material to better understand the film's scope and narrative.

Despite the unintended leak, the film continues to generate immense buzz, reinforcing its position as one of the most awaited Indian films in recent years.

Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna Tie the Knot in Grand Udaipur Wedding

In a moment that delighted fans across the country, popular actors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna have reportedly entered a new chapter in their lives by getting married in a lavish ceremony in Udaipur. The wedding, held in one of Rajasthan's most picturesque locations, was an intimate yet grand affair attended by close family members and a select group of friends from the film industry.

The couple, who have long been the subject of speculation regarding their relationship, chose to keep the ceremony private, away from the intense media spotlight. Despite the secrecy, news of their wedding quickly spread online, sparking excitement among fans who have admired their on-screen chemistry and off-screen bond for years.

The wedding venue was beautifully decorated with traditional elements blended with modern elegance. From floral arrangements to regal interiors, every detail reflected a royal theme befitting the grandeur of Udaipur. The celebrations reportedly included multiple pre-wedding functions such as mehendi, sangeet, and haldi, each marked by vibrant decor and



joyful participation from loved ones.

Both Vijay and Rashmika were said to have looked stunning in their wedding attire. Vijay opted for a classic yet sophisticated traditional outfit, while Rashmika dazzled in an intricately designed bridal ensemble that perfectly complemented the royal setting. Their coordinated looks and visible happiness became a major highlight of the occasion.

Over the years, the duo has shared screen space in successful films, which further fueled rumors about their relationship. Their strong friendship and frequent public appearances together had kept fans guessing, and this wedding now appears to confirm what many had long believed.

While neither of the actors has made an official public announcement yet, the buzz surrounding their union continues

to grow on social media. Fans and well-wishers have flooded online platforms with congratulatory messages, celebrating the union of two of the industry's most beloved stars.

As the couple begins this new journey together, their wedding marks not just a personal milestone but also a heartwarming moment for their admirers, who have followed their story with keen interest and affection.

Akhil Akkineni Rumoured to Join Jr NTR-Prashanth Neel's 'Dragon' Sparks Buzz

Speculation is growing in the Telugu film industry about Akhil Akkineni potentially joining the much-anticipated project starring Jr NTR and directed by Prashanth Neel. The film, widely referred to as Dragon, is already one of the most talked-about upcoming pan-Indian ventures.

The buzz began after reports suggested that the film requires a young actor for a significant role. Akhil's name quickly surfaced, fueling excitement among fans. His rumored involvement has gained traction largely due to his known rapport with Prashanth Neel and the strong professional equation the director shares with Jr NTR.

The project itself is shaping up on a grand scale. With a major sched-



ule already completed overseas, the team is preparing to move into the next phase of filming. The scale, casting choices, and collaboration between a mass hero like Jr NTR and a blockbuster filmmaker like Prashanth Neel have already set high expectations.

Adding to the intrigue is the possibility that Akhil's role, if confirmed, could be a cameo or an extended guest appearance. While some believe it could mark a strategic move to expand the film's appeal, others see it as an opportunity for Akhil to re-establish his

presence with a powerful role in a high-profile film.

However, it is important to note that there has been no official confirmation regarding Akhil Akkineni's participation. The makers have remained tight-lipped, neither confirming nor denying the reports, which

has only intensified curiosity among fans and industry watchers.

The film is expected to be a high-octane action drama, in line with Prashanth Neel's signature style, known for delivering visually grand and mass-oriented entertainers. With Jr NTR undergoing a transformation for his role and the film reportedly being mounted on a massive budget, expectations continue to rise.

Whether Akhil Akkineni actually joins the cast or not, the ongoing speculation has already succeeded in drawing additional attention to the project. Until an official announcement is made, fans will have to wait and watch if this rumored collaboration turns into reality.

Will Ram Charan's 'Peddi' Release on Schedule? Uncertainty Sparks Buzz



Speculation is growing around the release timeline of Peddi, the much-anticipated upcoming film starring Ram Charan. While the project has generated strong excitement among fans and industry watchers alike, recent developments suggest that its planned release schedule may face unexpected delays.

Initially envisioned as a major cinematic event, Peddi has been progressing steadily through production. However, reports indicate that certain factors—including shooting timelines, post-production demands, and possible scheduling conflicts—could impact whether the film arrives in theatres as originally planned. Large-scale productions like this often require extensive coordination, and even minor setbacks can ripple into release postponements.

The film is said to be

mounted on a grand scale, with high production values and a storyline designed to appeal to a wide audience. Such ambitious projects typically involve complex filming schedules, elaborate sets, and heavy visual effects work, all of which require time and precision. As a result, the makers are believed to be prioritizing quality over rushing to meet a fixed release date.

Another contributing factor could be strategic timing. Film releases today are carefully planned to maximize box office performance, avoiding clashes with other big-budget movies. If competing releases crowd the calendar, producers may opt to shift dates to secure a better window.

Fans, meanwhile, are eagerly awaiting official confirmation from the production team. Social media discussions have intensified, with many

expressing both excitement and concern over the uncertainty. Ram Charan's strong fan base continues to show unwavering support, trusting that the final product will be worth the wait regardless of delays.

Industry observers note that such situations are not uncommon in big-ticket cinema. Delays, while disappointing in the short term, often result in a more polished and impactful film. Given Ram Charan's recent track record and commitment to delivering high-quality performances, expectations remain high.

Until an official announcement is made, the fate of Peddi's release date remains uncertain. However, one thing is clear—the film has already succeeded in creating significant buzz, and anticipation will only grow stronger as audiences await further updates.

Made in Korea Set for March 12 Release on Netflix



The upcoming film Made in Korea, starring Priyanka Arul Mohan, is all set to premiere on March 12. The film will skip a theatrical release and head directly to the streaming platform Netflix.

Directed by Ra Karthik, the movie is positioned as a heartfelt slice-of-life drama that blends emotions with a cross-cultural narrative. It tells the story of a young Tamil woman named Shenbagam, who dreams of traveling to South Korea and eventually finds herself in Seoul.

The plot revolves around her journey as she navigates a completely new environment, facing cultural differences, language barriers, and personal challenges. As she adapts to life in a foreign country, the story explores themes of identity, belonging, and self-discovery.

Priyanka Arul Mohan plays the lead role, bringing emotional depth to a character that undergoes significant transformation throughout the film. The narrative focuses not

just on her external journey but also her internal growth as she learns to embrace change and independence.

Adding authenticity to the story, the film also features South Korean actors in important roles, enhancing the cultural backdrop and making the setting more immersive. The makers aim to present a realistic portrayal of life abroad while maintaining a relatable emotional core.

The decision to opt for a direct OTT release reflects the growing trend of digital premieres, especially for content-driven films that cater to a global audience. With its unique storyline and international setting, Made in Korea is expected to appeal to viewers beyond regional boundaries.

With a promising premise, strong performances, and a fresh narrative approach, the film is generating interest ahead of its release. Audiences are now looking forward to experiencing this cross-cultural journey when it premieres on March 12.