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69 Killed, 169 Injured in Suicide Bombing at shrine In Islamabad

Islamabad: At least 69 people were killed, and 169 were injured after a suicide bomber detonated himself inside a shrine in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad. The explosion occurred at Tarlai Imambargah, situated in the Shehzad Town area of the city. According to Pakistani media reports, a suicide bomber detonated explosives at the main gate of the Shia place of worship during afternoon hours.



Quoting security officials, The Times of Islamabad reported that the attacker appears to have been stopped by alert guards at the entrance, preventing entry into the main hall where worshippers had gathered. Despite the interception, video footage of the blast site showed the explosion caused heavy damage to the gate structure and shattered windows of nearby buildings, with debris scattered across the road. Dead bodies, several with their limbs apart, were also seen in the videos. Following the blast, the Islamabad Inspector General of Police declared a city-wide emergency while rescue and law-enforcement teams rushed to the scene amid fears of multiple casualties. The Times of Islamabad reported. The injured are being shifted to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Polyclinic Hospital.

The incident occurred less than three months after a suicide blast outside a district and sessions court building in Islamabad on November 11, 2025. Twelve people were killed, and more than 30 were injured in the explosion. Pakistan's Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif condemned a blast at a Shiite mosque in the capital, Islamabad, on Friday that killed at least 69 people. He expressed "deep grief" and "strongly condemns" the blast that also wounded at least 80 people, a statement said.

Indian Army Launches 'Friends For Life' Platform To Boost Military Ties With 99 Nations

New Delhi: Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday launched a website titled 'Friends for Life', aimed at strengthening professional engagement and enduring bonds among military officers from India and friendly foreign countries. According to the Indian Army, the platform was launched in the presence of Foreign Service Attaches from 39 friendly foreign countries. It will serve as a bridge connecting generations of military leaders from 99 countries who have trained together at the Indian Army training establishments. "The platform will foster continued professional engagement and rekindle enduring bonds among Indian and foreign alumni," the Army said in a post on X.



The post by the Additional Directorate General of Public Information, IHQ of MoD (Army) said, "General Upendra Dwivedi today, along with Foreign Service Attaches from 39 Friendly Foreign Countries,

launched a website titled 'Friends for Life'. The platform will serve as a bridge connecting generations of military leaders from 99 countries who have trained together at Indian Army training establishments, fostering continued professional engagement and rekindling enduring bonds among Indian and foreign alumni." It added, "In the past decade alone, the Indian Army has trained over 21,500 service personnel from Friendly Foreign Countries. Through the launch of 'Friends for Life', the Indian Army is not only connecting its alumni but also

weaving a global network of friendships that will strengthen institutions, enhance collaboration, improve interoperability and contribute to deeper Defence Cooperation." The Indian Army said that more than 21,500 service personnel from friendly foreign countries have been trained at its institutions over the past decade. Through the 'Friends for Life' initiative, the Army said it aims to build a global network that will strengthen military institutions, enhance collaboration, improve interoperability and contribute to deeper defence cooperation.

Jagan consolation tour tragedy - YSRCP 2 activist passed away

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Feb., 6: YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy sacrificed the lives of two people in the name of consolation. Jagan, who had visited Ambati Rambabu's house the other day and visited his family

members, has now reached Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada to visit Jogi Ramesh. However, an activist who had been waiting for Jagan since morning and another fan who was doing a bike stunt lost their lives during the Jagan Yatra. Jagan, who left

his residence in Tadepalli by road, did not reach Ibrahimpatnam even after four hours. YSRCP activist Rambabu, who had been searching for Jagan since morning, collapsed at the Ibrahimpatnam panchayat office after his pulse

dropped. He was immediately taken to Gollapudi Andhra Hospital, where doctors confirmed his death. Similarly, a young man named Bhargava from Ibrahimpatnam Kothagate was seriously injured after he hit a barricade on the

road while doing a stunt on his bike.

Atmakur municipal commissioner in ACB net

Kurnool: An Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) team on Thursday evening caught Atmakur Municipal Commissioner Ramesh Babu red-handed for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 through bill collector Bhaskar at the municipal office in Atmakur town of Nandyal district.

The trap was laid following a complaint lodged by Shaik Sajjath Ali, who alleged that municipal officials demanded illegal gratification for granting permission to construct a marriage function hall.

According to ACB DSP D Somanna, the complainant had approached the Atmakur municipality seeking approval to build a function hall on his agricultural land situated on the outskirts of the town.

Instead of processing the application as per rules, the officials allegedly demanded a bribe for clearing the permission.

CM assures complete protection of farmers land rights through QR code system



From Our Staff Reporter Kurnool, Feb., 6: CM Chandrababu Naidu told the people of AP that he is providing protection to prevent anyone from looking at your land in life. He explained that you can see your land on your cell phone with the QR code. He said that he has become the Chief Minister for the fourth time. He said that he has never seen so many land problems in his life. On Friday, the CM attended the 'Your Land - Your Right' program in Kalugottla village of Emmiganur mandal of Kurnool district as the chief guest. He distributed land title pass books to farmers

with the royal seal. Speaking on the occasion, CM Chandrababu reminded that the farmer who provides rice to the country worked even during the Corona period.

He made it clear that his intention is to provide water to every acre in AP. He said that changes need to be made in line with technology. Chandrababu said that the Super Six schemes have been a super hit. He said that the state is developing rapidly with the construction of the capital Amaravati, the Polavaram project and industries. He said that if he developed Orvakallu, they would have

destroyed it. However, he directly asked the farmers what is the photo of YS Jagan on your inherited land. That is why he gave you new books with the royal seal and gave you your rights again.

He criticized Jagan for ruling with your hair in his hands. He said that YS Jagan has made arrangements in such a way that when children go to school, they have to see his photo. When they go to the field, they have to see his photo. He questioned what the people have to do to see this evil person's photo. He criticized that 80 percent of the land problems are coming. They were outraged that one lakh acres of private land was put in the records of government lands. On this occasion, YSRCP chief and former CM YS Jagan accused them of converting 10 acres of private land near Tadepalle into a helipad. He said that the land, which had a 70-year-old record, was converted into government land. CM Chandrababu exposed the actions of top YSRCP leaders, saying that they had

committed irregularities and misdeeds for political gain and personal interests.

CM Chandrababu said that he is providing security to the people's properties. He made it clear that if anyone sets eyes on your land, they will go to jail. He explained that if there is a single mistake, the land registry book will be torn up, corrected and another book will be given. He said that this policy has been brought with the intention of putting an end to the system of bribes. He said that he will call you and take the details and make changes. He said that books are being given to 91 thousand farmers. CM Chandrababu clarified that he will make AP a state without land disputes. He said that there are fights in the family for half a cent of land. He explained that NTR, who said that Rayalaseema is not a land of stones but a land of gems, decided to make this area fertile. On this occasion, CM Chandrababu reminded that NTR provided water to Chennai only after providing water to Rayalaseema.

Retired IAS warns against mistakes at TTD raises concerns over laddu prasadam controversy

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Feb., 6: Retired IAS officer LV Subramaniam has warned that those who have committed mistakes in the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) will not be spared punishment. He said that he is asking as a common devotee.. Will those who have committed mistakes perform Anga Pradakshina? Will they drown in the Koneti? Former TTD EO LV Subramaniam responded on Friday on the use of adulterated ghee in the preparation of Srivari Laddu Prasadam in Tirumala. He recalled that CM Chandrababu told him that animal fat was mixed in the Laddu Prasadam in 2024. He said that the coalition government has formed an inquiry committee on the Laddu issue. LV Subramaniam explained that the CBI and SIT have taken up the investigation as per the orders of the Supreme Court. He advised the government to take steps to prevent such mistakes from happening in the future. He described this as not just a mistake, but a very heinous



act. He said that he hopes that the facts will be proven soon. He made it clear that the wrongdoers must be punished. He advised the accused not to think of this crime from a political angle for now. LV Subramaniam advised those who committed these acts to confess their sins.

He expressed his concern that there was a lack of integrity among those working in the presence of Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy. He said that a great sin was committed by mixing chemicals in Tirumala prasad. He said that it is regrettable to talk as if no mistake was made in this matter. He said that integrity is

still not coming from those who did the wrong. LV Subramaniam was angry that there are some who dare not be punished. Former TTD EO LV Subramaniam reminded that 13 to 18 thousand kg of ghee is used daily for the preparation of Tirumala laddu prasadam. He was furious that the sacred prasadam of the Lord was being desecrated. He explained that the same ghee is used in Annaprashadam as well. Shouldn't the ghee tankers be stopped when it is known that the quality is not good? LV Subramaniam directly questioned the then government.

CM distributes pattadar passbooks to farmers in kurnool district

From Our Staff Reporter Kurnool, Feb., 6: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu visited Kalugottla village in Emmiganur mandal of Kurnool district. On this occasion, he participated in the 'Your Land - Your Right' program and distributed land title pass books to farmers with the royal seal. This program created excitement among the farmers. CM Chandrababu inspected various stalls set

up by the government in the Gram Sabha premises. He spoke directly to farmers and villagers and learned about their problems. He made several suggestions to the officials on issues such as land rights, land records and others.

On this occasion, CM Chandrababu expressed his impatience over the district, constituency, mandal and village level financial calculations. Stat-

ing that 'I have studied all the details of per capita income in advance', CM Chandrababu clearly instructed the District Collector Siri to provide correct data instead of crude calculations. He directed the officials to provide information with comprehensive understanding and responsibly.

CM Chandrababu clarified that MLAs and ministers should also have complete

understanding of financial issues. He said that development is possible only with correct data and clear analysis. CM Chandrababu Naidu made key comments on the issue of the Budaga Jangals. He said that he had previously sent a proposal to the central government to include the Budaga Jangals in the SC list. He made it clear that the central government should enact a law on this matter.

TDP MP Appalanaidu criticizes YS Jagan's tours

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Feb., 6: TDP MP Appalanaidu has severely criticized YSRCP chief and former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to the media on Friday, he said that Pulivendula MLA Jagan is going to Jogi Ramesh's house from Tadepalli Palace. He was furious that he was going to the house of people who spoke in a way that made the members of the society bow their heads. The MP flagged that Jagan's tours are causing

trouble to the people. MP Appalanaidu criticized Jagan's tours for terrorizing the people. He accused CM Chandrababu Naidu of obstructing the state's progress while taking steps to ensure prosperity. He said that people are complaining about Jagan's tours and that YSRCP leaders want to reduce the false myths. He made sarcastic remarks that Jagan is making his tours as if he is going to some spiritual program. He advised that political leaders should

be the guides of the society, YCP leaders. Have they ever organized a single program in Vijayawada for Vangaveeti Ranga? He questioned. The MP said that there is a discussion on Tirupati laddu in the national capital Delhi. If someone gives a laddu, they ask under whose rule it was made. He made it clear that only TDP is protecting the Kapus and BCs. MP Appalanaidu praised CM Chandrababu Naidu for sending people like him to the legislature.



EDITORIAL

Many doubts about the American deal

There are good signs that the uncertainty over the India-US trade deal that has been going on for the past few months is coming to an end. Indian Prime Minister Modi expressed happiness that US President Trump has announced that the tariff burden on Indian products will be reduced from 50 percent to 18 percent. He described it as the patience that has been shown for many years that has finally won. If the tariff reduction as announced by Trump is implemented, the competitiveness of Indian exports in the US market will increase significantly. This is because while US tariffs on Bangladesh, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Pakistan are 19 percent to 20 percent, China has a tariff burden of 34 to 37 percent. Therefore, Indian products will be available cheaper in the US market compared to these countries. Especially the products of pharma, electronics and textile industries are gaining momentum. So far, so good. First, there are no indications that the new tariffs will come into effect immediately. The unconventional approach to the announcement and the lack of comprehensive documentation have left unanswered questions. Regarding the details of the agreement, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said that India is being cautious, that the negotiations are in the final stages and that the details will be revealed soon. Although this contradictory statement does not reflect disagreement, it indicates a different style of negotiations. When the discussions have not reached a conclusion, it is not possible to define from when the 18 percent tariff reduction will come into effect. Secondly, Trump's direct announcement that India has opened its doors freely to American agricultural products is becoming controversial.

While Goyal announced that Indian agricultural and dairy products would be protected from this agreement, within hours of Goyal's announcement, White House officials countered that India fully agreed to US agricultural exports. To clarify this contradiction, both countries need to make a joint announcement. It needs to be clear what was agreed to in the agreement and what they wanted to implement. Third, Trump unilaterally announced that India had agreed to stop buying oil from Russia in view of the mutual benefit of low tariffs. He said that the US would buy oil from Venezuela as an alternative. But that has not been confirmed yet. Russia accounts for a significant share of India's cheap oil imports. If there are alternative routes, the cost will be higher. Refining problems are inevitable. Russia is a reliable veto holder for India in the United Nations.

Breaking with Russia will also create diplomatic problems. India still imports 1.1 to 1.3 million barrels of oil from Russia every day. It is noteworthy that unnamed government sources have stated that India will continue to import oil from companies in Russia that are not subject to US sanctions. Fourth, it is not yet confirmed whether India has agreed to completely eliminate tariffs on American products. Is India committed to buying US products worth \$500 billion as announced by Trump? This is questionable. According to the latest developments, India is proposing that the agreement for India to buy \$500 billion worth of goods from the US will be done in installments over a period of five years. While the total value of goods that India imports from the US is currently only \$45 billion, it remains to be clarified how India agreed to buy \$500 billion worth of goods. It is not known whether any measures to restrict international trade through regulations or policies other than import duties (taxes) have been agreed upon.

Tariff concessions, investments, and purchases are all key issues. Unless all of these are balanced without undue haste, the agreement made by India will not be valuable. Amidst the ongoing discussions, arguments, and rumors on this agreement, clear statements need to be made by the authorities of both countries. It is not enough to just advertise heavily that tariffs will be reduced. A decision needs to be made as to when these tariff reductions will officially come into effect. Because contracts, determination of commodity prices, and supply systems require discussions in the trade circles a few months in advance. Until the agreement is finalized in writing, uncertainty will continue in the trade circles. Its impact will be enormous. Widespread publicity on social media and hasty explanations by the authorities are no substitute for a formal agreement.

There Are Two Big Problems Trump May Run Into If He Actually Attacks Iran

The growing US military presence in the Gulf signals a potential military operation targeting Iran. While the objectives remain unclear, any use of military force would come with distinct constraints for the Trump administration. The Trump administration faces two broad military options with differing objectives and limitations. The first is a limited air operation aimed at the destruction of the Iranian leadership and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and/or destroying the country's nuclear-enriched stockpiles. The second option involves a sustained campaign aimed at ensuring that the current Iranian regime and its nuclear programme are eradicated from their roots and are replaced by a system that is acceptable to the United States and its regional allies. For the administration, the first option has several external, long-term constraints despite being a comfortable immediate one. The second option might have greater domestic, immediate constraints, but might be safer for attaining the desired outcome in the long term.

Limited Strike

This option carries the fewest immediate constraints. It also appears the most likely outcome given the current US military posture, which has limited ground offensive capability but strong air and maritime capability. Without a sustained on-ground troop deployment, such an operation would not require prior Congressional backing. It would also limit risks to US personnel and assets. A limited strike would receive support from partners such as Israel, as was seen during the June 2025 strikes. The United Kingdom is also likely to play a defensive role focused on asset protection. The primary constraints under this option emerge in the post-conflict phase. Israel, the central US partner in this scenario, seeks a permanent end to the Iranian threat. This would require the removal of the current regime,

its replacement with a pro-Western system, and the destruction of Iran's nuclear stockpile. As demonstrated during the June 2025 confrontation, limited strikes alone do not guarantee the desired outcomes. The destruction of nuclear stockpiles without a regime change is likely to provoke strong Iranian retaliation in the short term. Over the longer term, Iran would attempt to re-establish its nuclear programme. This, in turn, would stall negotiations between Iran and the West for the foreseeable future, while sanctions remain in place. Iran would be left more distrustful of the West, allowing greater leverage for China and Russia. If regime change were to follow the destruction of the IRGC, the administration would face the challenge of managing the resulting power vacuum. Wider instability within Iran and the surrounding region would become likely. On-ground troop deployment remains the only effective means of ensuring post-regime change stability and the establishment of civilian governance. However, this option is constrained by political and coalition limits.

Limits To A Sustained Campaign

If Trump were to launch a sustained ground campaign in Iran, he would face significant resistance from Congress and from allied partners. These constraints would narrow operational flexibility and increase pressure to bring the campaign to a rapid conclusion. There is bipartisan consensus within Congress against sustained military intervention in Iran. This opposition is driven by fears of prolonged foreign entanglement and the risk of regional escalation. At the same time, Congress has expressed concern over deteriorating human rights conditions within Iran. The members have repeatedly expressed growing concerns about the misuse of presidential authority to deploy force that is largely derived from Authorization for Use of



Military Force (AUMF) provisions. This concern was first expressed in early December, when, as part of the National Defence Authorization Act, 2026, Congress repealed the AUMF on Iraq. This was followed by the Congressional opposition to the administration's use of force in capturing Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro in early January this year.

Congress is currently engaged in negotiations over the federal budget and associated appropriations bills. In the case of an escalation with Iran, Congress retains the power to introduce provisions restricting funding for a sustained military campaign. It must also approve the use of US forces in a prolonged ground operation. Electoral considerations ahead of the November 2026 mid-term elections further constrain support. Potential US military casualties, damage to national assets and erosion of international prestige would weigh heavily on decision-making. Disruptions to global supply chains and oil shocks resulting from a potential blockade of the Strait of Hormuz would also factor into Congressional calculations. The elections will also keep the administration cautious from pursuing a "fait accompli" approach, whereby the Congress would be compelled to support the

administration's military actions against Iran. In all scenarios, Congressional support remains essential for sustaining a prolonged military campaign.

How Partner States May Respond

The United Kingdom has joined US troop deployments in the region, focusing on the protection of UK assets and the defence of partners such as Qatar. Israel is also likely to support US military action against Iran due to shared strategic interests, as seen during the July 2026 strikes. Kurdish groups may also play a role in a sustained campaign. The US maintains bases across multiple regional states that could become operational during conflict. However, this apparent support also creates challenges. Several regional partners, including Qatar, Oman, the UAE, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, have denied the US their airspace for carrying out attacks against Iran. These states oppose regime change in Iran and fear regional instability and retaliatory escalation that would undermine their interests. US treaty allies and NATO partners such as Japan, Australia, the UK and France are also reluctant. While they supported earlier campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, a conflict with Iran presents higher political and strategic risks.

China's growing assertiveness constrains Japan's ability to contribute troops. NATO is also experiencing internal divisions and declining confidence in US leadership following the rift over Greenland. Some states may still feel compelled to contribute due to their partnership with Israel. Israel may be willing to deploy troops into Iran, but a sustained campaign risks triggering internal instability and renewed pro-Palestinian militant activity. These risks would limit the scale and duration of Israeli troop contributions. The Kurds remain an important regional partner and potential contributors. However, they have also expressed declining trust in the US as a reliable ally following developments in Syria. All these political and coalition constraints significantly limit the Trump administration's ability to execute a sustained military campaign against Iran. Taken together, the Trump administration faces strong limits on conducting any form of military strikes against Iran. These limitations also explain the renewed attempts at US-Iran negotiations and the administration's seeming preference to maintain the status quo despite the built-up over the past few weeks. It is impossible to predict with certainty if the US will take the military option, but if they do, it will be from a position of discomfort.

Supreme Court's Refusal To Hear Direct Cash Transfer To Voters Case Is Flawed

The Supreme Court's refusal to entertain a petition challenging the direct cash transfer to voters while Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for election was in operation, the Election Commission of India's turning blind eye to the violation of MCC in this way, and deploying beneficiaries on election duty on the polling day is flawed because it has identifiable legal weaknesses and also political overtones bullying a petitioner political party for its failure in election while making it one of the grounds without going into the merit of the allegation.

While refusing to hear the petition on Friday February filed by Jan Suraaj Party founded by a well known political strategist Prashant Kishor, the Supreme Court Bench comprised of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed the petitioner to approach the Patna High Court. The petitioner had sought annulment of the 2025 Bihar Legislative Assembly Election and appropriate guidelines and direction to ensure free and fair elections by stopping the corrupt practice resorted to by the ruling establishments to win elections. The most disturbing was the political comment of the CJI, "How many votes did your political party get? People reject you and they use judicial platform to get popularity. ... We cannot issue an omnibus direction for the entire state that too at the instance of a political party." It is unfortunate that CJI took this view while ignoring the issue that was raised in the

petition. JSP had moved the petition alleging that the Bihar government violated the MCC by transferring Rs 10,000 to women beneficiaries under the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rojgar Yojna that was launched virtually by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The petitioner had alleged that the debt-ridden state disbursed Rs 15,600 crore influencing voters in violation of the Article 324 of the Constitution of India, and Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act.

Supreme Court erred while it resorted to bullying the petitioner merely because its failure in the election. How many votes did you get? - the court asked and added in the same breath - Once people reject you, you use the judicial forum to get relief! It was only a partial and one-sided view of looking at the matter. Though we know that JSP could not win any single seat and most of its candidate forfeited their deposits, it is also a fact that JSP has got over 16 lakh votes which was 3.34 per cent of the total valid votes polled. It means JSP is the voice of so many people of the state, and therefore it can't be summarily dismissed.

Courts reference to the petitioner's electoral failure and perceived search for publicity has other flaws also, such as Constitutional jurisprudence does not recognize electoral success as a criterion for legal standing, or failure as forfeiture of their right to demand justice. Historically speaking, many transformative constitution cases were brought by those

who were politically marginal actors.

Therefore, to weigh a petitioner's electoral popularity while deciding entertainability of a legal petition risks introducing a subjective and extra-legal standard into constitution adjudication. Judiciary is expected to adjudicate claims, not motives. How can a court decided about the motive without hearing the merit of the case? Politically unsuccessful parties have also right to raise issues like violation of MCC during election, since they are victims of the distortion of the level playing field vitiating free and fair election.

Another question is raised by the critics about other observations of the court, such as "Somebody should have challenged the scheme itself then. That is not the prayer before us. You just want the election to be declared null and void." CJI also said, "We will consider the freebies issue. But we have to see the bona fide also... we cannot look at that at the behest of a party which has just lost. When you come to power, you will do the exact thing." Take the last comment first. Telling a political party that when you come to power, you will do the exact thing, is just imagination of the court, and it is like an astrological prediction, to sound legal consideration. The court has no business to use such speculative language. It is just running down someone even before they commit something wrong.

A political party is a stakeholder in a democracy, and perhaps CJI can't justifiably says

"we cannot look at that (the issue of freebies) at the behest of a party which has just lost." Then we have to see the bona fide also, the court said. One fails to understand how raising an issue that is prima facie violation of MCC by a political party that lost election is not bona fide. Any citizen of the country is bona fide, and he must be heard, even he is a total failure. The petition was filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, which allows direct access to the Supreme Court for enforcement of fundamental rights), but the court said the appropriated remedy was to file petitions in the High Court because it was "state specific". However, simply being state-specific doesn't automatically make article 32 unavailable, especially where constitutional rights like free and fair election under Article 324 and equality under article 14 are allegedly violated.

Court did not examine whether the alleged violation of the MCC might constitute corrupt practice. It is precisely for this reason, the Supreme Court decision of refusal to entertain the petition is seen to have done on political consideration, that is party's lack of electoral success, and procedural technicalities such as jurisdiction rather than an assessment of the legal merits of the allegations.

Taking the view by the Supreme Court that it looked like an election dispute and hence to be decided by High Courts in only partially current, and may be not wrong in principle. How-

ever, when the allegations like systemic violation of free and fair election, misuse of state machinery, mass inducement or bribery of voters, breach of equality under Article 14, and distortion of electoral choice under Article 19(1)(a) are involved, Supreme Court's refusal is not sound. It is especially when the Supreme Court has already decided that free and fair elections are part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India.

The Court has flawed when mixed political commentary with legal jurisdiction while referring to electoral defeat, loss of seats, or seeking publicity. Courts are expected to separate political popularity from constitutionality. Refusal to entertain the petition without testing "systemic impact" is flawed also because the petitioner raised systemic distortion of electoral choice which is a constitution issue, and it is not individual corrupt practice that should be handled by election petitions. Court's refusal is not aligned with its own constitutional precedents and decisions.

The strength of constitutional democracy lies not in protecting electoral outcomes, but in safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process itself. Even weak or unpopular petitioners can expose constitutional fault lines. By declining to examine those fault lines at the threshold, the Court may have missed an opportunity to reinforce, rather than retreat from, its role as the guardian of free and fair elections.

Aditya University Faculty Visit AMTZ as Part of FDP

Gandepalli, Feb 6: As part of the Faculty Development Program (FDP), the National Center for Additive Manufacturing and the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Aditya University organized an industrial visit to the Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) in Visakhapatnam on February 6, 2026. Faculty members from Aditya University, along with professors and academicians from other leading universities, visited the Centre of Excellence on Additive Manufacturing in the Medical Device Sector. Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy, Deputy Pro-Chancellor of Aditya University, stated that the delegation interacted with Executive Director Mr. Nitturi Naresh Kumar, who provided detailed insights into advanced additive manufacturing facilities, modern equipment, and their medical and industrial applications. The visit is expected to enhance the technical expertise and research capabilities of the participating faculty members.



Mahashivaratri Arrangements to Be Tightened in Rampachodavaram



Our Correspondent D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam Rampachodavaram, PenPower, February 6: ITDA Project Officer and Polavaram District Joint Collector Bachu Smaran Raj has directed officials to make comprehensive arrangements for the Mahashivaratri festivities scheduled from February 15 to 19. Chairing a review meeting at the ITDA office on Friday, he instructed all departments to coordinate effectively to ensure smooth conduct of the celebrations without inconvenience to devotees. He called for strict security measures, uninterrupted

power supply, additional APSRTC bus services, adequate drinking water facilities, continuous sanitation, special medical camps, and fire safety preparedness. Arrangements are to be made not only at the Rampa Shiva temple but also at temples in Gurabanda, Puthigunta, and Jaddangi villages. Sub-Divisional Police Officer Sai Prashanth stated that extensive police bandobast will be deployed to maintain law and order during the festival. Several officials from revenue, police, health, transport, power, panchayat raj, and temple committees attended the meeting.

Akshara Andhra Learners Must Be Updated in App: Collector A. Thameem Ansariya



Pen Power, Guntur, February 6: District Collector A. Thameem Ansariya directed officials to complete updating Akshara Andhra learners' details in the app by Monday.

During a virtual review meeting held on Friday, he noted that registrations were low in Tadepalli, Pedanandipadu, Guntur town, and Tenali, and urged officials to improve progress to make the district a leader in literacy. He emphasized effective implementation of the ULLAS-Akshara Andhra programme to ensure that identified non-literate persons gain basic reading, writing, numeracy, digital, and financial literacy skills. The 100-hour training programme, which began in October, will continue until March. Pre-final exams will be held on February 28 and final exams on March 29. Officials were instructed to closely monitor training centres and ensure quality implementation. The Collector also directed officials to speed up the Unified Family Survey while maintaining accuracy and quality. Several district officials participated in the meeting.

TTD EO Assumes Charge



Tirumala, Feb 6 (Pen Power): Muddada Ravichandra assumed charge as the Executive Officer (EO) of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Friday. Upon arriving in Tirumala along with his spouse, the couple first offered prayers at Sri Bhuvanacharya Temple. Later, they proceeded to the main temple through the Vaikuntham Queue Complex and had darshan of Lord Venkateswara.

Ravichandra formally took charge as EO at the Ranganayakula Mandapam. Temple priests blessed the couple and presented teertha prasadam, which was handed over by TTD Additional EO Venkaiah Chowdary. Several TTD officials, including CVSO Murali Krishna and JEO Veerabrahmam, were present on the occasion and conveyed their greetings.

Vignan Engineering Student Wins Bronze at Junior National Ball Badminton Championship

Visakhapatnam, Feb 6: Kavya, a III B.Tech CSE-A student of Vignan Institute of Engineering for Women, secured a bronze medal at the 70th Junior National Ball Badminton Championship 2025-26. According to the official merit certificate issued by the Ball Badminton Federation of India, she clinched third place in the prestigious national-level tournament. The championship was held at Excel Group Institutions, Erode, Tamil Nadu, from January 28 to February 1, 2026. Competing against talented players from across the country, Kavya brought national recognition to her institution through her outstanding performance, dedication, and sportsmanship. Principal Dr. B. Arundhati congratulated Kavya and appreciated her hard work, discipline, and commitment to sports. The manage-



ment, faculty, and students expressed pride in her achievement and extended best wishes for her future academic and sporting endeavors.

Strong Response to Bapatla Sevasetu Launched Under P-4 Initiative: Collector

Bapatla, February 6: District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar said that the Bapatla Sevasetu programme, launched in the district inspired by the P-4 initiative, has been receiving an overwhelming response from all sections of society. At a programme held in the Collectorate on Thursday, District Excise and Prohibition Officer C.H.

Naresh handed over an incinerator to the Collector. The Collector stated that the device has been provided to AP Model School, Chirala. He added that Bapatla Sevasetu is emerging as a meaningful platform for individuals willing to take up social service activities. District Education Officer Srinivas Singh also attended the programme.

Special Classes for Class 10 Tribal Students: ITDA Project Officer



Our Correspondent D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam Rampachodavaram, February 6 (Pen Power): ITDA Project Officer and Polavaram District Joint Collector Bachu Smaran Raj has directed officials to conduct special classes for Class 10 students studying in Tribal Welfare Ashram Schools to help them secure good marks in the upcoming public examinations. During a surprise

visit to the Tribal Welfare Girls Ashram School at Rajavommangi village on Friday, the Joint Collector reviewed the academic progress of the students. He instructed teachers to guide students clearly on how to write answers in public examinations and to provide repeated practice and proper exam-oriented training. He emphasized that special classes should be conducted daily until the completion of the Class 10 examinations. The Joint Collector also interacted with students and advised them to set clear goals for their future education and careers after completing Class 10. He encouraged them to work hard, score good marks, and choose subjects of their interest in Intermediate. Further, he directed teachers to ensure effective teaching methods and instructed officials to strictly implement the prescribed government menu in the school. Mandal Education Officer M. Satyanarayana, Velugu Anchor Person Ramaraju and others accompanied him.

District Collector Reviews Arrangements for Maha Shivaratri Festivities

Kakinada, Feb 6 (Pen Power): District Collector Shan Mohan on Friday inspected the arrangements being made for the upcoming Maha Shivaratri celebrations at the Sri Kumar Bhimeswara Swamy Temple in Samarlakota. He reviewed preparations along with officials from various departments including Endowments, Municipal Administration, Roads & Buildings, Revenue, Police, Medical & Health, RWS, Fire Services, Irrigation and others. The Collector directed officials to ensure proper facilities for devotees from February 13 to 18, including drinking water, sanitation, lighting, medical camps, security arrangements, queue lines, barricading, traffic regulation and parking. He instructed the Irrigation Department to release water into the temple tank and Godavari canal ghats for holy baths and to clear debris in advance. He also ordered deployment of an ambulance and medical staff, proper functioning of



the RO plant for safe drinking water, and temporary toilets through the Samarlakota Municipality. Emphasizing coordination among all departments, the Collector said that arrangements must be completed to avoid inconvenience to devotees.

Collective Efforts Needed for Successful Godavari Pushkaralu 2027: Minister Kandula Durgesh



Rajahmundry, February 6 (Pen Power): State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said the government aims to conduct the Godavari Pushkaralu 2027 in a grand and hassle-free manner for devotees through collective efforts. Reviewing the preparedness at the Collectorate on Friday, the Minister directed coordination among Police, Revenue, Municipal, Endowments, Tourism, Irrigation, Electricity, R&B and Panchayat Raj departments. He said a comprehensive action plan would soon be prepared with state-level officials. Tourism packages linking major spiritual destinations will be introduced, and high-standard tent cities on the lines of

Kumbh Mela will be set up to accommodate lakhs of devotees. The Home Stay policy will be promoted in both Godavari districts. Extensive awareness campaigns will also be undertaken. The Minister stated that works under the ₹97 crore Akhanda Godavari Tourism Project will be completed before Pushkaralu. Proposals worth over ₹1,000 crore will be prepared for road connectivity. Special focus will be given to security and parking arrangements. District Collector Keerthi Chekuri and public representatives suggested early execution of development works, equal priority to all ghats, and clear proposals for central and state funding.

Swachhotsav to be Held from February 6 to March 6 under RMC



Rajahmundry, February 6: State Tourism and Culture Minister Kandula Durgesh inaugurated the wall poster and brochure for "Rajahmundry Swachhotsav," which will be conducted by the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation (RMC) from February 6 to March 6.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister urged citizens to work collectively to realize the vision of a clean Rajamahendravaram. He appreciated the month-long action plan designed to promote sanitation awareness

among residents.

The weekly themes include "Sankalp Spath," "Plastic-Free Crusade," "The Youth for Waste Movement," "The Sanitation Shield Series," and "The Grand Finale Festival." The Minister called upon public representatives, citizens, students, NGOs, and business communities to actively participate and help transform the city into a model clean and eco-friendly city.

Several public representatives and district officials attended the event.

Siraj frontrunner as India sweat over Harshit Rana's fitness ahead of T20 World Cup



Mumbai: With India suffering a setback ahead of kickstarting their Men's T20 World Cup title defence due to suspense over the participation of pace-bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana, chatter has picked up over who could be his replacement for the showpiece event. Rana, who has nine T20I caps so far, suffered a knee injury during India's warm-up match against South Africa at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday. He was seen limping off the field while clutching his knee during the warm-up match after bowling just one over, where he conceded 16 runs and aborted twice in his run-up. While India skipper Suryakumar Yadav insisted that Rana hasn't been ruled out yet, sources told IANS on Friday that senior pacer Mohammed Siraj is the frontrunner to replace him, while seam-bowling all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy and fast bowler Prasad Krishna are also under consideration. "As of now, the replacement for Rana has not been chosen yet. Between Siraj, Nitish and Prasad, a suitable replacement will be decided in consultation with all the con-

cerned stakeholders. It's for sure that Rana's replacement will be between these three only, though Siraj is slightly ahead of others for the nod," further said sources. Though Rana is not an automatic starter in India's playing eleven for the World Cup, his ability to contribute with the bat at either number eight or nine lends balance to the team apart from his bowling skills. In the past few months, Rana has shown glimpses of using the long handle and adding more batting depth to India's line-up. Siraj has 16 T20I caps and was a member of the side winning the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup. Prasad, who was the Purple Cap winner for being the leading wicket-taker in IPL 2025, has played five T20Is for India, though all of them came in 2023. Reddy, meanwhile, has featured in four T20Is and is currently turning out for Andhra in their Ranji Trophy quarter-final against Bengal at the Bengal Cricket Academy Ground in Kalyani. With India already sweating over Washington Sundar's fitness for the mega event, finding a replacement for Rana will be the key for the side aiming to launch their title defence on a high at home.

Dil Raju Acquires Toxic for Rs.120 Cr on Advance Commission



Yash is set to appear in a Geethu Mohandas directorial after the massive success of the KGF franchise. His highly anticipated next film, Toxic – A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups has an enormous buzz across India. The film releasing worldwide release on March 19, 2026, the makers have officially kick-started the promotions with a banger teaser, amplifying excitement. The film has immense buzz particularly in the Telugu states, fueled largely by Yash's star power. The buzz has now reached a new level with ace producer Dil Raju joining hands with KVN Productions to distribute the film in the Telugu states. Dil Raju reportedly acquired the Telugu theatrical rights for a staggering ₹120 crore on an advance-commission basis. Speaking on the deal, Dil Raju noted that Yash has grown into a formidable figure in Indian cinema since KGF 2, with anticipation for his next project building steadily over the past four years. The investment reflects SVC's strong belief in Yash's stardom and the film's content, with the team excited to bring this prestigious project to audiences. Key technicians shaping the film's scale and vision include National Award-winning cinematographer Rajeev Ravi, composer Ravi Basrur of KGF fame. Adding global flair, Hollywood action expert JJ Perry, known for the John Wick franchise, along with National Award-winning duo Anbariv, have choreographed some of the film's most crucial and high-octane sequences. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film has been shot simultaneously in English and Kannada, and will also release in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and more. Jointly produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is set to ignite the festive frame with a nationwide and global release.

Group D of T20 World Cup 2026 promises fierce contest with no former champions



Hyderabad: Group D of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 is unique as the only group featuring no previous winners. That is not to say it is lacking quality however, with two recent finalists in South Africa and New Zealand, as well as 2024 semi-finalists Afghanistan all in the mix in a group where matches will be played in Chennai, Ahmedabad and Delhi, according to ICC media release on Friday. Joining them are Canada, looking to build on their debut showing two years ago, and the United Arab Emirates, who are competing for the third time.

Afghanistan
Packed with experience and looking to build on their run to the semi-finals in 2024, Afghanistan arrived in India with big ambitions. Captained by Rashid Khan, Afghanistan come into the tournament off the back of series victories over the West Indies and Zimbabwe in their last two T20I bilateral series. Two years ago, Rahmanullah Gurbaz finished as the top run-scorer in the tournament, while Fazalhaq Farooqi topped the wicket tally. In sub-continental conditions, it may be the spinners who have a bigger role to play and between Rashid and Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Afghanistan have two of the very best. Add in Noor Ahmad and the ageless all-round skill of Mohammad Nabi, and Afghanistan have plenty of potential matchwinners upon which to call.

Canada
Two years on from making their Men's T20 World Cup debut in the USA and the West Indies, Canada are back on the world stage for the 10th edition, looking for more of the same. In 2024, the Canadians opened their account with a win over Ireland but lost out to the USA and Pakistan as they bowed out in the first round. They secured their ticket for the tournament by

cruising through the Americas Regional Final, winning six matches out of six. Dilpreet Bajwa was one of the standouts during that run, and has taken over the captaincy from Nicholas Kirton, who remains part of the squad.

Teenager Yuvraj Samra could be a key contributor at the top of the order and has shown a propensity for scoring quickly, including a 15-ball half-century against Bahamas.

New Zealand
For the second World Cup running, New Zealand find themselves drawn against a pair of T20 heavyweights and will be seeking to avoid the fate they suffered in 2024. On that occasion, they paid the price for defeats to the West Indies and Afghanistan, and it is against the latter that they kick off their campaign this time around. The Black Caps have geared up for the conditions with a recent tour of India, claiming the ODI series but beaten 4-1 in the T20Is. Mitchell Santner captains the team and will be crucial with both bat and ball, while New Zealand certainly have the firepower to score big runs. Santner and Ish Sodhi will be important in slowing down the opposition run-rate, alongside a host of quicks led by tournament debutant Jacob Duffy. And in Glenn Phillips, they have a fielder capable of taking screamers like few others in the history of the game.

South Africa
It looked as though South Africa would finally break their duck at World Cups in 2024 when they were motoring through their chase in the final against India. A stunning spell from Jasprit Bumrah changed that and left Proteas fans broken-hearted, but the response from the team has been emphatic. That ICC crown at the World Test Championship was proof that South Africa can get over the line, and they will be looking to avenge that 2024 final defeat here. In Aidan

Markram, they have a vastly experienced skipper, while any batting line-up featuring Quinton de Kock, Dewald Brevis, Ryan Rickelton and David Miller can score big. With the ball, Keshav Maharaj will be crucial as potentially the only specialist spinner in the best XI, but the pace of Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and Anrich Nortje will no doubt do some damage.

United Arab Emirates
The United Arab Emirates are a team on the rise, having enjoyed some recent success against full member nations ahead of this tournament.

Borussia Dortmund Dare To Dream As Bayern Munich's Title March Falts

In just two matchdays, Borussia Dortmund have cut Bayern Munich's lead atop the Bundesliga ladder by five points, drawing six behind the league leaders and potentially reviving a title race long considered dead. After Bayern played the best opening half to a season in Bundesliga history, another league crown seemed a mere formality. But Bayern's shock home loss to Augsburg -- their first league defeat in 10 months -- along with a hard-fought draw in Hamburg last Saturday have allowed Niko Kovac's Dortmund to edge closer. Dortmund play at wobbling Wolfsburg on Saturday, a day before Bayern's home clash with red-hot Hoffenheim.

A Dortmund victory would draw them three points behind Bayern -- at least for 24 hours -- turning the screw on the Bavarian giants who are in the mix for three competitions this season. Dortmund's current points total of 45 from 20 games is their highest tally at this stage of the season since the 2018-19 campaign. Dortmund host Bayern in late February in a match with growing title ramifications.

Ever circumspect, Dortmund coach Niko Kovac said Thurs-

day his side needed to focus on controlling what they can in their own performances. "We can determine our own fate by ensuring the others don't catch us. We can't determine the fate of others," Kovac said of the battle with Bayern. "We're six points behind and we play Bayern Munich only once. "But if there's anything more than that at stake, you can be sure we'll give our all."

Dortmund's only loss this league season came at Bayern, a 2-1 defeat in which the visitors had several chances to snatch at least a point. In Sunday's 3-2 home win over last-placed Heidenheim, Dortmund fell behind and could easily have dropped points late. Against second-last St Pauli in January, Dortmund led by two goals but needed a stoppage-time penalty to win.

"As a coach I can't be focused on the result, I see the game itself," Kovac said. Kovac's men would be much closer to the Bavarian giants by seeing games through. The 2024 Champions League finalists have dropped 10 points in the league having led inside the final 20 minutes. One to watch: Grisca Proemel (Hoffenheim)

Nabha Natesh Serves Glam With Killer Poses

Nabha Natesh began her acting journey while she was still in college, taking part in stage performances and events. She is also trained in Bharatanatyam, and that grace clearly shows in the way she poses and carries herself in photos. Her dance background adds a natural flow and confidence to her body language. In her latest pictures, Nabha is seen in a blue sequin outfit that instantly grabs attention. She wears a strappy bralette with a matching skirt, confidently flaunting her toned midriff. The look is styled with a statement necklace, no earrings, open hair, and bold kajal around her eyes. Her poses are sensuous yet classy, giving every frame a strong glamour touch. On the work front, Nabha was last seen in 2024 in the horror comedy Darling, which failed to perform well at the box office. Since then, she has stayed away from the big screen. She is now gearing up for her next film Swamyambhu, which is currently in post-production and stars Nikhil Siddhartha in the lead role.

