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Chandrababu Naidu Announces 5 Lakh Relief for Markapuram Bus Tragedy Victims

Amaravati, March 26 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced an ex gratia of 5 lakh for the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic bus accident in Markapuram, offering immediate financial support to the bereaved.

The accident occurred in the early hours near Rayavaram when a private travel bus collided with a tipper lorry and subsequently caught fire. The impact of the collision triggered a massive blaze, which quickly engulfed the vehicle, trapping several passengers inside. The intensity of the fire

made rescue operations extremely challenging, leading to multiple fatalities and injuries.

According to officials, over a dozen passengers lost their lives in the mishap, while many others sustained injuries, some of them critically. Emergency response teams, including police and fire personnel, rushed to the spot and worked to douse the flames and rescue survivors. The injured were immediately shifted to nearby hospitals in Markapuram and Ongole, where they are receiving treatment. Authorities have ensured that those in critical condition are being provided advanced medical care.

Expressing deep grief over

the incident, the Chief Minister conveyed his condolences to the families of the victims and assured them of full support from the state government. In addition to the 5 lakh compensation for the families of the deceased, financial assistance has also been announced for the injured to aid their recovery. Naidu held discussions with senior officials and directed them to closely monitor the situation. He instructed authorities to ensure that there is no shortage of medical facilities for the injured and that all necessary assistance is extended to the affected families without delay.

The Chief Minister also ordered a thorough investigation

into the cause of the accident. Preliminary reports suggest that the collision led to a fuel-related fire, which spread rapidly and intensified the damage. Officials have been asked to submit a detailed report after examining all aspects of the incident. Meanwhile, the district administration has set up help desks and control rooms to assist families seeking information about their relatives. Efforts are ongoing to identify the victims and provide necessary support. The tragic incident has once again highlighted the need for stricter road safety measures and enforcement of transport regulations to prevent such accidents in the future.



Pawan Kalyan Expresses Grief Over Markapuram Bus Tragedy

Amaravati, March 26 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has expressed deep shock and sorrow over the tragic bus accident near Rayavaram in Markapuram district, terming the incident extremely heartbreaking.

In a message shared on social media, he said he was deeply saddened to learn that several passengers lost their lives in the mishap. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for strength to help them cope with the loss.

Pawan Kalyan also wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the accident and directed officials to ensure that they receive the best possible medical treatment without delay. He

emphasized the need for immediate and coordinated response from the administration to support the victims and their families.

The accident occurred when a private travel bus collided with a tipper lorry and caught fire, resulting in multiple casualties. The intensity of the blaze left several passengers trapped inside, making rescue operations difficult. The Deputy Chief Minister said he had sought detailed information about the incident from officials and is closely monitoring the situation. He assured that the state government would extend all necessary assistance to those affected by the tragedy. The incident has triggered widespread grief across the state, with leaders and citizens expressing condolences and calling for stronger safety measures to prevent such accidents in the future.

Ministers, YS Sharmila Express Shock Over Markapuram Tragedy

Amaravati, March 26 | TPN Bureau

Several ministers and Y. S. Sharmila expressed deep shock and grief over the tragic road accident near Rayavaram in Markapuram of Prakasam district, which claimed multiple lives and left many injured. State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha conveyed profound sorrow over the incident and immediately directed district officials to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured. She instructed the District Collector and Superintendent of Police to closely monitor rescue and relief operations. Soon after, she left Vijayawada for the accident site to personally assess the situation. The Home Minister assured that the state government would extend full support to the affected families and ensure that all necessary assistance is provided without delay. Other ministers, including Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Anam Ramnarayana Reddy, Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, Savitha, B. C. Janardhan Reddy, Kandula Durgesh, and Vasamsetti Subhash also expressed deep an-



guish over the mishap. They conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. The ministers urged officials to intensify relief measures and ensure that victims receive the highest standard of medical care. Leaders across the political spectrum described the incident as deeply distressing and emphasized the need for swift and effective response from the administration. They called for coordinated efforts to support the victims and prevent further loss of life. The tragic accident has sparked widespread concern, with leaders reiterating the importance of road safety and timely emergency response. Authorities continue to carry out rescue and relief operations while extending assistance to those affected by the incident.

PM Announces Ex Gratia for Markapuram Accident Victims

New Delhi, March 26 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic road accident in Markapuram in Andhra Pradesh, describing the incident as extremely heartbreaking. In a message, the Prime Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the accident. He said his thoughts are with the affected families during this difficult time and prayed for strength and courage for them to cope with the loss. The Prime Minister also wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the mishap, expressing hope that they regain their health at the earliest. Announcing financial assistance, Narendra Modi stated that an ex gratia of 2 lakh will be provided to the families of the deceased, while 50,000 will be given to those injured. The compensation will be disbursed from the Prime



Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). The tragic accident, which occurred near Rayavaram in Markapuram, claimed several lives and left many others injured after a bus collided with a lorry and caught fire. The incident has triggered widespread grief and condolences from leaders across the country. Authorities are continuing rescue and relief operations, while efforts are underway to provide medical care to the injured and support to the bereaved families. The Prime Minister's announcement is expected to provide immediate financial relief to those affected by the tragedy.

AP Cabinet Clears Key Decisions on Amaravati, Power and Welfare

Amaravati, March 26 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, took several key decisions focusing on capital development, infrastructure, judiciary expansion, and welfare measures.

A major highlight of the meeting was the Cabinet's resolution seeking an amendment to Section 5 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, to grant legal status to Amaravati as the state capital. The Cabinet also decided to hold a detailed four-hour discussion in the Assembly on the capital issue and pass a resolution.



In the education sector, approval was granted to SRM University at Neerukonda for constructing academic buildings up to a height of 60 meters. The Cabinet also cleared the creation of 96 junior and senior civil judge courts across the

state to strengthen the judicial system.

Several decisions were taken to support communities and boost economic activity. The Cabinet discussed prioritising mineral lease allocations to Vaddera communities and ap-

proved a 50 percent concession in premium and seigniorage fees for mineral leases. It also sanctioned posts including Physical Education Teacher, nurse, and record assistant at a girls' school in Kuppam.

In a relief measure for taxpayers, the Cabinet approved a waiver of interest on pending property tax dues for the financial year 2025-26. Administrative approvals were also granted for modernisation and repair works in various irrigation projects under the Water Resources Department.

The Cabinet cleared proposals for land allotments to different institutions and emphasised the expansion of infrastructure. It also decided to establish electric vehicle

charging stations across the state to promote sustainable mobility. In the energy sector, the Cabinet directed officials to reduce power losses through the PM Kusum scheme and approved the installation of battery storage systems at 33/11 kV substations. Additionally, it was decided to provide 2,000 Surya Ghar connections in each constituency between April 5 and 14 to boost solar energy adoption. The meeting also included a detailed presentation on the state's power sector, highlighting future plans and reforms. Overall, the decisions reflect the government's focus on development, sustainability, and welfare, with a strong push towards infrastructure growth and energy efficiency.

NTR's Legacy Lives On; Chandrababu Driving Welfare, Says Bhuvaneshwari

Chittoor, March 26 | TPN Bureau

Nara Bhuvaneshwari said that the legacy of N. T. Rama Rao continues to live in the hearts of the people, while Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is carrying forward his vision with a strong focus on public welfare.

On the third day of her four-day tour of Kuppam constituency, Bhuvaneshwari participated in several programmes, highlighting development initiatives and welfare schemes being implemented in the region.

At Ramakuppam, she unveiled a bronze statue of N. T. Rama Rao in the presence of a large gathering of party workers and supporters. Addressing the gathering, she said NTR founded the Telugu Desam Party with the principle that society is a temple and people are its gods. She described the unveiling of his statue as a moment of pride and said his contributions to the upliftment of the poor remain unmatched.

She recalled that NTR introduced several landmark welfare schemes, including subsidised rice for the poor and equal property rights for wom-



en, a first of its kind in the country. He also promoted women's empowerment through reservations and established institutions such as women's universities.

Bhuvaneshwari said that inspired by NTR's ideals, Chandrababu Naidu has been implementing various welfare and development programmes. She highlighted initiatives such as community-based self-help groups, subsidised food schemes, and welfare programmes aimed at improving the living standards of the poor. Later, she paid floral tributes to B. R. Ambedkar at his statue in Ramakuppam.

During her visit to Balla village in Ramakuppam mandal, she interacted with women and emphasised the government's comprehensive development plan for Kuppam. She said the

Chief Minister is working towards the vision of a "Golden Andhra" and "Golden Kuppam" through focused planning and large-scale investments. She stated that industrial growth in the region is expected to create employment opportunities for local youth. Welfare schemes such as financial assistance for families, free gas cylinders for women, healthcare initiatives, and housing support are being implemented to improve quality of life. Bhuvaneshwari added that the government is committed to inclusive development, ensuring that welfare benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries irrespective of political affiliation. She expressed confidence that with sustained efforts, Kuppam will emerge as a model constituency in the state.

Droupadi Murmu Expresses Grief Over AP Bus Tragedy

New Delhi, March 26 | TPN Bureau

President of India Droupadi Murmu has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in the tragic bus accident in Andhra Pradesh's Markapuram district.

In a message, the President said she was "deeply saddened" to learn about the devastating incident that claimed several lives and left many others injured. Extending her heartfelt condolences, she conveyed her sympathies to the bereaved families and prayed for strength to help them cope with the loss.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims," she said, while also wishing a speedy recovery to those injured in the accident.

The mishap occurred in the early hours near Rayavaram, when a private travel bus collided with a tipper lorry and caught fire. The impact of the collision triggered a massive blaze, engulfing the bus and trapping several passengers inside. The intensity of the fire resulted in multiple fatalities, with many victims reportedly suffering severe burn injuries.

Emergency response teams, including police and fire personnel, rushed to the scene and carried out rescue operations. The injured were shifted to



nearby hospitals for treatment, with some reported to be in critical condition.

The tragic incident has drawn condolences from leaders across the country, highlighting the severity of the accident and the loss of innocent lives. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the collision and the subsequent fire.

The President's message underscores the nation's collective grief over the tragedy, as efforts continue to support the affected families and ensure proper medical care for the injured.

Special Assembly Session on March 28 to Grant Legal Status to Amaravati as Capital: Speaker Ayyannapatru

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

In a significant political development, the Andhra Pradesh government has taken a crucial step towards granting full legal status to Amaravati as the state capital. Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyannapatru announced that a special session of the Legislative Assembly will be convened on March 28 at 11 AM to address this issue.

Speaking on the matter, the Speaker stated that although Amaravati has been functioning as the capital region, there is still a lack of complete legal clarity regarding its official status. To address this gap, the state Assembly will pass a

unanimous resolution declaring the Vijayawada-Amaravati region as the capital of Andhra Pradesh. The resolution will then be forwarded to the Central Government for further legislative action.

Ayyannapatru explained that while the Centre has already expressed its approval for Amaravati as the capital, a formal law needs to be enacted in Parliament to solidify its legal standing. With the current Parliament session underway until early April, the state government aims to ensure that the resolution is promptly introduced and passed as legislation at the national level.

The Speaker emphasized that this move is intended to bring long-awaited clarity to the capital issue, which has been a subject of political de-

bate and public concern for several years. Once the legal process is completed, it is expected to end the ongoing uncertainty and criticism surrounding the capital designation.

The special Assembly session will be held at the Assembly Hall in Velagapudi, as per the orders issued by Governor S. Abdul Nazeer. Officials have begun preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of the session, which is expected to witness detailed discussions and unanimous support from members.

The Speaker also highlighted that formal recognition of Amaravati as the capital would accelerate administrative and developmental activities in the region. It is expected to boost investor confidence, infra-

structure growth, and governance efficiency, thereby contributing to the overall progress of the state.

Political observers believe that the move could have far-reaching implications, not only in terms of governance but also in restoring confidence among stakeholders, including farmers, investors, and residents of the capital region. The Assembly's resolution, once backed by parliamentary approval, will mark a decisive step in resolving one of the most debated issues in Andhra Pradesh's post-bifurcation history. Overall, the upcoming Assembly session is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Amaravati and reinforcing its position as the administrative and political center of Andhra Pradesh.



AP Cabinet Approves Mining Leases for Vaddera Societies; Minister Nara Lokesh Fulfills YuvaGalam Promise

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

In a significant decision aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of traditional worker communities, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved the allocation of mining leases to Vaddera societies. The move comes as part of the commitments made during the YuvaGalam padayatra by State Minister Nara Lokesh.

During the YuvaGalam padayatra, members of the Vaddera community had appealed to Lokesh to provide mining lease opportunities on government hill poramboke lands, enabling them to continue their traditional occupation and secure a stable livelihood. Honouring the assurance given at the time, the minister recently placed the proposal before the Cabinet, which has now received formal approval.

The decision is expected to empower Vaddera societies by creating sustainable employment opportunities and strengthening their economic base. Officials indicated that the government will soon issue a detailed Government Order (GO) outlining the guidelines and procedures for the allocation of mining leases.

Sources said that the initiative is part of a broader effort by the government to support marginalized and traditional communities by aligning welfare measures with their occupational skills. By granting mining leases, the administration aims to ensure that the benefits reach the intended

sections while also promoting organized and regulated mining practices.

The development highlights the government's focus on fulfilling promises made during public outreach programs. Throughout the YuvaGalam padayatra, Nara Lokesh interacted with people from various social groups on a daily basis, gathering feedback and understanding their concerns. The Cabinet decision is being seen as a continuation of those engagements, translating assurances into policy action.

Political observers note that such measures could have a long-term impact on rural livelihoods by providing direct economic support to communities that rely on traditional labour-intensive occupations. The Vaddera community, which has historically been associated with stone cutting and related activities, is expected to benefit significantly from access to mining resources.

The minister reiterated that the government is committed to inclusive development and is taking steps to move beyond vote-bank politics by addressing genuine needs of different social groups. The approval of mining leases for Vaddera societies is being projected as a step towards social justice and economic empowerment.

With the Cabinet's nod in place, implementation is expected to begin soon after the issuance of official guidelines, marking a key milestone in delivering on promises made during the YuvaGalam initiative.



AP Govt Aims to Turn Vaddera Community into Entrepreneurs; Cabinet Clears Key Mining Benefits.

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a significant step towards uplifting the Vaddera community by promoting them as entrepreneurs through targeted policy measures. State BC, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles Minister S. Savitha stated that ensuring economic and social empowerment of Vaddera communities remains a key objective of the coalition government led by N. Chandrababu Naidu.

As part of this initiative, the State Cabinet has approved 15% reservation in mining leases for Vaddera societies. In addition, the government has decided to provide a 50% concession in seigniorage charges, a move expected to significantly reduce operational costs and enhance income opportunities for the community. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the Cabinet's approval, stating that the decision would bring substantial financial benefits to Vaddera workers traditionally engaged in stone cutting

and earthwork activities.

Savitha noted that this decision fulfills a promise made during the YuvaGalam padayatra by Minister Nara Lokesh, who had assured the community of support after hearing their concerns. She appreciated the government for honoring its commitment and thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister PawanKalyan, and Nara Lokesh for their role in implementing the promise.

The Minister recalled that during the padayatra, members of the Vaddera community had appealed for mining lease allocations on government-controlled lands to sustain their traditional livelihoods with dignity. Responding positively at the time, Lokesh had assured them of justice upon coming to power, which has now materialized through the Cabinet decision.

Savitha further revealed that the government will soon issue a detailed Government Order (GO) outlining the modalities for allocation of mining leases and implementation of conces-

sions. She also announced that the upcoming Adarana 3.0 scheme will prioritize Vaddera communities, providing them with modern machinery required for mining operations.

The initiative aims not only to generate employment but also to transform traditional workers into organized entrepreneurs, thereby strengthening their economic independence. By integrating welfare measures with livelihood opportunities, the government seeks to promote inclusive growth and long-term sustainability.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the Minister said the vision is to bring backward communities like the Vadderases into the mainstream economy by equipping them with resources, skills, and institutional support. The Cabinet's decision marks a crucial milestone in this direction, paving the way for socio-economic advancement and empowerment of the Vaddera community across the state.

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Minister Kollu Ravindra Slams YSRCP Over Amaravati Issue, Challenges Jagan to Attend Assembly

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Minister Kollu Ravindra launched a sharp attack on the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) over its stance on Amaravati, accusing it of political opportunism and inconsistency. He challenged former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to attend the Assembly and openly support the resolution declaring Amaravati as the state capital.

Speaking in Amaravati, the Minister alleged that since coming to power in 2019, Jagan Mohan Reddy had developed a vendetta against Amaravati and systematically undermined its development. He claimed that decisions taken during the previous government had caused distress to thousands of farmers who had voluntarily given their lands for the construction of the capital city.

Ravindra criticized YSRCP leaders for what he termed as "double standards," stating that while they are now expressing support for Amaravati, their actions over the past five years tell a different story. He accused the party of insulting Amaravati by calling it unfit to be a capital and even ridiculing it in public forums.

The Minister further alleged that farmers who participated in protests and padayatras demanding justice were suppressed, harassed, and denied their rights during the previous regime. He also accused

the YSRCP government of halting key development projects and driving away international partners, including the Singapore consortium that was initially involved in the Amaravati capital project.

Highlighting recent political developments, Ravindra said that the current coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has reaffirmed its commitment to Amaravati as the sole capital of the state. He stated that the government is determined to protect the interests of farmers and ensure that their sacrifices do not go in vain.

He further alleged that the YSRCP is now attempting to mislead the public by projecting itself as a supporter of Amaravati, purely to gain political sympathy. "People are not in a position to believe such sudden changes in stance," he said, adding that the public has closely observed the party's actions over the years.

Issuing a direct challenge, Ravindra said that if YSRCP genuinely supports Amaravati, Jagan Mohan Reddy should attend the Assembly session and back the resolution. "Instead of political drama outside, they must show their sincerity inside the Assembly," he remarked.

The Minister concluded by asserting that Amaravati will continue to be developed as the capital city and that the government remains committed to transparent governance and inclusive growth.

Minister Kandula Durgesh Expresses Shock Over Fatal Bus Accident in Markapuram

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

A tragic road accident involving a travel bus in Markapuram district has left several people dead and many others injured, prompting strong reactions from state leaders. Andhra Pradesh Minister Kandula Durgesh expressed deep shock and sorrow over the incident, calling it one of the most distressing tragedies in recent times.

According to preliminary reports, the accident turned catastrophic when the bus caught fire, leading to passengers being trapped inside. The horri-

fy nature of the incident, where some passengers were reportedly burnt alive, has sent shockwaves across the state. Minister Durgesh described the incident as "deeply painful and disturbing," stating that such tragedies highlight the urgent need for stricter safety measures in public transport.

Soon after learning about the incident, the Minister directed district authorities to immediately rush to the spot and coordinate rescue operations. He emphasized that saving lives and providing timely medical assistance to the injured should be the top priori-

ty. Officials were instructed to ensure that the injured victims receive the best possible treatment at nearby hospitals without any delay.

Durgesh also called for intensifying relief measures at the accident site. Emergency response teams, including fire services and medical personnel, were deployed to manage the situation and assist victims. Local authorities have been asked to closely monitor the rescue and relief operations while ensuring that all necessary support is extended to those affected.

Expressing his heartfelt condolences, the Minister con-

veyed his sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic accident. "My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families during this difficult time," he said, assuring them that the government stands firmly by their side. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the mishap.

The incident has once again raised concerns about road safety and emergency preparedness, particularly in long-distance travel buses. Authorities are expected to conduct a detailed investigation into the cause of the accident, including whether any mechanical

failure or negligence contributed to the tragedy.

Meanwhile, the state government is likely to review existing safety protocols to prevent such incidents in the future. The Markapuram accident serves as a grim reminder of the importance of enforcing strict transport regulations and ensuring passenger safety at all times.

As rescue and relief operations continue, the focus remains on supporting victims and their families while taking steps to avoid similar tragedies in the future.



BJP Plans Grand Events; AP Pushes PNG Expansion and Subsidy Relief

Amaravati, March 26 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Andhra Pradesh has announced grand plans to celebrate its Foundation Day and Ambedkar Jayanti, even as the state government unveiled key decisions to expand Piped Natural Gas (PNG) usage and extend subsidy benefits to consumers.

State BJP president PVN Madhav called upon party cadres to celebrate the Foundation Day on April 6 and the birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar on April 14 with enthusiasm across the state. He directed leaders at all levels to ensure wide participation and public outreach.

As part of the celebrations, party offices will be illuminated from April 5 to 7, while BJP flags will be hoisted on April 6. Workers have also been encouraged to hoist party flags at their homes and actively share the celebrations on social media. The party will organise the "Gaan/Basti Chalo Abhiyan" from April 7 to 12, during which cadres will visit villages,



conduct cleanliness drives, interact with beneficiaries of central schemes, and promote the party's core principles.

For Ambedkar Jayanti, BJP workers will undertake cleanliness drives near statues on April 13, followed by lighting lamps in the evening. On April 14, floral tributes will be paid

and the Preamble of the Constitution will be read in party offices. Seminars on Ambedkar's life and contributions are also planned at district headquarters.

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh government has taken major steps to promote clean energy through the expansion

of PNG across key cities. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar said the Cabinet has approved measures to shift LPG consumers to PNG in cities such as Guntur, Nellore, Kakinada, and Visakhapatnam.

Highlighting the benefits, the minister said PNG ensures

uninterrupted supply and is suitable for households and industries. In a significant relief measure, the government plans to extend the Deepam subsidy scheme to PNG users. Eligible beneficiaries will receive financial assistance through direct transfers every two months, amounting to 2400 annually.

To speed up implementation, the government will simplify the approval process for pipeline connections, with permissions to be granted within 24 hours. A target has been set to provide 10 lakh new PNG connections across the state.

The minister also clarified that there is no shortage of essential fuels, noting that lakhs of LPG cylinders are being supplied daily. He added that PNG facilities will be extended to major temples, and induction stoves are being distributed to Anganwadi centres.

These developments reflect parallel efforts in the state, with political mobilisation on one hand and policy initiatives aimed at improving energy access and affordability on the other.



Chandrababu Naidu Greets Atchannaidu, Praises His Commitment to Farmers' Welfare

Amaravati, March 26 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu reaffirmed his commitment to farmers' welfare and state development on the occasion of his birthday, which was celebrated in a grand manner at the Secretariat in Amaravati.

The celebrations were held in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh, along with several cabinet colleagues. The Chief Minister personally cut the cake and greeted Atchannaidu, extending warm wishes and blessings. Ministers and public representatives present on the occasion also joined in celebrating and congratulating him.

Praising Atchannaidu's long-standing service, Chandrababu Naidu lauded his dedication to public welfare and his contributions to the development of the Telugu Desam Party. He highlighted Atchannaidu's consistent efforts as a legislator and minister, noting that his work has significantly contributed to the progress of various departments and the overall growth of the state.

The Chief Minister described him as a leader who has always remained focused on the welfare of people, particularly farmers, and appreciated his commitment

to addressing their issues. He said Achchennaidu's experience and dedication continue to play a vital role in strengthening governance and implementing development initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Achchennaidu expressed happiness over celebrating his birthday in the presence of the Chief Minister and fellow ministers after a cabinet meeting. He said it was a matter of pride that the Chief Minister personally extended his blessings, which he described as a source of inspiration and responsibility.

He thanked Nara Lokesh, cabinet colleagues, and other public representatives for their warm wishes and support. Achchennaidu said the affection and encouragement he received would motivate him to work with greater dedication.

Reiterating his commitment, the minister stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, he would continue to strive for the welfare of farmers and the development of the state. He emphasized that agriculture remains a key priority and assured that he would focus on policies and initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of farmers.

The event reflected a spirit of camaraderie among leaders, while also reinforcing the government's focus on development and welfare initiatives.

Development is Our Agenda: Minister Ponguru Narayana

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana reiterated that development remains the core agenda of the government. He stated that all ongoing development works in the city will be completed by June 12, adding that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is steering the state's economy back on track with his experience after it was disrupted under the previous government.

During his visit to Nellore city on Thursday, the Minister actively participated in multiple development and welfare programs. As part of his tour, he visited the "Narayana Neethra Jyothi - Danta Suraksha" free medical camp at CRP Donka, where he distributed spectacles to 12 beneficiaries who underwent eye tests. He stated that the government aims to

conduct eye examinations for 48,000 people over the next two years.

Later, under the "Parks Festival" initiative in the city constituency, the Minister inaugurated the newly developed Potti Sriramulu Park in the 8th division, which was renovated at a cost of 85 lakh. Interacting with the public, Narayana energized the crowd by working out at the park gym, playing with children, and distributing chocolates, creating a festive atmosphere.

Criticizing the previous government, he alleged that the state's financial system had been severely damaged, but assured that the present government is focusing equally on development and welfare. He announced that 850 crore has been allocated for the development of Nellore Municipal Corporation.

Highlighting future plans, the Minister said the city will be transformed into a green

city with the plantation of 50,000 trees. He also revealed plans to establish a large adventure park and a water sports park in the near future. Additionally, 15 government schools are being upgraded to international standards to improve educational infrastructure.

Expressing grief over the recent Markapuram bus accident, Narayana termed it a tragic incident. He mentioned that the state government has announced an ex-gratia of 5 lakh for the families of the deceased and assured full support to the injured victims.

The Minister later conducted a review meeting with secretariat staff to assess ongoing works and ensure timely implementation of projects. Several officials and local leaders, including Commissioner Nandan, Mayor Sujatha Ashok, and other public representatives, were present during the program



Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav Felicitates Youth Activist Tapasi Upadhyay

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav felicitated young health activist Tapasi Upadhyay at the State Secretariat for her remarkable efforts in spreading health awareness across the country.

Tapasi Upadhyay, who hails from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, has been undertaking a nationwide bike journey under the campaign "Mission Healthy Bharat - Obesity Mukta Bharat." She began her journey on March 9, 2025, with the aim of promoting a healthier lifestyle and raising awareness about obesity and related health issues among the public, especially youth.

During her interaction with the Minister, Tapasi shared details of her journey so far. She has covered approximately 17,400 kilometers and conducted awareness programs in nearly 500 educational institutions. Out of her target to travel across 28 states, she has already successfully completed visits to 16 states, making significant progress in her mission.

Minister Satya Kumar Yadav appreciated her dedication and commitment to public health. He stated that such initiatives play a crucial role in building awareness and encouraging people to adopt healthier lifestyles. He expressed hope that her journey, themed "Save the Nation - Swastha Bharat," would continue successfully and inspire more people across the country.

The Minister also emphasized that under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is moving steadily towards becoming a healthier nation. He noted that campaigns like Tapasi's contribute meaningfully to the broader vision of a "Healthy India."

The felicitation highlighted the importance of individual initiatives in driving social change, particularly in the field of public health. Tapasi's efforts stand as an inspiring example of how determination and purpose can create awareness and impact lives across regions.

Spirituality, Serenity and Development to Converge at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, March 26 | TPN Bureau

A major initiative, the Andhra Pradesh government is planning to transform Indrakeeladri Hill into a model spiritual destination that blends devotion, tranquility, and modern infrastructure.

The sacred hill, home to the renowned Kanaka Durga Temple, attracts thousands of devotees every day. With increasing footfall, the government has decided to enhance facilities while preserving the spiritual essence of the site.

As part of the initiative, an expert team recently visited the hill to study the existing infrastructure and explore op-

portunities for development. The team focused on creating a peaceful and eco-friendly environment that enhances the overall experience for pilgrims. Officials said the proposed plan includes increasing green cover across the hill, improving pathways, and developing better access routes for devotees. Special attention is being given to maintaining cleanliness, ensuring proper waste management, and creating a serene atmosphere in and around the temple premises.

The development plan also aims to provide world-class amenities without disturbing the natural landscape or the sanctity of the temple. Authorities are considering measures such as landscaped gardens,

resting areas for pilgrims, and improved lighting to ensure safety and convenience.

In addition, efforts are being made to streamline traffic and crowd management, especially during peak festival seasons when the number of visitors rises significantly. The government is working towards integrating traditional temple architecture with modern facilities to create a harmonious environment.

Officials emphasized that the project will focus on sustainability, ensuring that development activities are environmentally responsible. Coordination between various departments is expected to play a key role in executing the project effectively.



The initiative reflects the state's vision of promoting spiritual tourism while preserving cultural heritage. By combining spirituality with thoughtful development, the government aims to make Indrakeeladri a premier destination

for devotees seeking both peace and comfort. Once implemented, the project is expected to significantly enhance the experience of pilgrims visiting the hill, offering a perfect blend of devotion, serenity, and modern amenities.

CPI Questions Amaravati Development, Calls for Focus Beyond Real Estate

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Communist Party of India (CPI) State Secretary Gujjala Eswaraiiah has raised concerns over the pace and direction of development in Amaravati, stating that the capital city should not turn into a hub for real estate interests.

While welcoming the Assembly's move to legally affirm Amaravati as the state capital, Esaraiiah stressed that the government must now focus on actual progress of development works rather than announcements. He questioned the gap between the promises made by the coalition government led by N. Chandrababu Naidu and the on-ground reality in the capital region.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the CPI leader reiterated that his party has consistently supported Amaravati as the sole capital. However, he criticized the government for allegedly prioritizing large-scale projects and master plans that may not be practical, warning that such initiatives could push the state into heavy debt and burden the public financially.

Esaraiiah alleged that the phased land pooling of nearly one lakh acres from farmers at low prices raises concerns about a possible plan to hand over these lands to corporate entities in the future. He termed this as a "real estate-driven approach" and urged the government to halt further land acquisition under such policies.

He also pointed out that instead of strengthening existing infrastructure like the Gannavaram Airport, the government is planning for a new airport in the capital region, which he described as unnecessary. He suggested that equal attention should be given to the development of backward regions such as



Royalaseema and North Andhra, rather than concentrating resources only on Amaravati. Highlighting industrial concerns, Esaraiiah demanded immediate action to protect Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and to expedite the establishment of the Kadapa steel factory. He emphasized that the sacrifices made by Amaravati farmers for the capital project must not be overlooked, adding that even the development of plots allocated to them remains uncertain. The CPI leader criticized the government for relying heavily on reviews, deadlines, and graphical presentations without visible progress on the ground. He also alleged a lack of coordination among public representatives in the capital region, which has further delayed development works.

Esaraiiah urged the government to restrict the capital region to the originally proposed 217 square kilometers and focus on its structured development. He further called on the state to press the central government for funds as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act and to push for the long-pending Special Category Status.

Concluding his remarks, he stressed that development should be balanced and inclusive, rather than limited to Amaravati, ensuring overall growth of the state.

Early Epilepsy Surgery Offers Hope Before Condition Worsens

Amaravathi 26.03.2026
TPN Bureau:

Marking the global observance of Purple Day on March 26, the Department of Neurology at Aster Ramesh Hospitals conducted a special awareness program to highlight the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy. The initiative aimed to address widespread misconceptions surrounding the neurological disorder and reduce the stigma often associated with it.

Epilepsy, a chronic brain condition characterized by recurrent, unprovoked seizures, affects millions worldwide. Despite advancements in treatment, lack of awareness continues to delay prop-

er care for many patients. Speaking at the event, neurologist and epileptologist Dr. Harini Pavuluri explained that nearly 70% of epilepsy patients can effectively control seizures through medication. However, about 30% suffer from drug-resistant epilepsy, where seizures persist despite appropriate medical therapy.

"For such patients, timely evaluation by specialists is crucial. Epilepsy surgery can be a life-changing solution when performed on carefully selected cases," she stated. She further emphasized that uncontrolled seizures can significantly impact a patient's education, career, mental health, and social life, and in severe cases, may even lead to

injuries or sudden death. The program also featured insights from experts including Dr. Lakshmi Anusha, Dr. Prashanth Babu, Dr. Rajesh, neurosurgeon Dr. Pruthvi, and interventional radiologist Dr. Anne Mahesh. The team provided awareness on epilepsy as well as related neurological conditions such as stroke, vertigo, nerve damage, and brain tumors.

Doctors highlighted the role of advanced diagnostic technologies like Video EEG and MRI scans in accurately identifying the seizure focus in the brain before surgery. In addition to surgical interventions, modern therapies such as Vagal Nerve Stimulation (VNS) and Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) are increasingly

being used to reduce seizure frequency and severity.

Aster Ramesh Hospitals also reported the successful completion of two complex epilepsy surgeries in children aged 11 and 8 years, both suffering from drug-resistant epilepsy. One of the cases involved an 11-year-old girl who had been experiencing 40 to 50 seizures daily since the age of four, despite taking multiple medications. Following a detailed evaluation, she underwent a two-stage hemispherectomy procedure and is now completely seizure-free.

Managing Director Dr. Pothinemi Ramesh Babu stated that the hospital is committed to providing comprehensive neurological care



under one roof. With advanced infrastructure, including CT, MRI, Video EEG, ENMG, and modern neuro

operation theatres, the hospital aims to deliver international-standard treatment. He stressed that increased

awareness and early intervention can significantly improve outcomes for patients with neurological disorders.

Public Outrage Against Sakshi Newspaper; Copies Burnt in Vijayawada Protest

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Strong public anger was witnessed against Sakshi newspaper as leaders of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and alliance parties staged a large-scale protest at NTR Circle in Patamata, Vijayawada. The agitation was led by TDP state leader Bopana Bhavakumar in response to what they alleged as false and defamatory reports published against Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath.

Protesters raised slogans against Sakshi, accusing the publication of abandoning journalistic ethics and spreading misinformation. As part of the demonstration, copies of the newspaper were burnt and thrown on the ground, with



participants expressing strong discontent over the alleged false reporting. Leaders demanded that the public boycott the newspaper, alleging that it had turned into a mouthpiece of the YSR Congress Party.

Speaking at the protest, Bopana Bhavakumar stated that Sakshi was deliberately publishing fabricated stories to create differences among leaders within the ruling alliance.

He alleged that the newspaper was attempting to damage the reputation of MP Kesineni Sivanath by publishing baseless reports, including a controversial "call data" story. He further asserted that the MP has been actively working for the development of the Vijayawada parliamentary constituency by bringing funds from both the central government and the state government.

TDP state leader Chennupati Gandhi also criticized YSR Congress Party chief Y. S. Jagannathan Reddy, accusing him of obstructing the state's development. He claimed that the opposition party was unable to tolerate the welfare initiatives undertaken by the current government and was resorting to negative propaganda through Sakshi. He further alleged that false narratives were being created to tarnish the image of popular leaders like Kesineni Sivanath.

Another leader, Madigani Gurunatham, stated that publishing unverified reports against public representatives is unacceptable. He described MP Sivanath as a people's leader who works inclusively and dismissed the allegations as

politically motivated. He demanded immediate action from the Vijayawada Police Commissioner, urging authorities to register a case against the Sakshi management and its editor for publishing defamatory content.

Former corporator Chennupati Usharani warned that if the newspaper fails to withdraw the alleged false reports and issue an apology, further protests would be intensified. She added that the public would continue to reject misinformation and hold those responsible accountable.

Several other leaders, former corporators, and party workers participated in the protest, making it a significant political demonstration in the city.

RTIH Partners with ALEAP at WEKART 2026 to Empower Women Entrepreneurs

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH), Enikepadu, Vijayawada, actively participated in ALEAP WEKART 2026, a major exhibition and stakeholders' meet held from March 20 to 25, 2026 at Sidhartha Institute of Hotel Management. The event was supported by the Ministry of MSME and brought together entrepreneurs, startups, and industry representatives from diverse sectors to showcase innovations and exchange ideas.

The program was inaugurated by District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminsha, while Kandula Durgesh attended as the chief guest. The event served as a platform for emerging businesses to present their products and connect with stakeholders, fostering collaboration and growth.

As part of the event, a 24-hour hackathon was conducted on March 22 and 23, where RTIH representatives played a key role as members of the judging panel. They provided valuable mentorship and guidance to participating teams, encouraging innovation and problem-solving among young entrepreneurs.

A significant highlight of the program was the signing of a Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) between RTIH and the Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India. The agreement was signed by RTIH CEO G. Krishnan and ALEAP representatives, President K. Rama Devi and Joint Secretary B. Kavitha Rajesh.

This partnership aims to promote the growth and development of women entrepreneurs by providing incubation support, structured training programs, and access to market opportunities. The collaboration will also focus on organizing awareness initiatives, hackathons, workshops, and startup training sessions to nurture entrepreneurial skills.

Additionally, the MoU will facilitate product exhibitions, awards, and certification programs to encourage innovation and recognize emerging talent. It will also strengthen networking opportunities, enabling entrepreneurs to build meaningful connections within the ecosystem.

By participating in WEKART 2026, RTIH Vijayawada reaffirmed its commitment to fostering an innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem. The initiative aligns with its vision of "One Family - One Entrepreneur," aiming to empower individuals and especially women to take up entrepreneurship and contribute to economic growth.

Australian Delegation Visits GDET School in Vijayawada, Reviews FLN Initiatives

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

An Australian delegation visited the GDET Municipal High School in Patamata, Vijayawada, on Thursday to observe the implementation of foundational learning initiatives and interact with students and teachers. The visit was part of an academic and collaborative exchange under the Samagra Shiksha initiative.

The delegation included Cameron Noble, Deputy Consul General at the Australian Consulate-General, Janaki Sriram, Policy Research Analyst for Critical Technologies and Strategic Partnerships, and Dr. Gurupreet Singh, Director of Global Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives at the University of Newcastle.

During their visit to the school, the team reviewed key programs such as Guaranteed Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), digital clicker-based learning tools, and classroom teaching practices. They interacted with students and teachers to gain insights into the effectiveness of these initiatives and appreciated the efforts being made to improve

foundational education standards.

Later, the delegation visited the state office of Samagra Shiksha, where they met State Project Director B. Srinivasa Rao. Discussions were held on various aspects of education, including teacher training, leadership development, teaching-learning methodologies, and strategies for holistic school improvement.

The meeting also saw the participation of Additional Director K. Nageswara Rao, SCERT Director M. V. Krishna Reddy, and NTR District Education Officer L. Chandrakala, among others.

Officials highlighted the importance of international collaboration in strengthening the education system and sharing best practices. The visit reflects growing global interest in Andhra Pradesh's educational initiatives, particularly in foundational literacy and innovative classroom methodologies.

The program concluded with a mutual exchange of ideas aimed at enhancing the quality of education and exploring future partnerships in academic development.



Tight Security Measures for EVM and VVPAT Warehouse in NTR District

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminsha has directed officials to maintain constant vigilance and ensure robust security arrangements at the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) warehouse, despite existing safeguards.

Following the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Collector conducted a routine monthly inspection of the warehouse located at Gollapudi in Vijayawada Rural mandal on Thursday. The inspection was carried out in the presence of representatives from recognized political parties to ensure transparency and adherence to established protocols.

During the visit, the Collector thoroughly reviewed the security infrastructure, including the functioning of CCTV cameras installed at the facility. She also inspected fire safety equipment to ensure preparedness in case of emergencies. After completing the inspection, she signed the monitoring register, confirming that all procedures were being followed as per ECI norms.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lakshminsha stated that the EVMs and VVPATs are being securely stored in compliance with the Election Commission's guidelines. She emphasized that regular inspections are conducted, and detailed reports are prepared to maintain

accountability and transparency. The presence of political party representatives during inspections further strengthens trust in the electoral process, she added.

The Collector also instructed police personnel stationed at the warehouse to remain alert at all times. She stressed the importance of continuous surveillance through CCTV monitoring and directed officials to ensure that no lapses occur in the security system. Maintaining the integrity of the voting equipment is of utmost importance, she noted, as it plays a critical role in upholding the democratic process.

Officials from various departments participated in the inspection, including District Revenue Officer M. Lakshminarasimham. Representatives from major political parties were also present, such as B. Krishnareddy from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), K. Suresh from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), and Y. Anjaneya Reddy from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

The district administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring the safety and proper maintenance of election-related equipment. With strict adherence to ECI guidelines and continuous monitoring, authorities aim to safeguard the credibility and transparency of the electoral system.

The press release was issued by the District Information and Public Relations Office (DIPRO), NTR District.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Warns of Fines for Single-Use Plastic in Bars & Restaurants

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has announced strict enforcement measures against the use of single-use plastic in bars and restaurants, along with tighter regulations on waste management in meat shops and control of stray dog issues across city wards.

Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. K. Arjuna Rao stated that any violation of rules regarding single-use plastic would attract heavy penalties. The directives were issued following instructions from Municipal Commissioner Dhyanaachandra. Three separate meetings were conducted on Thursday at IV Palace, Governorpet, with bar and restaurant owners, chicken and mutton shop operators, and ward committee members addressing stray dog concerns.

During the meeting with bar and restaurant owners, officials emphasized the complete ban on single-use plastic items

such as disposable glasses and water packets. Business owners were instructed to adopt eco-friendly alternatives without exception. Dr. Arjuna Rao warned that violations would lead to a fine of 5,000 for the first offense, 10,000 for the second, and cancellation of trade licenses for repeated violations.

In a separate session with chicken and mutton shop owners, the focus was on maintaining hygiene and proper disposal of animal waste. Officials highlighted that a biomethanization plant at the slaughterhouse is being made operational, and shop owners must cooperate by handing over animal waste to the municipal corporation for scientific disposal. Maintaining clean surroundings in and around shops was made mandatory to prevent public health hazards.

Another key meeting was held with ward committee members to address the growing issue of stray dogs in the city. Dr. Arjuna Rao, along with

Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Dr. D. Harish, explained that committees have been formed in all 64 wards. Each committee consists of a sanitary inspector as chairperson, along with an animal lover, resident welfare association members, and local citizens.

The officials stressed the importance of coordination among committee members to ensure that stray dog-related issues are handled promptly and effectively within their respective wards. These committees have been specifically established to prevent problems and ensure timely resolution of complaints at the local level.

Assistant Medical Health Officer Gopala Naik, along with sanitary supervisors, inspectors, and staff, also participated in the meetings. The corporation reiterated its commitment to public health, environmental protection, and improved civic management through these initiatives.

Ensure Complete Desilting Works Across Vijayawada: Commissioner Dhyanaachandra

Amaravathi 26.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra has directed officials to carry out desilting works across the city in a thorough and scientific manner, ensuring complete removal of silt from drains and canals.

During his field inspection on Thursday, the Commissioner visited several key areas including TTD Kalyana Mandapam Road, Gopal Reddy Road, Governorpet, Bandar Locks near the Kabristan, Eluru Road (Swarna Palace Center), Lenin Center, Gandhinagar, and Gymkhana Grounds. He personally reviewed the progress of ongoing desilting works and instructed officials to assess the exact quantity of silt in drains before and after removal.

At Gymkhana Grounds, the Commissioner himself examined the depth of silt in a canal and emphasized that desilting should continue until all accu-

mulated silt is completely cleared. He instructed staff to adopt a measurement-based approach by checking how much silt exists, how much has been removed, and how much remains, ensuring no partial or incomplete work is left behind.

At Lenin Center, he inspected public toilets and directed officials to make them operational at the earliest. Stressing the importance of hygiene in high-footfall areas, he said regular monitoring and proper maintenance must be ensured so that the public does not face inconvenience. In Gandhinagar, the Commissioner inspected a water tank and conducted on-site water quality tests. He instructed officials to carry out daily testing of drinking water and ensure that only safe and purified water is supplied to residents. He also emphasized the need for proactive monitoring to resolve issues before complaints arise.

At Swarna Palace Center, the Commissioner reviewed the functioning of a garbage

Chittoor SP Extends Sri Rama Navami Greetings, Calls for Peaceful Celebrations

Chittoor, March 26 TPN Bureau:

Chittoor District Superintendent of Police (SP) Tushar Dudi, IPS, extended warm greetings to the people of the district, police personnel, and media representatives on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami. He wished that the auspicious festival brings happiness, peace, and prosperity into everyone's lives.

In an official statement, the SP urged people to cel-

ebate the festival with devotion, mutual respect, and in a peaceful atmosphere. He emphasized that Sri Rama Navami is a festival that promotes social harmony and unity, and it is the responsibility of every citizen to ensure that it is celebrated without any disturbances. He also appealed to the public not to believe in rumors or misinformation and to cooperate with each other for smooth celebrations.

The SP informed that

elaborate security arrangements have been made across the district in view of the festival. Tight security has been deployed at temples, key locations, and areas where processions and rallies are expected to take place. Continuous monitoring is being carried out by the police department, with special focus on sensitive areas to prevent any untoward incidents.

He further stated that

clear instructions have been issued to all police officials to maintain law and order during the festival. Officers have been directed to perform their duties with dedication, maintain a friendly approach with the public, and respond promptly to any issues. Special attention is being given to traffic management, crowd control, and night patrolling.

Additionally, surveillance through CCTV cam-

eras and the use of drone services have been arranged for effective monitoring. The SP advised citizens to immediately contact Dial 112 or inform the nearest police station in case of any emergency.

The Chittoor SP reiterated his appeal for all citizens to celebrate Sri Rama Navami in a peaceful, joyful, and devotional spirit, strengthening communal harmony and brotherhood.



Officials Asked to Stay Alert for CM Chandrababu Naidu's Tirupati Visit

Tirupati, March 26 TPN Bureau:

Municipal Corporation Commissioner N. Mourya has instructed all officials to remain alert and ensure proper arrangements for the upcoming visit of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on March 30 in Tirupati. On Thursday evening, the Commissioner inspected the areas where the Chief Minister is scheduled to visit, along with other officials. He re-

viewed the preparations and directed authorities to maintain high standards of sanitation across all routes. He also instructed officials to set up barricades at key locations to manage movement and avoid inconvenience to the public.

Emphasizing security, Mourya advised police officials to make foolproof arrangements and ensure strict vigilance throughout the visit. He stressed that all departments must work in coordination to ensure the smooth and

successful conduct of the program. The Commissioner was accompanied by Trainee Collector Raghuvanshi, Additional Commissioner Sharada Devi, Deputy Commissioner Amarayya, Municipal Engineer Tulasi Kumar, Health Officer Dr. Yuva Anvesh, DSP Bhaktavatsalam, Manager Hasim, Sanitary Supervisor Chenchayya, and other officials. Authorities are taking all necessary measures to ensure that the Chief Minister's visit proceeds without any issues.



226 Poor Patients Selected for Free Surgeries Under TTD Pranadanam Scheme at SVIMS

Tirupati, March 26 TPN Bureau:

A total of 226 patients have been selected for free surgeries under the TTD Pranadanam Scheme at Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), Tirupati. The selection process was conducted during a committee meeting held on Thursday at 3:00 PM in the SVIMS Director's office committee hall, under the of SVIMS Director and Vice-Chancellor Dr. R.V. Kumar.

The meeting was attended by senior medical including Dr. Srinath Reddy from Sri Padmavathi Children's Heart Centre, Medical Superintendent Dr. Ram, RMO Dr. Kotireddy, BIRRD Hospital RMO Dr. Rammurthy, TTD Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kusumakumari, Ruia Hospital's Dr. Subbalakshmi, Maternity Hospital's Dr. Srinivasulu, Chief Accounts Officer D. Gopi, along with department heads and staff of SVIMS.

Based on patients' health conditions and eligibility criteria, especially those holding rice cards and living below the poverty line, beneficiaries were selected for free surgical procedures across multiple specialties. The department-wise selection includes: Neph-



rology (72), Neurosurgery (48), Surgical Gastroenterology (24), Cardio Thoracic (19), Neurology (15), Medicine (20), General Surgery (9), Cardiology (4), Surgical Oncology (4), Medical Oncology (3), Gynecology (2), Radiation Oncology (2), Radiology (2), ENT (1), and Urology (1), totaling 226 patients.

Patients expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) management for providing finan-

cial assistance for life-saving surgeries under the Pranadanam Scheme. The initiative continues to serve as a lifeline for underprivileged patients who cannot afford costly medical treatments. Officials appealed to donors and organizations to come forward generously and contribute to the TTD Pranadanam Scheme, enabling more such large-scale humanitarian efforts to continue and save lives.

Grand Welcome for Hariprasad by Jana Sena Leaders in Tirupati

Tirupati, March 26 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena Party leaders extended a grand welcome to MLC and Government Whip Pidugu Hariprasad, who arrived in Tirupati on Thursday to visit Tirumala Temple for darshan. The reception was organized at Garuda Circle, where several party leaders and cadres gathered in large numbers. Among those present were State Handicrafts Development Corporation Chair-

man and Jana Sena joint district president Dr. Hari Prasad, city president Raja Reddy, general secretary Suman Babu, along with party members including Munaswamy, Venkatesh, Adi, Ramesh Naidu, Shraavan, Janaki Ramireddy, Uday, Madhav Rao, Sudhakar, Vamsi, Balaji, Jinna Riyaz and others. Women wing members, including Subhashini, Keerthana, Sirisha and Durga, also participated in the welcome, adding to the enthusiasm of the

gathering. Speaking on the occasion, Pidugu Hariprasad expressed gratitude to Jana Sena leaders and party workers for the warm reception. He said he prayed for the prosperity of the state and the country during his visit and sought divine blessings for the people and the party. He also extended his wishes for the continued growth of the Jana Sena Party under the leadership of Pawan Kalyan. Highlighting the party's discipline, he said

Jana Sena leaders and cadres maintain strong organisational values and unity. Hariprasad called upon party members to work collectively for strengthening the party in the coming days and to remain committed to its ideals. The event witnessed active participation from Jana Sena leaders, party workers, and members of the women's wing, reflecting the growing enthusiasm within the party ranks.

Ankurarpanam Performed for Sri Kodandarama Swamy Brahmotsavams at Ontimitta

Tirupati, March 26 TPN Bureau:

The annual Sri Rama Navami Brahmotsavams at the Sri Kodandarama Swamy Temple in Ontimitta commenced with the traditional Ankurarpanam ceremony held in a spiritually vibrant atmosphere on Thursday night, accompanied by Vedic chants.

The temple, known for its historical and spiritual significance, is famous for housing the divine idols of Lord Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana carved from a single stone. Due to this unique

feature, Ontimitta is often referred to as "Ekasilanagaram." The Brahmotsavams are scheduled to be held from March 26 to April 5, with the temple beautifully decorated to reflect a divine ambiance.

The rituals began on Thursday morning with Suprabhatam, followed by Tirumanjanam for the deities. Later, Vyasabhishekam, Archana, and other religious rituals were performed as per tradition. In the evening, the Ankurarpanam ceremony was conducted grandly by temple priests amid Vedic hymns.

On this occasion, the proces-

sional deities of Sri Sita Rama Lakshmana were elegantly adorned and placed on a special. Rituals such as Vishvakshena Puja, Kalasa Pratishtha, Kalasa Puja, Punyahavachanam, and Kankana Dharana were performed with devotion. The sacred ritual of soil collection (Puttamannu Sekerana) was also carried out with religious fervor.

Dwajarojanam on March 27 The Dwajarojanam (flag hoisting ceremony) will be held on Friday between 9:30 AM and 10:15 AM in the auspicious Vrushabha Lagnam, marking

the formal commencement of the Brahmotsavams.

Following this, the Sri Rama Navami Asthanam will take place from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Cultural events including Pothana Jayanthi celebrations and a poets' meet will be conducted between 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Devotees can witness the Sesha Vahana Seva from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Temple Deputy EO A. Prashanthi, AEO Balaraju, Superintendent Hanumanthayya, Temple Inspector Naveen, along with priests and staff, participated in the ceremonies.



District Collector Inspects EVM Warehouse in Quarterly Review

Renigunta, March 26 TPN Bureau:

As part of the quarterly inspection process, District Collector and District Election Officer Dr. S. Venkateshwar conducted an inspection of the EVM warehouse located near Renigunta Airport in Tirupati district on Thursday. The inspection was carried out in the presence of representatives from various political parties, following the guidelines issued by the Election Commission.

During the visit, the Collector thoroughly examined the strong room where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are



securely stored at the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) godown. He reviewed the safety and security arrangements, including the storage of Ballot Units (BUs), Control Units (CUs), and VVPAT machines. Special attention was given to the functioning of CCTV surveillance systems, sealing procedures,

and overall monitoring mechanisms.

Emphasizing the importance of election security, Dr. Venkateshwar instructed officials to ensure round-the-clock (24x7) surveillance and maintain robust security at the warehouse to prevent any lapses. He stressed strict adherence to Election Commission

protocols in safeguarding the EVMs. After completing the inspection, the Collector signed the official register maintained at the warehouse.

The inspection was attended by Srikalahasti RDO Bhanu Prakash Reddy, EVM Warehouse In-charge and GNSS Special Deputy Collector Bharat Naik, Election Cell Superintendent Y. Ramesh Babu, and representatives of political parties, among others. The administration reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining transparency and security in the electoral process.

Mega Health Camp for Journalists Receives Overwhelming Response in Rajamahendravaram

East Godavari, March 26 TPN Bureau:

A mega health camp organized for journalists witnessed an overwhelming response, with a total of 233 journalists and their family members availing free medical services. The camp was conducted on Thursday at the Arts College premises in Rajamahendravaram under the joint initiative of the Medical & Health Department and the Information Department.

District Collector Keerthi Chekuri stated that the initiative was aimed at ensuring that journalists, who constantly work to keep society informed, do not neglect their own health. She appreciated the participation and encouraged media professionals to make use of such health initiatives. The camp saw the participa-

tion of medical experts from the Government General Hospital, the Indian Medical Association (IMA), and several private hospitals. A wide range of services were provided, including general check-ups such as blood pressure, sugar, and hemoglobin tests, along with specialized services in cardiology, gynecology, ENT, orthopedics, ophthalmology, and dental care.

Advanced diagnostic services such as mammography, digital X-ray, ECG, and ultrasound were also conducted. Free medicines were distributed to all beneficiaries. Officials informed that 27 individuals requiring further treatment were referred to the Government General Hospital.

MLC Somu Veerajulu lauded the government's initiative, stating that journalists work under challenging conditions

and deserve such support. He also personally underwent an eye check-up at the camp. Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Srinivas appreciated the inclusion of journalists' family members in the camp, calling it a commendable effort.

District Medical and Health Officer Dr. K. Venkateswara Rao provided a detailed breakdown of the services, stating that 147 cases were handled under general medicine, followed by gynecology (22), orthopedics (14), dental (10), eye care (23), cardiology (11), dermatology (6), and ENT (3), among others. Mammography was conducted for 16 individuals, while 57 underwent ultrasound scans. Around 50 doctors from various hospitals and nearly 150 medical, ASHA, and nursing staff participated in the successful of the camp.



House One, Tax Another: Kadiyam Row Reaches Top Leaders

East Godavari, March 26 | TPN Bureau

A peculiar property tax dispute in Kadiyam village of East Godavari district has sparked concern, with a resident forced to escalate his grievance from local authorities to the highest levels of the state administration.

The issue revolves around Dadda Tataji, a homeowner whose property, bearing Door No. 18-8, is legally registered in his name. However, in an unusual turn of events, the local panchayat reportedly issued a tax demand notice in the name of his tenant, Dulla Venkata Rao, and even collected the tax from him instead of the actual owner.

What appears to be a clear administrative lapse has now snowballed into a larger controversy, raising questions about the functioning of local authorities. Despite submitting written complaints to district officials and raising the issue during a grievance meeting, Tataji alleged that no corrective action was taken.

Determined to secure justice, he continued his efforts relentlessly, earning comparisons to a "never-giving-up Vikramarka." With no response from local officials, Tataji took the matter to higher authorities.

He lodged a complaint at the office of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan in Pithapuram and also submit-

ted online grievances to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh.

Tataji has further warned that he is prepared to approach the judiciary if the issue is not resolved promptly.

The case has raised suspicions among locals, who question how such a discrepancy could occur when official records clearly establish ownership. Some have alleged possible collusion or negligence by panchayat staff, demanding accountability and strict action against those responsible.

Residents have also expressed concern over the lack of response from officials despite multiple complaints, asking why no action has been

taken against the panchayat secretary involved in the matter.

The incident highlights serious gaps in grassroots governance, where even straightforward issues require escalation to higher authorities for resolution. Villagers are now urging district officials to intervene, correct the records by issuing the tax notice in the rightful owner's name, and ensure that such irregularities do not recur.

As the matter gains attention, all eyes are on the administration to see whether swift action will be taken to address the grievance and restore public confidence in local governance.

Government Assures Support to Markapuram Bus Accident Victims

Markapuram, March 26
TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has assured full support to the victims of the tragic bus accident that occurred near Markapuram. State Transport, Youth and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy expressed deep shock over the incident and visited the accident site to assess the situation.

The Minister was accompanied by District In-charge Collector P. Rajababu, SP Harshavardhan Raju, and MLA Narayana Reddy. Senior officials, including DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, also reviewed the situation and coordinated rescue and relief operations.

According to the Minister, officials responded swiftly and reached the ac-

cident site within the "golden hour," helping rescue several passengers. He confirmed that 13 people lost their lives in the accident, while 28 others sustained injuries and were admitted to nearby hospitals. Out of the total 41 passengers on board, some critically injured victims have been shifted to Ongole for better medical treatment.

The Minister assured that the government would stand firmly with the families of the deceased and the injured. He stated that all medical expenses of the injured would be fully borne by the government. Necessary assistance and compensation will also be provided to the affected families.

He further emphasized that strict safety measures

would be implemented in the future to prevent such tragic incidents. A detailed report on the causes of the accident will be prepared by an expert committee and released soon.

The administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring the safety and welfare of citizens during such emergencies.



IBC Amendment Bill to Boost India's Global Standing: MP Prasad Rao

New Delhi, March 26 | TPN Bureau

Chittoor Member of Parliament Daggamalla Prasad Rao has welcomed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha, stating that it will strengthen India's position as a global investment hub. Praising the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the MP said the reforms reflect a forward-looking approach and address key gaps in the existing

insolvency framework.

He noted that while the IBC was designed for time-bound resolution, delays in implementation had weakened its effectiveness. Many cases exceeded the 330-day limit, with average resolution timelines stretching to nearly 688 days. This, he said, led to value erosion and higher liquidation rates.

Highlighting the key features of the amendment, Prasad Rao said the introduction of a creditor-led process would allow lenders with at least 51 percent of debt to initiate resolu-

tion, including out-of-court settlements. This is expected to speed up the process and reduce costs, with cases likely to be resolved within around 150 days. He also pointed to the introduction of a group insolvency framework, which enables coordinated resolution of companies within the same corporate group.

This would prevent fragmentation and ensure better value realisation. The bill also promotes coordination between Indian and foreign courts, allowing recognition of cross-border proceedings and faster

recovery of overseas assets. This, he said, would boost investor confidence and strengthen India's financial ecosystem. Prasad Rao added that extending the moratorium during liquidation would help preserve asset value and reduce legal complications.

Describing the NDA government as reform-driven, he expressed confidence that the amendments would improve efficiency,

reduce delays, and enhance India's credibility as a reliable destination for global investments.

MP Vemireddy Couple Donates Vehicles to Mata Vaishno Devi Temple

Nellore, March 26 TPN Bureau:

Nellore Member of Parliament Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy and Kovur mla Vemireddy Prasanthi Reddy donated two vehicles to the renowned pilgrimage shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi located in Katra, Jammu.

The couple visited the temple on Thursday, where they offered prayers and participated in special rituals. During their visit, they formally handed over two vehicles to the temple authorities to support various operational needs of the shrine.

The donation is expected to

assist the temple administration in improving transportation and logistical services for devotees and staff. The gesture reflects the couple's devotion and commitment towards supporting religious institutions and facilitating better services for pilgrims visiting the sacred shrine.

Indrakeeladri Set for Transformation into Spiritual, Eco-Friendly Destination

Vijayawada, March 26 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government is taking steps to develop Indrakeeladri Hill into a unique destination that blends spirituality, serenity, and modern development, under the vision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Following the Chief Minister's direction, a special expert team visited the sacred hill on Thursday to study development possibilities. The initiative is being guided by Amaravati Development Corporation Chairperson Lakshmi Parthasarathi Bhaskar.

The expert team included professionals who played a key role in developing the renowned Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad, along with officials from the Amaravati development authority. Their focus is to enhance greenery and create a peaceful environment for devotees visiting the temple.

The team, along with temple Executive Officer Seena Naik, inspected multiple locations on the hill to assess the potential for increasing green cover. These included the surroundings of Malleshwara Swamy



Temple, the stretch from Kanaka Durga Nagar to the Maha Mandapam, areas along the ghat road up to the main temple, and regions behind the Mounaswamy temple.

The development plan aims to provide not only a spiritually enriching experience but also mental peace and comfort to devotees visiting the famous Kanaka Durga Temple. Officials emphasized that the project will focus on creating an eco-friendly and aesthetically pleasing environment without disturbing the sanctity of the temple.

Temple authorities presented the existing master plan to the expert team, outlining proposals to transform Indrakeeladri into a sustainable spiritual destination. The team is

expected to submit detailed recommendations focusing on landscaping, greenery enhancement, and improved pathways.

Officials said the development will be carried out with high standards, ensuring better facilities and a refreshing experience for pilgrims. The proposals will be placed before the Endowments Commissioner, and coordinated efforts will be made to implement the project effectively.

The initiative reflects the government's broader vision of promoting spiritual tourism while preserving cultural heritage. Once completed, the project is expected to offer devotees a harmonious blend of devotion, tranquility, and modern amenities.

Won't Spare Those Who Hurt Tirumala Sanctity, Says MLA Sudheer Reddy

Srikalahasti, March 26 | TPN Bureau

Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy launched a sharp attack on the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), alleging that its leaders had damaged the sanctity of Tirumala Temple during their tenure in power.

Addressing media in Srikalahasti, Sudheer Reddy said that the YSRCP, which remained silent on issues such as religious declarations and alleged promotion of other faiths while in power, is now attempting to portray itself as a pro-Hindu force after losing power. He termed this shift as "politically motivated" and criticised the party for what he described as double standards.

The MLA alleged that the previous government had appointed individuals with no faith in Hindu traditions to key positions, including the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board. He



specifically targeted Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, questioning his commitment to Hindu beliefs and accusing the former administration led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of undermining the reputation of Tirumala over the past five years.

Raising serious allegations, Sudheer Reddy demanded answers from YSRCP leaders on claims that temple offerings were compromised,

litigal standards and desperation of the opposition.

Referring to the 2024 elections, Sudheer Reddy said that people had already rejected what he termed as "misleading politics" and warned that voters would continue to hold such forces accountable in the future as well.

He asserted that the present leadership respects religious sentiments and is committed to protecting the sanctity of temples. "Those who have insulted faith and misused temple institutions will not be spared," he said, adding that action would be taken against anyone found responsible.

The remarks have added to the ongoing political war of words between ruling coalition leaders and the YSRCP, with temple administration and religious issues emerging as key points of contention in Andhra Pradesh politics.

Coastal Task Force Intensifies Boat Patrols to Prevent Illegal Fishing Intrusions

Nellore, March 26 | TPN Bureau

In a bid to curb illegal entry of mechanised fishing boats from neighbouring states, a Special Boat Patrolling Task Force has intensified coastal surveillance along Andhra Pradesh's territorial waters.

Acting on the directions of District Collector Himanshu Shukla and Superintendent of Police Dr. Ajitha Vejjenda, a coordinated task force comprising officials from the Fisheries Department, Coastal Security Police, Forest Department, and local fishermen has been conducting regular sea patrols.

The initiative aims to prevent illegal intrusion of mechanised fishing boats from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, which have reportedly caused damage to local fishing nets and, in some cases, led to physical altercations with fishermen.

As part of the ongoing operations, boat patrolling is being carried out daily from Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour with the support of marine police personnel, departmental staff, and local fishing communities. On Thursday, two police patrolling boats were deployed to monitor coastal stretches.

The patrol covered key areas from Duvvaledu towards Thummalapenta, extending up to Taticherla Palem, before returning to Juvvaladinne Harbour. Officials reported that no



illegal intrusion attempts by boats from neighbouring states were detected during the inspection.

During the patrol, the task force inspected a fishing boat bearing registration number IND-KA-01-MM-3747. The vessel was found carrying seven fishermen, including owner-cum-driver Konduru Anil Kumar, who were identified as residents of Venkata Subbaya-palem village in Bapatla district.

Upon verification, officials noted that the boat was a 4 HP dinghy purchased from Mangaluru. The owner informed authorities that an application had already been submitted to the Fisheries Department for registration transfer to Andhra Pradesh, which is expected to be completed within a few days. The matter has been communicated to the concerned department for further action.

Authorities also checked other suspicious vessels during

the patrol and issued necessary warnings where required. Officials emphasized that continuous monitoring is being maintained to ensure maritime security and protect the livelihoods of local fishermen. The task force urged fishermen and the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious movements at sea by dialling 112, assuring that strict measures are in place to prevent illegal activities and safeguard coastal interests.

Unit Launched in Tirupati to Boost Healthcare Access

Tirupati, March 26 | TPN Bureau

A mobile medical unit was inaugurated in Tirupati as part of efforts to strengthen healthcare access under the "Mee Intiki Mee Doctor" initiative. The programme, organised by the Indian Red Cross Society, aims to bring medical services closer to people, especially those in need.

The unit was launched by District Collector Dr. Venkateswar in the presence of District Medical Officer Balakrishna Naik and Medical Services Council Chairman Dr. Srihari Rao, who attended as chief guests. The initiative is part of a broader effort that

includes the establishment of a blood bank at the Government Maternity Hospital's gynecology department in Tirupati. Officials said the project is designed to improve access to essential medical services, including diagnostics and primary care, particularly for underserved communities.

The mobile medical unit is equipped to provide on-the-spot consultations, basic treatment, and health check-ups, ensuring timely medical attention for patients who may find it difficult to visit hospitals. Authorities noted that such initiatives play a crucial role in strengthening grassroots healthcare delivery.

On the occasion, BJP leader Gundala Gopinath Reddy and his team felicitated the District Collector for his efforts in supporting public health initiatives in the district. Several leaders and representatives attended the event, including BJP North Mandal President Loka Prabhakar Naidu, BJP Central Mandal Vice President Tondamunati Subrahmanyam Reddy, and senior leader Mallarapu Ravi Prasad, among others. Officials expressed confidence that the mobile medical unit will significantly enhance healthcare outreach and ensure that essential medical services reach people at their doorstep.



PM Modi to Meet Chief Ministers on West Asia Crisis, Fuel Supply Preparedness in Focus

Narendra Modi is set to hold a crucial meeting with chief ministers to review preparedness across states amid the ongoing tensions in West Asia. The meeting will focus primarily on fuel supply, logistics, and coordination between the Centre and states in case the conflict disrupts global energy flows.

The interaction, expected to be conducted via video conferencing, comes as the situation in West Asia continues to create uncertainty in global oil markets. With India heavily dependent on imported crude oil, the government is taking proactive steps to ensure that domestic fuel supply remains stable and

uninterrupted.

Officials indicated that the meeting will adopt a "Team India" approach, stressing collaboration between the Centre and states to manage any potential fallout. The Prime Minister is expected to discuss contingency planning, including maintaining adequate fuel reserves, ensuring transportation readiness, and monitoring supply chains.

The Centre is also likely to ask states to review their emergency response mechanisms. This may include assessing stock levels of fuel and essential commodities, preparing alternate supply routes, and ensuring seamless coordination among de-

partments such as transport, power, and food distribution.

Some states heading into elections may not participate in the meeting due to the Model Code of Conduct. However, the Centre is expected to hold separate consultations with senior officials from those states to ensure that preparedness measures remain uniform across the country.

The ongoing geopolitical tensions have already caused volatility in global energy prices and shipping routes. Any prolonged disruption could impact fuel availability, transportation costs, and inflation. As a result, the government is working to minimize potential risks and

maintain stability in domestic markets. The Centre has already conducted several high-level reviews in recent days, examining petroleum supply, power availability, fertiliser stocks, and overall economic implications. The upcoming meeting with chief ministers is expected to further strengthen coordination and preparedness. With uncertainty continuing in West Asia, the government's proactive outreach to states highlights the importance of coordinated planning. The meeting aims to ensure that India remains prepared for any disruption while safeguarding fuel supplies and essential services across the country.



"Snake Threat", Mercedes And Crores: Fresh Charges Against Nashik 'Godman' Ashok Kharat

Fresh allegations have surfaced against self-styled godman Ashok Kharat, with a Pune-based builder accusing him of extorting nearly 5 crore using fear tactics, including threats involving a snake and supernatural consequences.

According to the complaint, Kharat allegedly convinced the businessman that he was under a serious spiritual threat and claimed that only expensive rituals could save him. The builder alleged that the astrologer created fear by invoking the "wrath of a snake" and warning of severe consequences if he did not comply with instructions.

The complainant further claimed that Kharat forced him to spend large sums on rituals and spiritual remedies. As part of the alleged extortion, the builder said he was made to buy a luxury Mer-



cedes-Benz car for the astrologer. The total amount allegedly extracted from him is close to 5 crore, according to the complaint.

The new allegations come as the 67-year-old astrologer is already under arrest in connection with multiple serious charges. These include allegations of rape, extortion, hu-

man sacrifice, and violations of anti-superstition laws. Investigators say the case has widened as more complaints continue to emerge.

Police have also been examining claims that Kharat targeted wealthy clients, including businesspersons and influential individuals. He allegedly used elaborate rituals,

fear tactics, and claims of supernatural powers to manipulate victims into paying large amounts of money.

Earlier investigations revealed that Kharat, a retired Merchant Navy officer who referred to himself as "Captain," had built a network of followers and high-profile clients. Authorities are now probing his finances, properties, and possible accomplices as part of the expanding investigation.

The latest complaint has added to the growing list of allegations against the Nashik-based astrologer. Police are continuing to question witnesses and review evidence as they investigate the full scale of the alleged fraud and exploitation.

With multiple accusations emerging, authorities say further charges could be filed as the investigation progresses.

Devendra Fadnavis Shayari, Uddhav Thackeray Reply Spark Buzz Over Changing Political Equations

A poetic exchange between Devendra Fadnavis and Uddhav Thackeray during a farewell event has triggered fresh speculation about shifting political equations in Maharashtra.

The exchange took place in the Legislative Council as Uddhav Thackeray's tenure as a member neared its end. During his speech, Fadnavis praised Thackeray's leadership, administrative experience, and calm approach to politics. He recalled Thackeray's role during the COVID-19 pandemic and said he was not a typical politician, adding that once Thackeray makes a decision, he sticks to it.

Fadnavis also referred to their past political partnership and recited a shayari that many interpreted as a reference to the 2019 split between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Shiv Sena.

"Jinkomerahaathpakadkarchalpatha, hairathai wo baatpakadkarbaithgaye," he said, suggesting that those who were expected to walk together chose to part ways over differences.



Responding to the remarks, Thackeray acknowledged the praise but also posed a pointed question, asking what circumstances led to holding someone else's hand instead. His response was widely seen as a subtle reference to political realignments and past alliances in the state.

The exchange has gained significance amid recent political developments in Maharashtra. Though leaders described the interaction as courteous, the public tone and timing have fuelled speculation about possible political shifts. Observers noted that such exchanges between leaders from rival camps are rare, making the interac-

tion noteworthy.

Ekhnath Shinde, who was also present during the session, has previously been at the centre of the political split that led to the fall of Thackeray's government. The political backdrop has added further interest to the exchange between Fadnavis and Thackeray. While it remains unclear whether the remarks signal any change in alliances, the poetic interaction has sparked discussions in political circles. For now, leaders have maintained that the exchange was part of a farewell event, but the timing and tone have kept speculation alive about evolving political dynamics in Maharashtra.

Puri Jagannath Temple Opens Treasure Trove After 48 Years With 3D Mapping and Secrecy Oath

The centuries-old treasure trove of the Jagannath Temple was opened for inventory after nearly 48 years, marking a historic moment that combined modern technology with traditional practices. Officials began documenting valuables stored in the temple's RatnaBhandar, or treasury, using advanced digital tools while maintaining strict secrecy.

A 15-member team carried out the first phase of the inventory, which lasted around six hours. The process began at an auspicious time and included temple officials, servants, bank representatives, gemmologists, and members of a high-level committee. The exercise focused on documenting valuables used for daily rituals at the 12th-century shrine.

Authorities used 3D mapping and computerised records to digitally document the jewellery and precious items. The digital mapping will create detailed references of each object, helping ensure transparency and better preservation of the temple's heritage. Officials said the valuables were also matched with records



from 1978, when the last inventory was conducted.

Participants in the process took an oath not to disclose details of the valuables, maintaining the temple's long-standing tradition of secrecy. Officials said the exercise was conducted in a transparent yet confidential manner to protect the religious significance of the items.

The RatnaBhandar is believed to contain gold ornaments, diamonds, pearls, gemstones, and other precious

items donated by devotees and royal families over centuries. Historical records suggest that large quantities of gold and ornaments were donated to the temple in the 15th century, many of which are still preserved.

Officials said the inventory will be carried out in phases. After the first stage, authorities will document valuables stored in the outer chamber, followed by the inner chamber, which is believed to hold the most precious items.

The reopening of the RatnaBhandar has drawn attention from devotees, historians, and researchers. Experts say the use of modern technology will help dispel myths surrounding the temple's treasure and ensure proper documentation for future generations.

The inventory marks a major step in preserving the cultural and religious heritage of one of India's most revered temples, blending centuries-old traditions with modern technological safeguards.

Sonia Gandhi Responding Well To Treatment, Under Observation At Delhi Hospital

Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi is responding well to treatment and remains under observation at a hospital in New Delhi, doctors said. She was admitted after being diagnosed with a systemic infection and is currently receiving antibiotics and supportive care.

According to hospital officials, Gandhi was admitted late on March 24 and has since been monitored closely by a team of senior doctors. Dr. Ajay Swaroop said her condition is stable and she is showing a positive response to treatment. Medical teams are continuing to observe her recovery as a precautionary measure.

Gandhi is undergoing treatment at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, where doctors are carefully tracking her progress. Hospital authorities stated that while her condition is stable, she will remain under observation until doctors are satisfied with her recovery.

Sources indicated that the veteran leader had been feeling unwell before being admitted.



Following her arrival at the hospital, doctors conducted a series of medical tests and initiated treatment immediately. Officials have not reported any major complications, and her health is said to be improving steadily. The development prompted wishes for her speedy recovery from political leaders across the country. Congress leaders have also been closely monitoring updates about her health. Family members, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, are understood to be in touch with doctors and hospi-

tal authorities regarding her condition. Sonia Gandhi, one of India's most prominent political figures, has faced occasional health concerns in recent years and has undergone periodic medical check-ups. Doctors said her discharge will depend on how quickly she continues to respond to treatment. For now, hospital officials have assured that she is improving and remains under close supervision. Further updates are expected after doctors complete additional assessments over the next few days.

Pinarayi Vijayan Hits Back at Rahul Gandhi Over 'Secret Deal' Charge

Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday strongly criticised Rahul Gandhi after the Congress leader alleged a secret understanding between the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the Kerala Assembly Elections.

Responding to the allegations, Vijayan said Rahul Gandhi lacked "even the basic understanding of an ordinary worker" and accused him of making baseless claims. He added that such remarks were unexpected from a national-level leader and suggested that Gandhi was ignoring Kerala's political

realities.

The political exchange began after Rahul Gandhi, addressing a rally in Kozhikode, claimed that there were only two forces in Kerala — the United Democratic Front and what he described as a partnership between the Left Democratic Front and the BJP. He also alleged that the policies of the Left and BJP appeared similar and claimed the two parties were indirectly helping each other in several constituencies.

Congress leaders further argued that certain electoral developments suggested a tacit understanding between

the Left and BJP. They pointed to candidate selections and electoral contests, claiming these decisions benefited the ruling alliance.

Rejecting the allegations, Vijayan hit back by accusing the Congress of acting as a "B-team" of the BJP in various parts of the country. He cited past political developments and argued that decisions taken by the Congress in several elections had indirectly helped the BJP. Vijayan also criticised Rahul Gandhi's remarks on multiple political issues, saying they reflected poor understanding and inconsistent positions.

The war of words comes as campaigning intensifies ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections. The ruling Left Democratic Front is seeking another term, while the Congress-led United Democratic Front is aiming to return to power.

With elections approaching, political rhetoric between the two sides has sharpened, and accusations of covert alliances are expected to remain a key theme in the campaign. The developments highlight the increasingly fierce contest between the Left and Congress in Kerala.



Iran Says Strait of Hormuz Open for 'Friendly' Nations Including India Amid Oil Crisis

Iran has announced that the strategically important Strait of Hormuz will remain open for "friendly" countries, including India, despite escalating tensions in the Middle East and concerns over global oil supply disruptions.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stated that vessels from friendly nations such as China, Russia, Pakistan, Iraq, and Bangladesh would continue to receive safe passage through the crucial waterway. He added that some ships from these countries have already crossed the strait after coordination with Iranian authorities.

However, Iran indicated that vessels linked to countries it considers adversaries, including the United States and Israel, may face restrictions. Iranian authorities described the region as a conflict zone and suggested that passage would depend on geopolitical alignments during the ongoing tensions.

The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most critical oil transit routes, handling a significant portion of

global crude oil and liquefied natural gas shipments. Any disruption in this narrow waterway can quickly impact global energy markets, pushing oil prices higher and increasing inflation concerns worldwide.

Shipping activity in the region has already declined sharply due to the conflict, raising fears of supply shortages and higher fuel costs. Countries that rely heavily on imported oil, including India, are closely monitoring the situation, as disruptions could affect domestic fuel prices and economic stability.

Iran's decision to allow passage for friendly nations may help ease some supply concerns, particularly for major energy-importing countries. However, analysts believe the geopolitical situation remains fluid, and further escalation could still affect shipping routes and oil availability.

With global energy markets already under pressure, developments around the Strait of Hormuz are expected to remain a key factor influencing oil prices and investor sentiment in the coming weeks.



Iran Prepares for Island Warfare Amid Reports of Possible US Ground Offensive on Kharg

Iran is strengthening its military presence on Kharg Island amid growing speculation that the United States may consider a ground offensive to seize the strategically important island. The development comes as tensions continue to escalate in the ongoing Middle East conflict.

Kharg Island is considered Iran's economic lifeline, handling nearly 90 percent of the country's oil exports. The island houses critical oil storage facilities and military infrastructure, making it a key strategic target in any potential military confrontation. Reports indicate that Iran has begun reinforcing the island by moving additional troops, deploying weapons, and setting up defensive traps to counter a possible invasion.

The increased defensive preparations follow recent US

airstrikes on military installations on the island. The strikes reportedly targeted military assets while avoiding oil infrastructure, a move seen as an attempt to limit economic damage while maintaining pressure on Tehran.

Iranian officials have warned that any attempt to capture Kharg Island would trigger a strong response. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said that Iran's adversaries were preparing to occupy one of its islands and warned that Iranian forces were closely monitoring developments. He also cautioned that Iran would retaliate against any country assisting such an operation.

Meanwhile, reports suggest the US has increased troop deployments in the Middle East and is maintaining surveillance over Kharg Island. Military planners are reportedly

evaluating the risks of a ground offensive, which experts warn could lead to heavy casualties due to Iran's layered defensive systems and difficult terrain.

Analysts also warn that any attack on Kharg Island could significantly escalate the conflict. Such a move may prompt Iran to intensify attacks on regional targets and disrupt global oil supplies further. Several Gulf countries are reportedly urging Washington to avoid launching a ground operation, fearing wider regional instability.

With Kharg Island playing a crucial role in global oil markets, developments around the island are being closely watched. Any escalation could have far-reaching consequences for energy prices, regional stability, and global financial markets.

Pakistan's Khawaja Asif Mocks US Over Strait of Hormuz "War Goal"

Khawaja Asif criticised the United States, saying the objective of reopening the Strait of Hormuz was unnecessary because the waterway was "already open" before tensions escalated.

In a social media post, Asif questioned what he described as shifting war goals, suggesting that the focus of the US-led campaign appeared to have moved toward reopening the Strait of Hormuz. He mocked the idea, stating that the route had not been formally closed prior to the conflict.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical energy routes, with a significant portion of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas shipments passing through the narrow waterway. Any disruption to traffic in the region can have immediate consequences for global oil prices and energy supply.

Shipping activity in the area has declined sharply since the conflict began, reflecting heightened risks and uncer-

tainty. Reduced vessel movement has raised concerns about supply disruptions and increased shipping costs, contributing to volatility in global energy markets.

The tensions escalated following military exchanges involving Iran, the United States, and Israel. The conflict has intensified concerns over regional stability and global trade routes.

Diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the situation remain uncertain, with competing proposals reportedly being discussed. Meanwhile, the Strait of Hormuz continues to remain central to the conflict, as developments in the region are closely watched by global markets and policymakers.

With geopolitical tensions still elevated, any further disruption in the Strait of Hormuz could significantly impact global energy markets, inflation trends, and economic stability worldwide.



US Troops Move to Hotels After Bases Attacked in Middle East: Report

United States troops in the Middle East have reportedly relocated to hotels and office spaces after multiple military bases were targeted in attacks linked to the ongoing conflict with Iran.

According to reports citing US officials and military personnel, Iranian strikes on American bases forced troops to disperse to alternative locations across the region. Many land-based personnel are now operating remotely from temporary sites, while fighter pilots and aviation crews remain at operational airbases to continue military missions.

The attacks were part of Iran's retaliation following joint US-Israel strikes earlier in the conflict. Several US military installations across the region reportedly sustained significant damage, making them difficult to operate from. Some bases, particularly in nearby countries, were described as nearly uninhabitable after the strikes.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has reportedly urged local residents to identify and report locations where American troops are staying. Iranian officials also accused the US of placing soldiers in civilian areas, warning that such locations could become targets.

Despite the relocation, US military officials indicated that operations against Iran are continuing. Pentagon officials acknowledged that Iran still retains military capabilities despite ongoing airstrikes and pressure from US forces.

Iranian military spokesperson Ebrahim Zolfaghari claimed that American bases in the region had been neutralised and alleged that US troops had moved to hidden locations. He also urged people in the region to report troop movements and called for the removal of American forces.

Meanwhile, tensions remain high as both sides continue military operations. Iran has launched drones and missiles targeting US bases, diplomatic facilities, and energy infrastructure across the region, escalating the conflict further.

The situation has raised concerns about a broader regional escalation, as the United States continues to deploy additional forces. Reports indicate that elements of the 82nd Airborne Division may also be sent to the region, potentially expanding ground operations.

As the conflict intensifies, the relocation of US troops highlights growing security risks across the Middle East, with military installations increasingly becoming targets amid escalating hostilities.

Iran Claims It Shot Down US F-18 Jet, America Rejects Assertion

Iran claimed it had shot down a Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet belonging to the United States amid the ongoing Middle East conflict, releasing a video that allegedly showed the aircraft being struck mid-air.

According to Iranian authorities, the aircraft was targeted by air defence systems during military operations. The video circulated by Iranian media appeared to show a jet losing altitude after a flash in the sky. However, officials did not provide details about the location of the incident, the pilot's condition, or additional evidence supporting the claim. Independent verification of the footage has also not been possible.

The claim was reportedly made by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which said the strike demonstrated the effectiveness of its defence



systems. The announcement came as tensions continue to escalate across the region, with ongoing military exchanges and heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

However, the United States Central Command rejected the

claim, stating that no American fighter jet had been shot down. US officials described the report as misinformation and said all aircraft involved in operations remained accounted for.

American authorities also

noted that similar claims have surfaced earlier during the conflict. Previous reports from Iranian media had suggested that US fighter jets were shot down, but those assertions were also denied by US officials.

Iran has also claimed that it damaged a Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II, which allegedly made an emergency landing at a US base in the region. While US officials acknowledged that an aircraft had made an emergency landing, they did not confirm that it was due to Iranian fire.

The conflicting statements highlight the growing information battle accompanying the military tensions involving Iran, the United States, and Israel. With both sides issuing competing claims, analysts say the situation remains fluid and difficult to verify independently.

As the conflict continues, global observers remain cautious, with developments in the region closely monitored for potential escalation and broader geopolitical impact.

"I Said No Thanks": Trump Claims Iran Wanted Him as Supreme Leader

Donald Trump claimed that Iran had informally suggested making him the country's Supreme Leader, but he said he rejected the idea, stating he had no interest in taking on such a role.

Speaking at a Republican fundraising event, Trump said he was told that Iranian leaders were considering him for the position following reports surrounding the death of Ali Khamenei amid the ongoing conflict. Trump said he declined the suggestion, adding that he preferred to focus on his own political priorities.

Trump also claimed that Iranian officials were interested in negotiating with the United States to end the conflict but were hesitant to publicly acknowledge their willingness for talks. According to him, Iran's leadership was con-



cerned about potential domestic backlash if negotiations became public. He further suggested that recent developments and instability within

Iran had created pressure on the country's leadership. Trump indicated that this situation may have prompted Iranian officials to seek al-

ternative leadership arrangements and explore diplomatic options. Following the reported developments, leadership changes in Iran have

Iran Threatens to Block Strategic Bab-al-Mandeb Strait Amid Escalating Oil Crisis

Iran has warned that it could block the Bab al Mandeb Strait if the United States or Israel escalates military action against Iranian territory. The threat comes as tensions in the Middle East intensify and concerns grow over disruptions to global oil supplies.

The Bab-al-Mandeb Strait is a crucial maritime route connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and providing access to the Suez Canal. A significant portion of global oil shipments and trade passes through this narrow waterway, making it vital for global energy markets. Any disruption could worsen the ongoing oil supply concerns.

Iranian officials indicated that if adversaries attempt military operations on Iranian islands, including Kharg Island, Tehran may respond by expanding the conflict. The warning suggests that Iran could open additional fronts in response to any escalation.



Reports also indicate that the Houthis movement, which is aligned with Iran, could play a role in targeting vessels passing through the Bab-al-Mandeb Strait. The group's presence near the southern entrance of the waterway has raised concerns about potential disruptions to shipping activity. The threat comes after Iran increased control over the Strait of Hormuz, another critical oil shipping route through which a large share of global

oil supply flows. Blocking both chokepoints could significantly impact global trade and energy markets.

Analysts warn that disruptions at both routes could lead to rising oil prices, higher shipping costs, and increased inflationary pressures worldwide. Countries heavily dependent on oil imports, including India, are closely monitoring the situation as geopolitical tensions continue to escalate.

ONGC May Rally Up to 65% as Rising Crude Prices Weigh on OMCs: CLSA

Shares of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) could surge by as much as 65 per cent, while oil marketing companies (OMCs) may avoid increasing petrol and diesel prices in the near term despite rising crude oil prices, according to global brokerage CLSA. The outlook comes amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia that have pushed crude oil prices close to the \$100 per barrel mark.

CLSA expects oil marketing companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation to face margin pressures as crude prices remain elevated. The brokerage believes these companies may refrain from raising retail fuel prices immediately, choosing instead to absorb part of the cost increase. This could impact profitability, especially after a period of strong marketing margins over the past few years.

The brokerage noted that earlier break-even levels for auto fuels were estimated at around \$75-80 per barrel. With crude oil prices now trading above these levels, marketing margins are expected to shrink. Despite this, OMCs may hold back from passing on higher costs to consumers, particularly given the sensitivity of fuel prices and the broader economic environment.

In contrast, ONGC is likely



to benefit from higher crude oil prices. As an upstream oil producer, the company's earnings typically rise when oil prices increase.

CLSA highlighted that even if Brent crude averages around \$90 per barrel, ONGC shares could still see a substantial upside of up to 65 per cent from current levels. This makes ONGC one of the brokerage's preferred picks within the oil and gas sector.

OMC stocks have already come under pressure following the recent surge in crude prices.

Shares of major OMCs have declined significantly, reflecting investor concerns over narrowing margins and uncertainty around pricing policies. Analysts believe rising crude prices, currency fluctuations, and limited government support may continue to weigh on the sector.

Although OMCs recently increased prices for premium petrol and industrial diesel, the impact is expected to be limited. Premium petrol contributes only a small portion of total fuel consumption, while

industrial diesel accounts for a relatively modest share of overall diesel demand. As a result, these price adjustments may not be enough to offset rising crude costs.

Looking ahead, analysts expect crude oil prices to remain elevated due to ongoing geopolitical uncertainties and supply concerns. Higher oil prices are likely to benefit upstream producers like ONGC, while downstream oil marketing companies may continue to face profitability challenges in the coming months.

Planned RCB Sale May Unlock Special Dividend for United Spirits Shareholders

Shareholders of United Spirits Ltd (USL) could receive a sizeable one-time payout following the company's planned sale of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) franchise, according to brokerage firm Nomura. Analysts believe the potential divestment could unlock significant value, with estimates suggesting a special dividend of up to 196 per share.

The expected payout is linked to USL's proposal to sell its stake in Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited, the entity that owns and operates RCB in the Indian Premier League. The deal is reportedly valued at around 16,660 crore (approximately \$1.78 billion), which would make it one of the highest valuations for an IPL franchise to date. Such a transaction could generate substantial cash proceeds for the company.

Nomura highlighted that the final dividend payout will depend on how much of the sale proceeds the company decides to distribute to shareholders. If the entire amount is returned, investors could receive a dividend close to 196 per share. However, if United Spirits retains part of the funds for future investments or operational needs, the dividend may be lower, potentially around 98 per share.

The brokerage also noted



that United Spirits already maintains a strong balance sheet and is currently in a net cash position. This financial strength increases the likelihood of capital returns to shareholders. However, the company has not yet announced a formal capital allocation strategy or confirmed how it plans to utilise the proceeds from the proposed transaction.

The potential buyers for the RCB franchise reportedly include a consortium featuring major investors such as Aditya Birla Group, Times Group, Blackstone, and Bolt Ventures. The sale is seen as a monetisation of a non-core asset, allowing United Spirits to sharpen its focus on its core alcoholic beverages business.

Although RCB has been a

high-profile brand within the IPL, its financial contribution to United Spirits has been relatively modest. Analysts estimate that the franchise accounted for roughly 2 per cent of the company's revenue and about 9 per cent of its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) in the previous financial year.

Nomura continues to maintain a positive outlook on United Spirits, citing growth potential in its premium portfolio, regulatory easing in key markets, and improving pricing flexibility. The brokerage believes the potential RCB sale, combined with strong core business fundamentals, could act as a major catalyst for the stock in the coming months.

Wall Street Futures Decline as Middle East Tensions Weigh on Investor Sentiment

Wall Street futures moved lower on Thursday as investors remained cautious amid escalating tensions in the Middle East and uncertainty around ceasefire negotiations. The geopolitical developments dampened global risk appetite and prompted investors to shift toward safer assets, leading to weakness in equity futures.

Futures linked to major US indices traded in the red, with S&P 500 Futures falling around 0.37 percent and Nasdaq 100 Futures declining about 0.41 percent. Market participants remained cautious as conflicting signals emerged regarding diplomatic efforts and the potential for further escalation in the region.

The ongoing tensions have also pushed crude oil prices higher, raising concerns about inflationary pressures and global economic growth. Investors worry that sustained increases in oil prices could delay interest rate cuts by major central banks and impact corporate earnings across sectors. Energy supply disruptions remain a key risk if the geopolitical situation worsens.

Asian markets mirrored the cautious mood, with several regional indices declining as investors reacted to the heightened uncertainty. The broader sell-off highlighted growing concerns over global growth prospects, especially if geo-



political tensions continue to intensify. Market participants are closely monitoring developments in the Middle East for further cues.

Higher oil prices remain one of the biggest concerns for global markets. Rising energy costs can increase inflation, reduce consumer spending, and affect business profitability. This uncertainty has led investors to adopt a wait-and-watch approach, limiting fresh risk-taking in equity markets.

Meanwhile, traders are also keeping an eye on upcoming economic data and central bank commentary for clues on interest rate direction. Any signs of persistent inflation could further weigh on market sentiment and add to volatility.

Despite the cautious global backdrop, analysts note that markets could remain volatile in the near term as geopolitical developments continue to unfold. Investors are expected to

remain focused on oil price movements, diplomatic developments, and macroeconomic indicators.

Overall, uncertainty surrounding the Middle East situation, coupled with rising crude oil prices and inflation concerns, has led to a decline in Wall Street futures. Until there is greater clarity, global markets are likely to experience continued fluctuations and cautious trading behavior.



SEBI Proposes IT Resilience Index Framework for Market Infrastructure Institutions

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a new IT Resilience Index framework aimed at strengthening the technological robustness of market infrastructure institutions (MIIs), including stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories. The move is intended to enhance system reliability and reduce risks arising from technology disruptions in India's capital markets.

Under the proposal, SEBI plans to introduce an IT Resilience Index (ITRI) that will measure the health and resilience of critical IT systems used by these institutions. The index will evaluate key systems identified in existing regulatory guidelines, along with supporting infrastructure that feeds into core operations. The initiative seeks to

create a structured and measurable approach to monitoring technological stability across market institutions.

The regulator has suggested a uniform framework with standardized parameters and weightages to allow comparisons across different MIIs. This would help identify vulnerabilities, strengthen governance, and improve risk monitoring capabilities. The index is expected to generate periodic, system-driven insights that can assist institutions in addressing weaknesses and enhancing operational resilience.

SEBI has also proposed that market infrastructure institutions compute the index on a half-yearly basis. The results would need to be calculated within 60 days from the end of each half-year, ensuring timely assessment and corrective action where necessary. This

periodic monitoring is expected to enhance accountability and transparency across the market ecosystem.

The proposal comes amid increasing reliance on technology-driven trading systems and growing concerns over potential disruptions caused by technical failures or cyber risks. By introducing a standardized resilience index, SEBI aims to strengthen the stability of India's financial markets and improve investor confidence.

SEBI has released the proposal as a consultation paper and invited feedback from stakeholders before finalising the framework. Once implemented, the IT Resilience Index is expected to play a key role in enhancing operational efficiency and safeguarding the functioning of market infrastructure institutions in India.

Bharat PET Files Draft Papers for 760-Crore IPO; Offer for Sale to Dominate Issue

Bharat PET has filed draft red herring prospectus papers with Securities and Exchange Board of India to raise 760 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed issue will largely consist of an offer for sale (OFS) by existing promoters, while a smaller portion will come from a fresh issue of shares.

According to the draft documents, the IPO includes a fresh issue of equity shares worth 120 crore, alongside an offer for sale component of 640 crore by existing shareholders. The company may also consider raising up to 24 crore through a pre-IPO placement. If such a placement is complet-

ed, the size of the fresh issue could be reduced accordingly.

Bharat PET operates in the packaging solutions segment, manufacturing a wide range of products including PET bottles and jars, preforms, caps and closures, multilayer co-extruded bottles, and tin containers. These packaging solutions cater to diverse industries such as food and beverages, agrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, paints, industrial chemicals, and liquor manufacturers. The company's diversified product portfolio and sector exposure have supported its business growth in recent years.

The proceeds from the fresh issue are expected to be utilised primarily for strengthen-

ing the company's balance sheet and expanding operational capacity. Around 50 crore will be used for repayment or prepayment of borrowings, while approximately 35.8 crore has been earmarked for capital expenditure, including the purchase of machinery and equipment. The remaining funds will be allocated for general corporate purposes.

Bharat PET has reported steady financial performance over the past few years. For the financial year ended March 2025, the company recorded revenue of 332.9 crore, reflecting strong growth compared to the previous year. Net profit during the same period stood at 36.7 crore. For the six

months ended September 2025, the company reported revenue of 226.8 crore and profit of 33.3 crore, indicating continued business momentum.

The company operates multiple manufacturing facilities across India, allowing it to serve customers across different regions efficiently. Its customer base includes companies from agrochemical, food, and industrial sectors, providing stability through diversified demand. Equirus Capital and Ambit have been appointed as the book-running lead managers for the IPO. The company is expected to announce further details, including the price band and listing timeline, at a later stage.



PohelaBoishakh 2026: Bengali New Year To Be Celebrated On April 14

PohelaBoishakh, also known as PoilaBoishakh or Noboborsho, is one of the most important cultural festivals celebrated by Bengalis across India and abroad. In 2026, the Bengali New Year will be observed on April 14, marking the beginning of a new year in the Bengali calendar. The day symbolizes fresh beginnings, prosperity, and cultural pride, and is celebrated with great enthusiasm in regions such as West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, and across Bangladesh, along with Bengali communities worldwide.

Significance of PohelaBoishakh

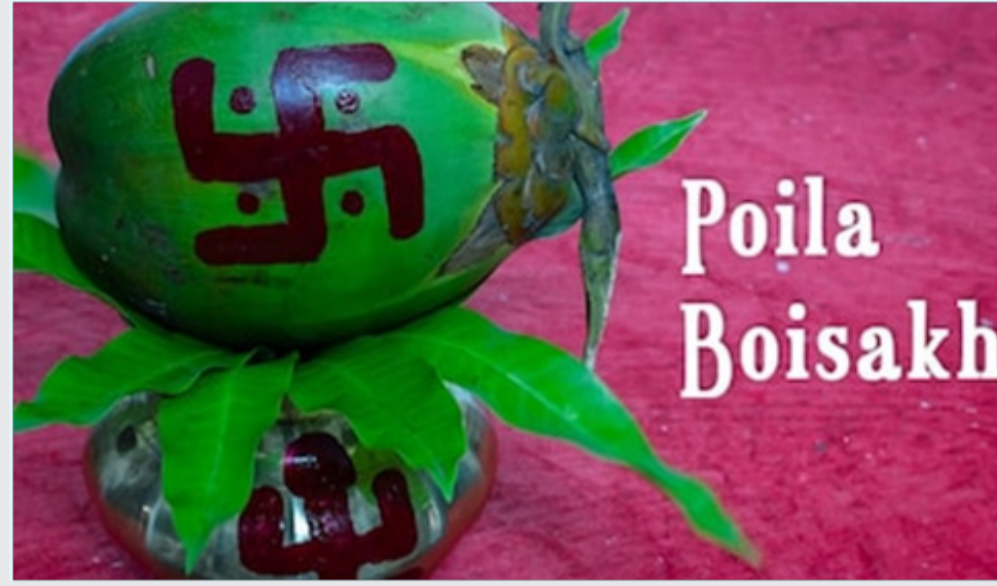
The term "Pohela" means "first," while "Boishakh" refers to the first month of the Bengali calendar. The festival marks the start of the Bengali New Year and is seen as a

time for renewal and optimism. It is celebrated as a secular cultural occasion that brings together people from all communities, reflecting the rich heritage and traditions of Bengali society.

The festival also coincides with the solar transition known as Mesha Sankranti, when the Sun enters the zodiac sign Aries. This astronomical event marks the beginning of a new agricultural and solar cycle, making PohelaBoishakh a symbol of growth and new opportunities.

Historical Background

The origins of PohelaBoishakh can be traced back to the Mughal period during the reign of Akbar. The Bengali calendar was introduced to align tax collection with the harvest season. Farmers would settle their



dues at the end of the agricultural year and begin the new year with celebrations. Over time, the practice evolved

into a broader cultural festival that highlights Bengali traditions and community spirit.

Today, PohelaBoishakh is celebrated not only as a New Year festival but also as a reflection of Bengali identity

and cultural pride.

Traditions and Celebrations

PohelaBoishakh is marked by colorful festivities, cultural performances, and family gatherings. People wear traditional attire, often in red and white, which are considered symbolic of celebration and prosperity. Homes are cleaned and decorated to welcome the new year, while families prepare special dishes and sweets.

One of the popular traditions associated with the festival is "HaalKhata," where businesses open new account books to mark a fresh financial beginning. Shop owners invite customers, offer sweets, and exchange greetings, strengthening social and business relationships.

Community fairs, music, dance performances, and cul-

tural events are also common during the celebrations. Traditional foods, sweets, and festive meals play a major role, bringing families and communities together.

A Celebration of Hope and Unity

PohelaBoishakh represents unity, joy, and hope for the future. People greet each other with "ShubhoNoboborsho," meaning Happy New Year, and celebrate with loved ones. The festival offers an opportunity to reconnect with cultural roots and begin the year with positivity.

As April 14, 2026 approaches, Bengalis around the world are preparing to welcome the new year with enthusiasm, tradition, and optimism for prosperity and happiness in the year ahead.

11-Year-Old Aviation Enthusiast Nails "Touch-And-Go" Landing, Wins Internet's Praise

An 11-year-old aspiring pilot has taken social media by storm after a video of him performing a "touch-and-go" maneuver during a training session went viral. The young aviation enthusiast, Rishi Sharma, impressed viewers with his calmness and control while handling an aircraft under expert supervision—a moment that quickly captured the admiration of aviation fans and internet users alike.

The viral clip shows Rishi seated in the cockpit of a small aircraft at Oxnard Airport in California. As the aircraft approaches the runway, the young trainee carefully follows instructions and smoothly lands the plane. Without bringing the aircraft to a complete stop, he then accelerates again, lifting off for another takeoff—successfully completing the maneuver.

What Is a "Touch-And-Go" Maneuver?

A touch-and-go maneuver is



a common yet challenging training exercise used in pilot training. It involves landing the aircraft and immediately taking off again without stopping fully. This technique helps pilots practice landing and takeoff procedures repeatedly, improving their coordination, confidence, and control.

In the video, Rishi demon-

strates impressive composure while performing the maneuver. His instructor can be heard praising him after the smooth landing, further highlighting the young trainee's skill and focus. For many viewers, the most remarkable aspect was not just the maneuver itself, but the confidence he displayed throughout the process.

Starting Young, Aiming High

Rishi's journey into aviation reportedly began at the age of seven. Since then, he has been learning the basics of flying under supervision, gradually building experience inside the cockpit. His passion for aviation is evident in the way he handles controls, listens carefully to instructions, and maintains focus throughout the exercise.

Despite his young age, Rishi shows discipline and maturity beyond his years. The video captures him calmly adjusting controls, maintaining direction, and responding to guidance—skills that even adult beginners often find challenging.

Internet Applauds The Young Pilot

After the video surfaced online, social media users flooded the comments section with praise. Many called him "future captain," while others ad-

mired his confidence and dedication. Some users even joked that he "handles a plane better than many people handle a car."

The clip also sparked conversations about encouraging children to pursue their passions early. Many viewers appreciated how early exposure and proper guidance can help young minds develop exceptional skills.

Inspiring Future Aviators

While Rishi is still years away from becoming a licensed pilot, his viral moment has already inspired many young dreamers. His determination and passion serve as a reminder that age is no barrier when it comes to learning and pursuing ambitions.

As the video continues to gain attention, the young aviation enthusiast has become a symbol of dedication, discipline, and dreams taking flight—quite literally.

Bengaluru Auto Driver Scrolls Reels While Driving, Narrowly Avoids Crash With Reversing Truck

A video from Bengaluru has gone viral after capturing a dangerous moment involving an auto driver scrolling through social media reels while driving. The clip has sparked widespread concern online about road safety and distracted driving.

Passenger Records Risky Ride

According to the viral post, a woman passenger noticed the auto driver repeatedly scrolling through short videos on his phone instead of paying attention to the road. She began recording the incident, highlighting how the driver remained focused on his screen for most of the journey.

The situation turned alarming when a truck ahead of the auto suddenly began reversing. The distracted driver failed to notice the vehicle in time, forcing the passenger to shout, "Anna, nodimunde" (Brother, look ahead). The driver eventually braked at the last second, narrowly avoiding a collision.

Driver Continued Scrolling Despite Warning

Even after the near-miss and the passenger's repeated warnings, the driver reportedly continued scrolling through reels. The woman later shared her experience on social media, describing how the driver seemed "locked in" and barely attentive to the road. The clip quickly gained traction online, sparking debate about mobile phone use while driving.

Internet Reacts With Concern

The viral video triggered strong reactions from social

media users. Many expressed shock at the driver's behavior, calling it extremely dangerous and irresponsible. Several users demanded stricter enforcement of traffic rules and harsher penalties for distracted driving.

Others pointed out that such behavior has become increasingly common, especially with the growing popularity of short-form video apps. Some users also urged passengers to report such incidents to authorities to prevent accidents.

Growing Road Safety Concerns

The incident has once again highlighted the dangers of using mobile phones while driving. Distracted driving significantly increases the risk of accidents, especially in crowded urban traffic conditions like those in Bengaluru.

Authorities and road safety experts have repeatedly warned that even a few seconds of distraction can lead to serious accidents. The viral clip serves as a reminder of how quickly situations can escalate when drivers fail to keep their eyes on the road.

A Narrow Escape

Fortunately, no one was injured in this case, but the near-collision has sparked an important conversation about road safety and responsible driving. As the video continues to circulate online, many hope it will encourage drivers to avoid distractions and prioritize safety.

The incident stands as a stark reminder that scrolling through reels can wait—but road safety cannot.



Hired, Relocated, Then Fired After One Day: Pharmacy Assistant's Story Sparks Outrage

A heartbreaking story of a pharmacy assistant who relocated for a new job only to be fired after just one day has gone viral, sparking widespread debate about workplace ethics and job security.

A Fresh Start Turns Into A Nightmare

According to the viral post, the pharmacy assistant accepted a new job opportunity in Port Alberni after being encouraged by the hiring manager. Motivated by the opportunity, the employee left their previous job and relocated to the new city, expecting a stable career move.

However, things took a shocking turn. Just one day after starting the new position, the assistant was reportedly fired without any clear explanation. The sudden termination left the individual in a difficult situation, having already resigned from their previous role and moved to a new location.

No Warning, No Explanation

The post revealed that the pharmacy assistant had been

assured about the role before relocating. But after joining, the employment ended abruptly, leaving the individual confused and distressed.

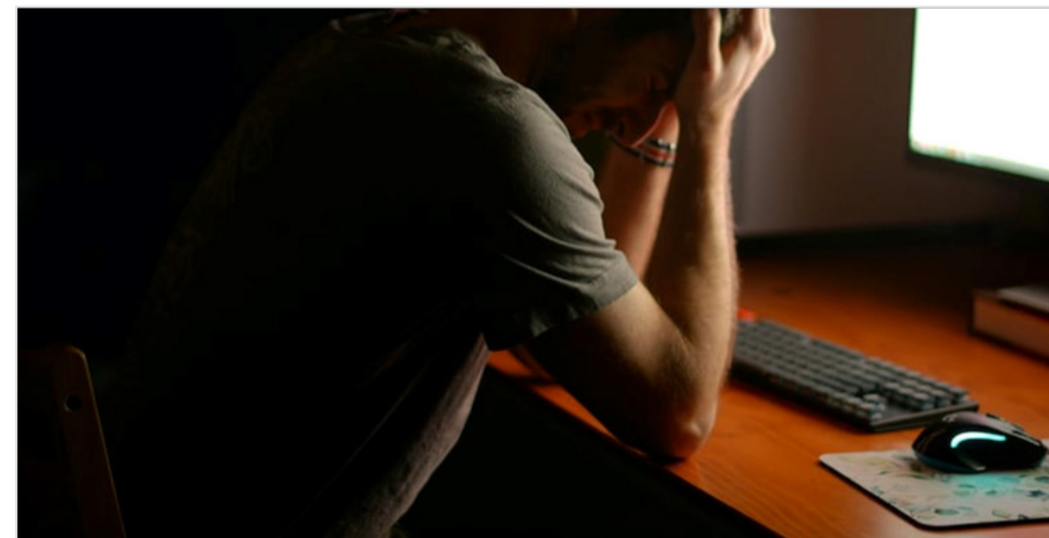
The unexpected dismissal created immediate financial and personal challenges. The employee now faced the stress of finding a new job, arranging accommodation, and dealing with relocation expenses—all within a matter of days.

Internet Reacts With Shock

The story quickly gained traction online, with many users expressing outrage over the situation. Several people questioned whether it was fair or even legal to fire someone after encouraging them to relocate.

Many commenters suggested that the individual seek legal advice, especially because the decision to move cities was based on the employer's assurances. Some users mentioned the concept of "promissory estoppel," where an employer may be held accountable if an employee suffers losses after relying on job promises.

Others shared similar experiences, highlighting how sud-



den job cancellations or layoffs can create serious personal and financial consequences.

A Wider Conversation About Job Security

The incident has sparked broader discussions about job security, employer responsibility, and the risks involved in relocating for work. Many users advised job seekers to ensure written agreements, relocation support, or probation

clarity before making major life decisions. The viral story also highlights the uncertainty many workers face today, especially when changing jobs or moving cities. While new opportunities often promise growth, they can sometimes come with unexpected risks.

A Cautionary Tale

The pharmacy assistant's experience serves as a cautionary tale for job seekers consid-

ering relocation. Experts often recommend confirming employment terms, probation periods, and relocation benefits before making significant commitments.

Although the outcome of this case remains unclear, the viral story has sparked an important conversation about fairness, transparency, and accountability in hiring practices.

Teen Says NEET Aspirant Sister Spends 10 Hours Daily With AI Chatbots, Sparks Online Debate

A teenager's viral social media post about his sister's growing dependence on AI chatbots has triggered widespread discussion about technology use, mental health, and academic pressure among students. The post described how his elder sister, a 21-year-old preparing for NEET, spends nearly 9 to 10 hours every day interacting with AI chatbots—a situation he believes is becoming increasingly concerning.

Heavy Chatbot Use Raises Concerns

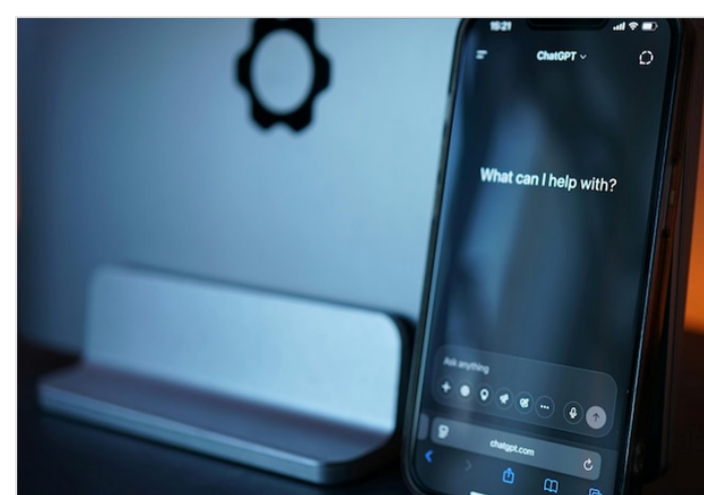
According to the teenager, the habit has continued for the past seven to eight months. He explained that his sister spends most of her time at home with minimal social interaction, which has led her to rely heavily on AI chatbots for compan-

ionship. Even during online classes and study sessions, she reportedly remains engaged in conversations with chatbot apps instead of focusing on her lessons.

The brother also noted that her daily screen time has significantly increased, with the majority of it devoted to chatting with AI systems. He shared that she has become deeply involved in role-play conversations, often centered around a singer she admires, which has further heightened his worries about her emotional attachment.

Changes In Behavior At Home

The teenager also described noticeable changes in his sister's behavior. He said she had only recently returned to preparing for the exam after



months of heavy chatbot use. Alongside this, he observed mood swings, irritability, and occasional arguments over minor issues.

He admitted feeling helpless and unsure how to address the situation, especially since the conversations she engages in are personal and emotionally

driven. In his post, he expressed concern that the situation had reached a point where it seemed "beyond repair," highlighting his anxiety about her well-being and academic future.

Internet Users Offer Suggestions

The post quickly gained traction online, prompting a wave of responses from concerned users. Many suggested that the teenager try having a calm, supportive conversation with his sister instead of confronting her directly. Others recommended encouraging her to gradually reduce screen time and reconnect with real-world activities.

Some users speculated that academic pressure and isolation might be contributing to her behavior. They advised in-

teracting with her through hobbies, exercise, and social interactions to help her regain balance. A few suggested seeking professional guidance if the situation continued to worsen.

Others recommended setting boundaries around device usage, though some warned that abruptly restricting access could lead to further frustration and conflict. The general consensus was to approach the situation with patience and empathy.

A Growing Concern About AI Dependence

The incident has sparked a broader conversation about the growing role of AI chatbots in people's lives, especially among students dealing with stress and loneliness. While AI tools can be helpful for learning, productivity, and emotion-

al support, excessive reliance may lead to reduced social interaction and unhealthy habits.

As artificial intelligence becomes more accessible, many users emphasized the importance of balanced usage. The discussion also highlighted the pressures faced by students preparing for competitive exams and how technology can sometimes become both a support system and a distraction.

Although the teenager's story reflects a personal situation, it has resonated with many people facing similar challenges. The viral post has opened up an important conversation about responsible technology use, emotional well-being, and maintaining balance in an increasingly digital world.

Sourav Ganguly Picks MS Dhoni As India's Greatest Captain, Ends Long-Standing Debate

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has settled one of Indian cricket's most debated questions by naming MS Dhoni as the country's greatest-ever captain.

Speaking at a recent summit, Ganguly was asked to choose between himself and Dhoni as India's best captain. Without hesitation, the former BCCI president picked Dhoni, citing his achievements and impact on Indian cricket.

"Mahendra Singh Dhoni," Ganguly said when asked about India's greatest captain. He explained that Dhoni's success at the highest level gives him the edge in the debate. Ganguly pointed out that while he led India to the final of the 2003 World Cup, Dhoni went a step further and won the trophy in 2011. He also praised Dhoni's leadership in limited-overs cricket, calling him an outstanding white-ball captain.



Ganguly further highlighted Dhoni's journey from a small cricketing centre like Ranchi in Jharkhand. He noted that Dhoni's rise from a relatively unknown region to becoming one of India's most successful captains was inspirational and helped expand cricket's reach across the country.

Dhoni remains one of the

most decorated captains in Indian cricket history. Under his leadership, India won the ICC T20 World Cup in 2007, the ODI World Cup in 2011, and the Champions Trophy in 2013. His calm approach and tactical decisions earned him widespread respect from teammates and opponents alike.

While Ganguly acknowl-

edged Dhoni's achievements, his own contribution to Indian cricket remains significant. Ganguly is widely credited with building a fearless Indian team in the early 2000s and nurturing several young talents who later became match-winners for the country. His aggressive leadership style helped transform India into a competitive force overseas.

The debate over India's greatest captain has often included other names such as Kapil Dev, Virat Kohli, and Rohit Sharma. However, Ganguly's endorsement of Dhoni adds significant weight to the argument, given his own stature in Indian cricket.

Ganguly's remarks have reignited discussions among fans but also brought clarity to the debate. By choosing Dhoni over himself, the former India captain acknowledged the legacy and achievements of one of cricket's most successful leaders.

RCB Name Change After 16,700 Crore Sale? Ananya Birla Drops Big Hint Ahead of IPL 2026



Speculation around a possible name change for Royal Challengers Bengaluru has intensified after the franchise was sold for a record 16,700 crore to a consortium led by the Aditya Birla Group. However, Ananya Birla may have provided clarity on the issue.

The acquisition, one of the biggest in sports franchise history, saw the new consortium acquire a 100 percent stake in the IPL team. The group includes the Aditya Birla Group along with investors such as Blackstone, Times of India Group, and Bolt Ventures. The deal also includes both the men's IPL team and the women's franchise in the Women's Pre-

mier League.

Following the sale, fans began speculating whether the team would undergo a re-branding under the new ownership. The discussion gained momentum on social media, with many expecting a possible name change ahead of Indian Premier League 2026.

However, Ananya Birla appeared to hint that the franchise could retain its existing identity. She reshared a social media post suggesting that the team would continue to be known as Royal Challengers Bengaluru, indicating that a name change may not be on the cards.

The development has been welcomed by fans, as RCB has built a strong brand over

the years with global recognition. The franchise, which has featured stars like Virat Kohli, remains one of the most popular teams in the league.

The record-breaking sale reflects the growing commercial value of IPL franchises. With new ownership and strong financial backing, RCB is expected to expand its global footprint, strengthen its squad, and invest in infrastructure ahead of future seasons. While no official announcement has been made yet, Ananya Birla's social media activity has eased speculation, suggesting that Royal Challengers Bengaluru may continue with its iconic name despite the ownership change.

CSK Set for Major Opening Change After Sanju Samson's Arrival, Ruturaj Gaikwad Hints

Chennai Super Kings captain Ruturaj Gaikwad has hinted at a significant batting change for the Indian Premier League 2026 season following the inclusion of Sanju Samson in the squad.

Gaikwad suggested that Samson is likely to open the innings alongside him, marking a major shift in the team's strategy. The move indicates that Chennai Super Kings may opt for a more aggressive and experienced opening combination as they look to improve their performance in the upcoming season.

The decision comes after CSK struggled with inconsistent starts in the previous season. The franchise experimented with multiple opening pairs, but failed to find a stable com-



bination. With Samson now in the squad, the team appears ready to settle on a more dependable top-order partnership.

Sanju Samson's arrival adds flexibility and firepower to the batting lineup. Known for his attacking style, Samson is ex-

pected to provide quick starts, while Gaikwad's consistency could help anchor the innings. The combination is seen as a balanced approach that could strengthen CSK's batting depth.

The potential opening partnership also clarifies Samson's

role in the team. While there had been speculation about him batting in the middle order, Gaikwad's comments suggest that CSK management is considering using him at the top of the order.

Despite Samson's leadership experience, Gaikwad is expected to continue as captain for the upcoming season. The franchise appears focused on maintaining stability in leadership while reshaping its batting strategy.

Chennai Super Kings are aiming for a strong comeback in IPL 2026 after undergoing changes to their squad. With a new opening pair likely to take shape, the team hopes to build early momentum in matches and strengthen its chances of competing for another title.

BCCI Announces India's 2026-27 Home Season; International Cricket Returns to Bengaluru

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has announced India's men's international home schedule for the 2026-27 season, featuring a packed calendar with 22 matches across multiple formats. The upcoming home season will see four visiting teams — West Indies, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and Australia — touring India.

The schedule spans 17 cities, giving fans across the country an opportunity to witness international cricket. One of the major highlights of the announcement is the return of international cricket to Bengaluru, which will once again host matches during the season. The move is expected to excite cricket fans in the city, which has historically been one of India's most passionate cricket centres.

India will begin the home season with limited-overs fixtures before moving into longer formats. The visiting teams will compete in Tests, One Day



Internationals, and T20 Internationals, ensuring a diverse and competitive calendar. The mix of formats is expected to help India prepare for upcoming global tournaments, including future ICC events and the 2027 World Cup.

The tour by West Indies is expected to feature white-ball matches, while Sri Lanka's visit will also include limited-overs games. Zimbabwe's tour

will mark an important bilateral engagement, providing opportunities for squad rotation and player development. The season will culminate with a high-profile series against Australia, including the prestigious Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The Australia series is likely to be the biggest attraction of the season, with strong rivalry and competitive cricket expected. The matches will be held at

multiple venues across India, ensuring wide geographical coverage and fan engagement.

The BCCI's venue rotation policy continues to play a key role in spreading international cricket across different regions. By allocating matches to a variety of cities, the board aims to promote the game beyond traditional centres and encourage cricket development nationwide. With 22 matches scheduled across formats and cities, the 2026-27 home season promises to be one of India's busiest and most exciting calendars. The return of international cricket to Bengaluru, along with marquee clashes against top teams, is expected to generate significant interest among fans.

The announcement also highlights India's preparation phase ahead of major international tournaments, with the packed home season offering players valuable match practice and team combinations.



"Most People Laughed At Me": Vijay Mallya Reacts To RCB's Record-Breaking Sale

Vijay Mallya has reacted to the record-breaking sale of Royal Challengers Bengaluru, saying critics once mocked his investment when he bought the franchise in 2008.

Taking to social media, the former owner recalled that he had purchased the team for around 450 crore at the launch of the Indian Premier League. According to Mallya, many people criticised the move at the time, calling it a vanity project and questioning the financial logic behind the investment. However, he said the massive jump in valuation over the years proved the decision right.

Reacting to the latest deal, Mallya said it was immensely satisfying to see the franchise's

value surge to over 16,000 crore. He also congratulated the new owners and wished them success, describing the team as one of the most valuable franchises in the IPL.

Mallya also reflected on his memories with the franchise, highlighting key moments from the early years. He mentioned picking a young Virat Kohli as one of the decisions he was most proud of, noting that the player went on to become one of the best in world cricket. He added that the team would always remain a part of his "DNA" because of the emotional connection built over the years.

The franchise was recently sold to a consortium led by the Aditya Birla Group along with other investors in one of the

biggest deals in sports franchise history. The transaction valued the team at around 16,700 crore, marking a significant rise from its original purchase price.

The sale highlights the rapid growth of IPL franchises over the past decade, driven by rising media rights, sponsorship revenue, and global fan engagement. Mallya's comments have since gained traction on social media, with many fans acknowledging the early vision behind the franchise.

With new ownership in place ahead of IPL 2026, Royal Challengers Bengaluru is expected to enter a new phase while continuing to build on its strong brand value and global fan base.

BCCI Clarifies Catch Rules Ahead of IPL 2026, All 10 Captains Briefed

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has issued a key clarification on catch rules ahead of the Indian Premier League 2026 season, with all ten team captains briefed during a special meeting. The move comes after several controversial catches in recent seasons sparked debates over what qualifies as a clean catch.

During the captains' meeting, BCCI officials presented multiple video clips highlighting both valid and invalid catches. The aim was to ensure that players clearly understand the interpretation of the law before the tournament begins. The session reportedly lasted nearly 90 minutes and

focused on situations where fielders lose balance, touch boundary ropes, or fail to maintain control of the ball.

The clarification centred around the requirement that a fielder must have complete control of both the ball and their body for a catch to be considered valid. If a player catches the ball but loses balance, steps outside the boundary, or drops the ball while attempting to regain control, the catch will be ruled invalid. Officials also warned players against celebrating prematurely before completing the catch.

Senior umpire Nitin Menon and match referee Javagal Srinath were among those who

explained the rule and answered questions from captains. They emphasised that the rule is based on existing laws but will now be applied more strictly to avoid confusion and disputes during matches.

The clarification comes after several high-profile incidents in recent IPL seasons, where catches near the boundary rope or while diving forward led to conflicting decisions. In many cases, replays showed players losing control of the ball after initially appearing to complete the catch. These incidents sparked discussions among players, commentators, and fans, prompting the BCCI to issue a clearer

interpretation.

Under the clarified rule, a catch will only be valid if the fielder demonstrates complete control and stability before releasing the ball or celebrating. Even minor lapses, such as the ball touching the ground or the player stepping on the boundary cushion, could result in the batter being declared not out.

With IPL 2026 set to begin soon, the BCCI hopes the clarification will reduce controversies and ensure consistent decision-making.

The move is also expected to encourage cleaner fielding standards and improve the overall quality of officiating during the tournament.





“Suyodhana” Pre-Release Event Held Grandly; Film Set for Worldwide Release on March 27

The pre-release press meet of the upcoming film *Suyodhana*, starring Priyadarshi and Sai Kumar, was held grandly in Hyderabad ahead of its worldwide release on March 27. The film, produced under the Prajwala Line Creations banner, features Priyadarshi and DrishikaChander in lead roles, with Sai Kumar and senior actress Prema playing key characters. Directed by Y.S. Madhav Reddy and produced by BosuBabuNidumolu, the film will be released by Sri Lakshmi Pictures.

Art director Brahma Kadali said editor Chota K. Prasad played a key role in bringing him on board. He added that extensive set work was done for the film, which would appear on a large scale on screen. Kadali expressed confidence that *Suyodhana* would become a special film in the careers of both Sai Kumar and Priyadarshi.

Music director Jai Krish said he was excited to work on the film after learning about its unique sound-based theme. He noted that the performances of Priyadarshi and Sai Kumar inspired him to enhance the background score, adding that the film would offer audiences a fresh cinematic experience.

Editor Chota K. Prasad described *Suyodhana* as a different and rare kind of film. He praised producer BosuBabu for his passion and said every technical department contributed high-quality work. He expressed hope that audiences

would support the film releasing on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami.

Producer BosuBabuNidumolu credited the technical team as the film's biggest strength. He praised the contributions of Brahma Kadali, cinematographer Karthik, composer Jai Krish, and editor Chota K. Prasad. He also appreciated director Madhav Reddy for extracting the best performances despite this being his debut film.

Actress DrishikaChander, who plays the character Sumitha, said she was happy to share screen space with talented actors like Sai Kumar and Priyadarshi. She expressed confidence that audiences would enjoy the film.

Director Y.S. Madhav Reddy revealed that sound plays a crucial role in the film, with Priyadarshi appearing as a Foley artist. He also mentioned being inspired by director Sukumar and said Sai Kumar was the first choice for the *Suyodhana* character.

Sai Kumar said he first played *Duryodhana* in a stage play at age 11 and felt nostalgic portraying a similar role now. He described the film as suspenseful and engaging.

Priyadarshi expressed confidence in the film, saying its story and title felt unique. He added that the team worked passionately to deliver a high-quality cinematic experience and requested audiences to support the film in theatres.

Director SrinuVaitla Falls Victim to 7.2 Crore Land Fraud

Popular Tollywood director SrinuVaitla has reportedly fallen victim to a major land fraud, suffering losses of around 7.2 crore. The filmmaker recently approached police after discovering that land he purchased in Vikarabad was allegedly sold using forged documents.

According to reports, the incident dates back nearly seven years when SrinuVaitla, along with his niece, purchased agricultural land in Vikarabad. A group of individuals claimed ownership of the property and presented documents that appeared genuine. Trusting the paperwork, the director went ahead with the deal and completed the transaction through registered sale deeds after making payments via cheque.

The issue surfaced later when authorities issued notices regarding ownership of the land. During verification, officials found that the individuals who sold the property allegedly did not possess legal rights over it. Investigations further revealed that land records were reportedly manipulated, and other parties had approached the court claiming ownership of the same property.

Following detailed verification of documents and ownership claims, the land was eventually allotted to the rightful claimants. This development left SrinuVaitla and his niece without ownership of the property they had purchased years earlier. Based on current market estimates, the director is believed to have incurred losses of approximately 7.2 crore.

After the fraud came to light,



SrinuVaitla filed a complaint with the Central Crime Station in Hyderabad. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case against around 12 individuals suspected to be involved in the fraud. Authorities have launched an investigation to identify all those responsible and determine the full extent of the alleged conspiracy.

The incident has shocked members of the Telugu film industry, as SrinuVaitla is known for directing several popular films over the years. The case has also raised concerns about rising real estate frauds involving disputed land ownership and forged documents.

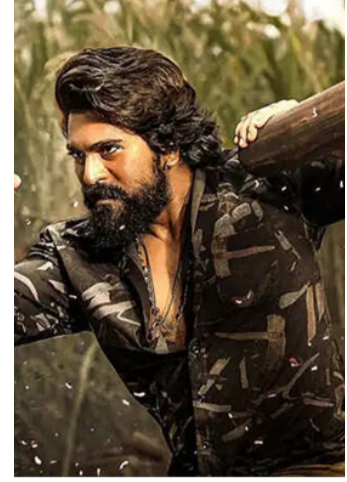
Police officials stated that the investigation is ongoing and more details are expected to emerge as the probe progresses.

Good News and One Bad News for Ram Charan's Peddi Fans

There is both good news and a setback for fans eagerly waiting for *Peddi*, the upcoming film starring Ram Charan and directed by BuchiBabu Sana. The movie has generated massive expectations ever since the project was announced, especially as it marks a powerful mass and emotional drama from the actor following recent box-office disappointments.

The bad news for fans is that the film's release has been delayed. Initially, the makers planned to release *Peddi* grandly on March 27. However, due to unexpected delays in shooting and post-production work, the team decided to postpone the release to April 30. The makers reportedly chose not to compromise on quality, with the director focusing on delivering a visually rich cinematic experience.

Adding to the delay, Ram Charan recently sustained a minor eye injury during the shoot, which further slowed down the production process. As a result, shooting schedules



were temporarily halted, and post-production timelines were pushed back by nearly two weeks. Reports suggest that around ten days of shooting is still pending. If the remaining work is not completed on time, the team is also considering moving the release further to the third week of May to fully capitalize on the summer holiday season.

Despite the delay, there is ex-

citing news for fans. The makers are planning to release a new teaser of *Peddi* on Ram Charan's birthday. The teaser is scheduled to be released on March 27 at 11:07 AM, according to the official announcement. The team believes this teaser will make up for the disappointment caused by the release postponement and further boost excitement around the film. The film features Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead opposite Ram Charan. The project also includes key roles played by JagapathiBabu and Shiva Rajkumar, adding further strength to the cast. Early buzz suggests that the chemistry between the lead pair and the film's scale will be major highlights.

Even though the release date has shifted, trade analysts remain confident that *Peddi* will make a strong impact at the box office. Fans are now eagerly waiting for the teaser release, which is expected to offer the first major glimpse into the much-anticipated film.

Chiranjeevi Thanks Doctors After Ram Charan Undergoes Minor Eye Surgery

Megastar Chiranjeevi expressed gratitude to doctors after his son, actor Ram Charan, successfully underwent a minor eye surgery. The development created concern among fans, but sources confirmed that the procedure went smoothly and Ram Charan is recovering well.

According to reports, Ram Charan recently experienced discomfort in his eye, prompting doctors to advise a minor surgical procedure. The actor underwent treatment at a private hospital in Hyderabad. Medical experts performed the surgery successfully and recommended a short period of rest before he resumes work commitments.

Following the procedure, Chiranjeevi took to social media to thank the doctors and medical staff for their care and professionalism. He reassured fans that Ram Charan is doing well and recovering steadily. The message quickly went viral, with fans and well-wishers expressing relief and wishing the actor a speedy recovery.



Ram Charan has been busy with multiple projects, including his much-anticipated film *Peddi*. The actor was actively participating in shooting schedules before the eye discomfort surfaced. With doctors advising rest, the film's shooting schedule may see slight adjustments, though no major delays have been officially confirmed.

The news initially worried fans, especially given Ram Charan's packed schedule and upcoming releases. However, sources close to the actor confirmed that the surgery was minor and precautionary, and there is no cause for concern. The actor is expected to return

to sets soon after completing the recommended recovery period. Ram Charan continues to enjoy massive popularity following the global success of *RRR*. Fans across social media platforms extended their support and sent messages wishing him a quick recovery. Many also appreciated Chiranjeevi for updating fans and keeping them informed about his son's health.

With recovery progressing smoothly, Ram Charan is expected to resume shooting soon and continue work on his upcoming projects. Fans are now eagerly waiting for his return to the sets and further updates about his films.

KayaduLohar Finds Success in Telugu, Struggles to Secure Tamil Opportunities

Young actress KayaduLohar is currently enjoying growing popularity in Telugu and Malayalam films, but she is reportedly finding it difficult to secure opportunities in Tamil cinema despite gaining recognition there earlier. KayaduLohar first gained attention among Tamil audiences with the film *Dragon*. The movie introduced her to a wider audience and helped her build a fan base. However, despite the film's success, several opportunities that came her way in Tamil cinema reportedly did not materialize later.

Interestingly, while Tamil offers have slowed down, the actress has been receiving consecutive opportunities in Telugu and Malayalam films. Her growing popularity in these industries has kept her busy with multiple projects and strengthened her career prospects. At the same time, she continues to aim for a strong foothold in Tamil cinema, which she reportedly considers important for her long-term career growth.

Reports also suggest that certain rumours and online trolling surrounding the actress affected her chances in Tamil films. Some projects that were initially discussed did not move forward, adding to her struggle in securing roles. Despite these challenges, KayaduLohar has remained determined and continues to pursue opportunities actively.

In the meantime, the actress has been making public appearances at shopping mall openings and promotional events. Industry buzz suggests she is earning significantly through such appearances, sometimes even more than her film remuneration. Alongside these engagements, she continues to focus on securing strong roles in films across languages.

There are also reports that discussions are underway for her to star alongside Silambarasan in a Tamil film. If finalized, this project could become a major turning point in her Tamil career and help her regain momentum in the industry. Despite facing challenges in Tamil cinema, KayaduLohar remains optimistic and continues to work hard. With steady opportunities in Telugu and Malayalam films, she is gradually strengthening her position as a promising young actress in South Indian cinema.



Nagabandham Release Date Locked; Grand Pan-India Release on July 3

The makers of *Nagabandham* have officially announced the film's release date, creating excitement among movie lovers.

Starring ViratKarna in the lead role, the film is scheduled for a grand worldwide release on July 3 in multiple languages. The announcement has significantly increased expectations around the ambitious pan-India project. *Nagabandham* marks the second film of ViratKarna, who made his debut with *PedhaKapu*. The movie is being directed by Abhishek Nama, who is also producing it along with Kishore Annapureddy. The film is presented by Lakshmi Ira and Devansh Nama. The promotional content released so far has already generated strong

buzz and heightened anticipation among audiences. According to the makers, ViratKarna will be seen in a completely different and powerful role. He is expected to appear in multiple looks, including a Lord Shiva-inspired avatar and a wild, intense transformation. These elements are said to be among the film's major highlights. The team believes the movie will offer visuals never seen before on Indian screens, with a strong spiritual and mythological backdrop.

One of the biggest attractions of the film is a grand set inspired by the AnanthaPadmanabhaSwayam Temple, which is expected to play a key role in the story. The makers revealed that the scale of production and visual grandeur will stand out as key highlights of the film. The film also features NabhaNatesh and Iswarya Menon as the female leads. The supporting cast includes JagapathiBabu, Jayaprakash, Murali Sharma and B. S. Avinash in important roles, further strengthening the project.

Additionally, a massive song featuring nearly 5,000 dancers, choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, is expected to be another major highlight. The makers are



reportedly planning the sequence on a grand scale to enhance the film's visual appeal. With its mythological theme, large-scale production, and strong cast, *Nagabandham* is

shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of the year. Fans are now eagerly waiting for more updates as the film gears up for its worldwide theatrical release on July 3.