

BUZZ POINTS



'No Place for Self-Serving Politics': Modi's Message Amid Gulf War Tensions

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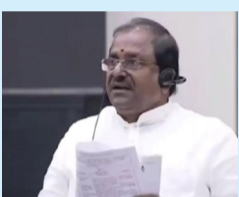
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Boat Rally Celebrates TDP's 44th Foundation Day on Krishna River

Vijayawada, March 29 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada witnessed a vibrant and spirited celebration on Sunday as the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) marked its 44th foundation day with an impressive boat rally on the scenic Krishna River. The event drew enthusiastic participation from party leaders, cadres, local fishermen and scores of residents who lined the riverbanks to witness the colourful procession.

The rally, organised under the banner of the Boating Society, set off from the old sand reach at Undavalli and moved majestically towards the Prakasam Barrage, illuminating the river with a flotilla of boats adorned with yellow TDP flags. The procession featured 10 large sand barges and 20 mechanised boats, creating a memorable spectacle that captivated onlookers along the waterway.

Draped in party colours, the boats carried leaders and supporters who raised spirited slogans in support of the TDP. The atmosphere was festive throughout the near three hour



event, with residents and visitors alike capturing the colourful scenes on their mobile phones. Motorists along the river embankment slowed down to take in the vibrant display as the rally passed by, adding to the sense of celebration.

A highlight of the occasion saw Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh pay floral tributes at the statue of the party's

founder, legendary actor politician N T Rama Rao, at the TDP central office earlier in the day. Their tribute underlined the party's reverence for its roots and enduring legacy in Andhra Pradesh politics.

The successful boat rally not only honoured decades of TDP's political journey but also showcased the strong support and organisational energy that the party continues to com-

mand in the state. Participants and spectators described the event as a vivid expression of regional pride and camaraderie, marking the foundation day with both pageantry and political fervour. As the boats sailed under clear skies and cheering crowds echoed along the riverbanks, the TDP's 44th foundation day celebration stood out as a luminous and unifying occasion in Vijayawada.

Ex Vice President Urges Centre to Pass Amaravati Bill in Parliament

Vijayawada, March 29 | TPN Bureau

Former Vice-President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, on Sunday appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure the introduction and approval of a parliamentary bill that would legally designate Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh during the ongoing session of Parliament. Naidu's appeal comes amid renewed political focus on settling long-standing uncertainties over the city's status.

Speaking with Shah, Naidu highlighted the unanimous resolution passed by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, urging the central government to amend relevant laws and formally recognise Amaravati as the state's only capital. He reminded the home minister of the historic moment when the foundation stone for Amaravati was laid along the Krishna River in October 2015, a ceremony he attended alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was the Union Urban Development Minister.

Naidu also underscored the financial and administrative support previously extended by the Centre for building the new capital, describing the

move as pivotal for Andhra Pradesh's future growth and stability. He recalled how progress was disrupted after 2019 due to shifts in state government policies, leading to proposals for a decentralised capital model that stalled construction and sparked controversy. Responding to Naidu's request, Shah reportedly indicated a positive outlook, saying the Home Ministry had cleared the bill and that it was awaiting Cabinet approval before being tabled in Parliament. The endorsement has fuelled optimism among Amaravati supporters that legal clarity is within reach this session.

The push for the bill reflects broader efforts by the state government and allied leaders to cement Amaravati's legal status following years of debate and political contention. Advocates argue that a parliamentary law would ensure long-term stability and encourage investment, development, and confidence among citizens who had contributed land for the capital's vision. As the Parliament session progresses, attention will now focus on whether the bill moves forward swiftly, potentially concluding a long-running chapter in Andhra Pradesh's political and administrative evolution.

Andhra Pradesh Announces Major IAS Reshuffle

Vijayawada, March 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government on Sunday implemented a major reshuffle in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) cadre, issuing a series of transfer and posting orders that took effect immediately to strengthen governance and boost administrative efficiency across the state.

Under orders issued by the General Administration Department, several senior IAS officers were reassigned to key roles in both district and state level responsibilities. In a notable move, Sagili Shan Mohan, previously serving as the Collector and District Magistrate of Kakinada, was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board, placing him at the forefront of the state's economic planning and development initiatives.

Other significant district level changes included C.M. Sainkanth Varma taking over as Collector of Guntur, and Mutumbaku Abhishikh Kishore being appointed Collector of Visakhapatnam, one of the state's most prominent urban districts. In another move, M.N. Harendhira Prasad, formerly the Collector of Visakhapatnam, has been transferred to assume charge as the new Collector of Kakinada, signalling a strategic swap within the district leadership.

The reshuffle also saw key administrative portfolios strengthened. Dinesh Kumar A.S., the outgoing Collector of Alluri Sitharama Raju district, was posted as Managing Direc-



tor of the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd., giving him oversight of industrial infrastructure expansion across the state. In the education sector, Thameem Ansariya was appointed as Director of School Education, transitioning from district administration to a leadership role involving statewide educational planning and implementation.

Additionally, Nishanti T., previously Joint Collector of Dr B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, was elevated to the post of Collector of Alluri Sitharama Raju district, reflecting confidence in her leadership in overseeing developmental programmes and civic administration there.

These strategic administrative changes are part of the state government's ongoing effort to align bureaucratic talent with its governance priorities, ensuring responsive and effective delivery of public services across Andhra Pradesh.

UDAN Cafés to Be at Every Airport by Year-End, Announces Rammohan Naidu

New Delhi, March 29 | TPN Bureau

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu on Sunday announced a major expansion of the UDAN Yatri Café network, saying budget-friendly cafés will be rolled out at all airports across India by the end of this year to improve passenger convenience and make air travel more affordable.

Currently, these pocket-friendly cafeterias operate at around 13 airports, but the rollout will accelerate with 11 more cafes inaugurated this weekend at airports such as Rajkot, Chandigarh, Indore, Jammu, Patna, Amritsar, Varanasi, Gwalior, Agartala, Jaipur and Lucknow.

Designed to offer refreshments at highly affordable rates, the cafeterias provide items such as tea for 10, coffee and snacks for around 20, and other light meals, helping address long-standing complaints about expensive food and beverage options in airports. The move has been welcomed by passengers and consumer advocates as a step toward making air travel more inclusive.

Naidu also outlined several other enhancements aimed at improving the airport experience. These include free Wi-Fi services at about 50 airports, dedicated kids' zones at 10 locations, and 'fly brary' read-



ing corners at 16 airports, giving travellers better facilities while they wait for flights.

The expanded café network is expected to be fully operational by December, linking travel hubs of all sizes. Officials believe this will not only benefit frequent flyers but also encourage more people — especially from smaller towns — to choose air travel by reducing associated costs.

The UDAN scheme, launched in 2016, aims to boost regional connectivity by developing underserved airports and routes, making aviation accessible to the common citizen. Passengers and industry stakeholders have largely praised the announcement as a practical step toward a more passenger-friendly aviation ecosystem, even as the government continues efforts to enhance connectivity and comfort at airports nationwide.

Pawan Kalyan Wishes TDP Leaders on Formation Day

Vijayawada, March 29 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan on Sunday extended warm wishes to leaders, workers and supporters of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on its 44th formation day. In a statement celebrating the milestone, Kalyan lauded the party's long and impactful journey in Andhra Pradesh politics and highlighted its foundational role in championing regional pride and development.

Kalyan personally conveyed his greetings to TDP national president Nara Chandrababu Naidu, party national general secretary Nara Lokesh and state president Palla Srinivasarao, among others, recognising their leadership and service. He emphasised the importance of unity within the Kutami coalition — the governing alliance of the TDP, Jana Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party — saying that it would be key to driving sustained progress across the state.

Recalling the historic foundation of the TDP, Kalyan praised the legacy of its founder, N T Rama Rao, and credited four decades of political struggle and resilience for the party's enduring influence in Andhra Pradesh. He noted that the party



has withstood many challenges over the years and has consistently worked to uplift the region and its people.

Highlighting the shared goals of his own party and the TDP, Kalyan said both sides are committed to the welfare of citizens and regional development. He called on leaders and cadres to strengthen cooperation and

carry forward the spirit of partnership that has been central to their collective efforts in governance and public service. Kalyan's message underlines the ongoing political collaboration in Andhra Pradesh and reflects his endorsement of the TDP's enduring role in shaping the state's democratic and developmental journey.

Chandrababu Naidu Hosts Dinner for Telugu Desam Veterans, Calls for Unity Ahead of Panchayat Polls

Vijayawada, March 30 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Monday hosted a grand dinner for senior party veterans, urging unity and collective focus as the party gears up for the upcoming panchayat elections in Andhra Pradesh.

The event, held at the TDP central office in Vijayawada, brought together a wide range of experienced leaders, former legislators and senior functionaries who have played key roles in the party's four-decade political journey. Naidu ex-

pressed deep appreciation for their longstanding contributions and reaffirmed that their guidance remains crucial in navigating the challenges ahead. Addressing the gathering, Naidu emphasised that internal cohesion and a united leadership front would be instrumental in improving the party's organisational strength at the grassroots level. With panchayat polls on the horizon, he underscored the need for effective coordination among TDP functionaries to engage with local communities and address their developmental concerns.

Speaking passionately about the

party's legacy, Naidu recalled how the TDP emerged as a regional force committed to people's welfare, and highlighted that the party's core philosophy still resonates with citizens across the state. He urged senior leaders to mentor younger cadres, share their political experience and help strengthen party units in every mandal and village. Veteran leaders at the dinner echoed Naidu's call for solidarity and pledged their continued support to the party's mission. They emphasised the importance of reconnecting with grassroots supporters and promoting the agenda of good governance, espe-

cially in rural areas where local bodies play a vital role in community development. The dinner was marked by warm interactions, nostalgia and a strong spirit of camaraderie among those who have been instrumental in shaping the party's political journey. Leaders and guests were optimistic that a unified effort would enhance the TDP's prospects in the panchayat elections.

As political activity intensifies across Andhra Pradesh, the TDP appears focused on galvanising its veteran leadership and grassroots structures ahead of the voters' verdict at the local level.



Minister Ponguru Narayana Emphasizes Education for the Poor During Visit to Nellore Divisions

Amaravathi March 29 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana stated that his personal journey from extreme poverty to a respectable position was made possible only through education. Highlighting this experience, he emphasized his commitment to providing quality education as a valuable asset to children from economically weaker sections.

The Minister made these remarks during his visit to the 53rd and 54th divisions, including Janardhan Reddy Colony and Venkateswara Puram, in Nellore on Sunday evening.

As part of his visit, he inspected the cricket ground and reviewed the infrastructure of both government primary and high schools in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Narayana said that his initiatives are aligned with the vision of State Education Minister Nara Lokesh, who has been focusing on strengthening the education sector in Andhra Pradesh. He expressed his determination to enhance the quality of education in government schools to match corporate standards.

The Minister announced plans to establish an international-level school in the 53rd and 54th divisions, aiming to provide world-class education facilities to local students.

He noted that the majority of residents in Janardhan Reddy Colony and Venkateswara Puram belong to economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and ensuring access to quality education for their children remains his top priority.

Narayana further mentioned that local residents have requested the construction of a school near the TIDCO housing units, which he assured would be taken into consideration. He added that the proposed institution would be developed on the lines of VRC (Virtual Resource Centre) standards but with an international outlook, offering modern infrastructure and advanced learning facilities.

Reiterating his commitment, the Minister stated that all government high schools within the municipal corporation limits would be upgraded to compete with private corporate schools. He stressed that education plays a crucial role in empowering individuals and uplifting entire communities.

The visit also saw the participation of Municipal Commissioner Nandan, District Education Officer Balaji Rao, Mayor Sujatha Ashok, TDP District Vice President Vijetha Reddy, and local leaders including Zaheer, Jameer, Zakir, and Shaheed, among others. The Minister's initiative is expected to bring significant improvements in the education infrastructure of Nellore and provide better opportunities for underprivileged students in the region.



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CM Chandrababu Naidu's Visit to Tirupati District: Elaborate Arrangements in Place for TIDCO Housing Inauguration

Amaravathi March 29 | TPN Bureau

The district administration has made elaborate arrangements for the visit of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who is scheduled to tour Tirupati district on March 30. The Chief Minister will inaugurate TIDCO housing units at Puduru village in Naidupeta mandal and also participate in a programme at Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam.

District Collector Dr. S. Venkateshwar, along with officials, conducted a detailed review of the arrangements on Sunday. He inspected the venues along with Chief Minister's Programme Coordinator Pen-durthi Venkateswara Rao, Superintendent of Police L. Subbarayudu, Municipal Commissioner N. Mourya, and other senior officials.

As per the schedule, the Chief Minister will first attend the P-4 programme at Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam. Later, he will proceed to Puduru village in Naidupeta mandal, where he will inaugurate the TIDCO housing units and interact with beneficiaries. The Collector stated that a helipad has been arranged at Nellaballi village for the Chief Minister's arrival, from where he will travel to the programme venue.

Following the inauguration, the Chief Minister is expected to visit exhibition stalls set up by various government departments before addressing a public gathering. Officials have been instructed to ensure that all arrangements are executed flawlessly without any lapses.



The District Collector emphasized that all departments must work in coordination and perform their duties without delay. He directed officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply, availability of fire safety equipment, and deployment of medical teams along with ambulances. Adequate sanitation, drinking water, and other essential facilities must be provided at all programme locations, he added.

Superintendent of Police L. Subbarayudu stated that tight security arrangements have been put in place across all venues. He instructed police personnel to maintain strict vigil, especially at the helipad and along the route leading to the venue. Advance security liaison (ASL) measures have been implemented to avoid any untoward incidents.

Earlier in the day, the Collector, along with the SP, Joint Collector R. Govind Rao, Additional SP Ravi Manoharachari, and Sullurpeta RDO Devendra Reddy, inspected the arrangements at Puduru village as part of the security and coordination review.

Officials from TIDCO and various district departments also participated in the preparatory meetings. The administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the Chief Minister's visit.

TDP Marks 44th Foundation Day: Minister Gottipati Highlights Party's Journey and Welfare Initiatives

Amaravathi March 29 | TPN Bureau

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) celebrated its 44th Foundation Day with enthusiasm at Kamapalli village in Addanki constituency. State Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar attended the event as the chief guest and paid rich tributes to party founder N. T. Rama Rao. Upon his arrival, the Minister garlanded the statue of NTR and hoisted the party flag. Addressing party workers and supporters, he reflected on the party's 44-year journey, stating that despite numerous struggles and challenges, TDP has continued to grow stronger due to the unwavering commitment of its cadre.

Gottipati said that the arrest of party national president N. Chandrababu Naidu during the previous government led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was an attempt to weaken the morale of party workers. However, he noted that the cadre responded with determination, ultimately bringing the party back to power with renewed strength.

Highlighting TDP's historical significance, the Minister said it remains the only political party in India to have formed a government within nine months of its inception. He praised NTR's visionary leadership, recalling how he introduced several landmark reforms despite initial criticism over his transition from cinema to politics.



Welfare measures such as housing for the poor, property rights for women, establishment of Gurukul schools, and political empowerment of BC, SC, and ST communities were among his key contributions. The Minister emphasized that the present coalition government is committed to fulfilling all election promises. He stated that leaders must ensure government schemes reach every household. Criticizing the opposition, he alleged that false claims are being made to take credit for the government's initiatives. He highlighted the implementation of the "Super Six" promises, noting that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu increased social pensions by 1,000 soon after assuming office. Schemes like "Talliki Vandanam," which provides 15,000 annually to mothers for each school-going child, free gas cylinders for women, and free RTC bus travel are being successfully implemented. He assured that more pensions will be introduced as the state's financial condition improves. On the energy sector, Gottipati Ravi Kumar said that the PM Surya Ghar scheme is being promoted to reduce electricity costs. He announced a target of providing at least 2,000 solar connections each to SC and ST beneficiaries in every constituency between April 5 and April 14, marking the birth anniversaries of Babu Jagjivan Ram and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He also pointed out that while the previous government increased electricity tariffs multiple times, the current administration has not raised power charges. During the program, the Minister distributed free bicycles to 37 students at Kamapalli Upper Primary School, encouraging education. He stated that over 10,000 bicycles have already been distributed in the constituency and assured completion of the program by April 15. He also sanctioned a water plant for the school and reiterated the government's focus on improving educational infrastructure.

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TDP's 44th Foundation Day Celebrated Grandly in Machilipatnam: Minister Kollu Ravindra

Amaravathi March 29 | TPN Bureau

The 44th Foundation Day of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur across Machilipatnam constituency. Massive rallies, flag hoisting ceremonies, and public meetings were organized in every ward and village, creating a festive atmosphere throughout the town.

State Minister for Mines, Geology, and Excise Kollu Ravindra participated in the celebrations and led the program. The town was beautifully decorated with yellow party flags, symbolizing the spirit and unity of TDP cadre. The event began with flag hoisting at the party office, followed by a rally to the bus stand center, where the Minister paid floral tributes to the statue of party founder N. T. Rama Rao.

Later, party flags were hoisted at the district party office and newly established flag posts in several divisions, including 10, 50, 42, and 26. Party workers actively participated in all programs with great enthusiasm.

Addressing a public meeting, Minister Kollu Ravindra expressed happiness that TDP has completed 44 years and stepped into its 45th year. He said the party, founded in 1982 with the slogan of self-respect, has grown into a powerful force shaping the destiny of Telugu people.

Highlighting the contributions of NTR, he said the party fought for the upliftment of marginalized sections, including the poor, Dalits, and backward communities. Welfare initiatives like 2 per kg rice scheme, abolition of the Patelwari system, reservations for weaker sections, and property rights for women were historic milestones achieved under NTR's leadership.



The Minister recalled that despite criticism, NTR toured the state on the "Chaitanya Ratham" and brought the party to power within just nine months of its formation—an unprecedented achievement in Indian politics.

He also spoke about the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, stating that while NTR stood for self-respect, Chandrababu represents self-confidence and visionary governance. He noted that the public's support for Chandrababu was evident when protests erupted globally following his arrest.

Criticizing the previous government led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Ravindra alleged that the state witnessed misgovernance, destruction of Amaravati, and setbacks in major projects like Polavaram. However, he said that people united and brought the coalition government back to power with an overwhelming mandate in the 2024 elections.

The Minister emphasized that the current government is focused on bringing investments, creating employment opportunities for youth, and ensuring development across sectors. He mentioned that efforts are being made to attract major companies like Google and revive industrial growth, including large-scale investments in Visakhapatnam.

He urged party workers to strengthen the party at the grassroots level, particularly through booth-level committees, to ensure long-term stability. He also called for a clean sweep in upcoming local body elections in Machilipatnam.

The event witnessed the participation of several leaders, including former Deputy Speaker Buragadda Vedavyas, district party president Veeranki Venkata Gurumurthy, and other senior leaders, marking a strong show of unity and commitment.

Coalition Government Should Return Repeatedly, Says Minister Savitha at TDP Foundation Day Event

Amaravathi March 29 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh BC and EWS Welfare Minister S. Savitha emphasized that party workers are the backbone of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and called upon them to work unitedly to ensure the return of the coalition government in the state time and again. She stated that those who have carried the party's yellow flag with dedication will always be given due recognition by the leadership.

The Minister was speaking at the 44th Foundation Day celebrations of TDP held grandly in Penukonda on Sunday. She paid floral tributes to the statue of party founder N. T. Rama Rao at NTR Circle before attending at the camp office.

Addressing party leaders and cadre, Savitha said that since its inception, TDP has been committed to public welfare with honesty and dedication. She recalled that NTR founded the party with the ideology that "society is a temple and people are gods." What began as a movement led by a single person has now grown into a massive political family of millions, she noted.

The Minister highlighted that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh are striving continuously to fulfill NTR's vision, strengthening the party further under their leadership. She lauded party workers for their resilience, stating that despite facing cases and harassment during the previous government, the Minister alleged that the state suffered due to misgovernance and lack of vision. She remarked that development works, including those in Amaravati, have regained momentum after Chandrababu Naidu returned to power. She also mentioned that a resolution has been passed in the Assembly to safeguard the capital from future uncertainties.



Calling for unity among alliance partners, she urged TDP workers to work closely with coalition leaders and ensure that government welfare and development schemes reach the people effectively. She

also mentioned that a resolution has been passed in the Assembly to safeguard the capital from future uncertainties.

On development in Penukonda constituency, Savitha said that significant progress has

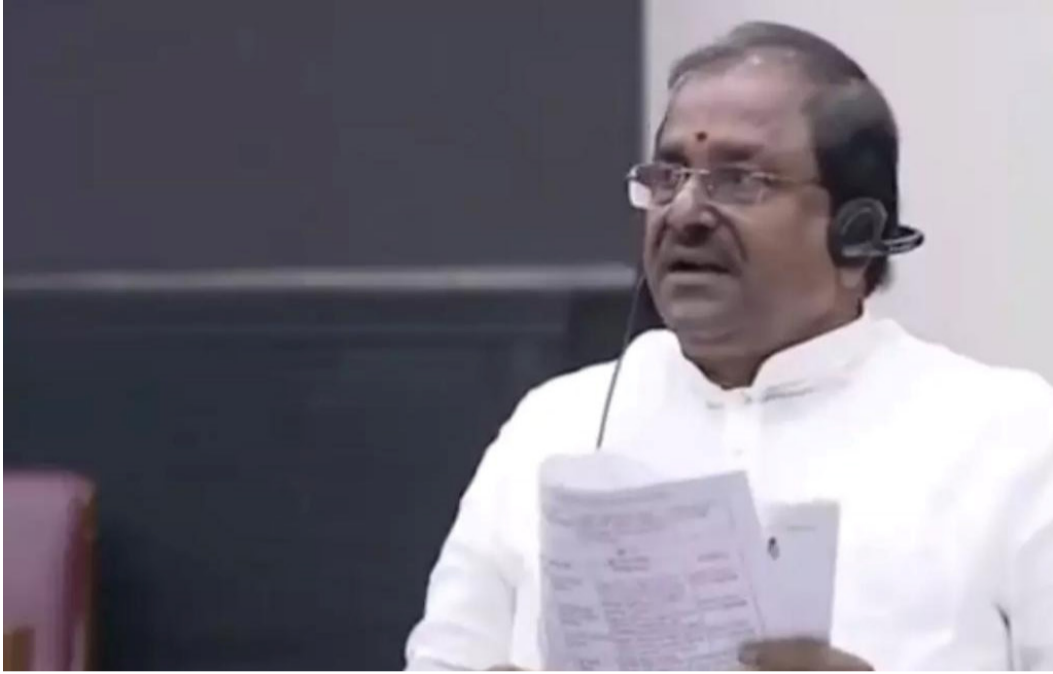
Amaravati Resolution a 'Historic Victory', Says Somu Veerraju

Amaravati march 29 TPN Bureau

The recent resolution passed in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly declaring Amaravati as the sole capital has sparked significant political reactions, with senior BJP leader Somu Veerraju hailing it as a "historic victory" for the people of the state. He described the move as a long-awaited step that restores faith among farmers, stakeholders, and citizens who envisioned Amaravati as the permanent capital.

The resolution aims to formally recognize Amaravati as the only capital by seeking an amendment to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. This move is intended to provide legal clarity and stability, ensuring that the capital status cannot be altered with changing governments in the future.

Veerraju emphasized that the decision reflects the aspirations of lakhs of farmers who had voluntarily pooled their



lands for the development of Amaravati. He stated that the resolution honors their sacrifices and reaffirms the government's commitment to developing a world-class capital city. According to him, this is not

just a political decision but a moral victory for those who stood by Amaravati despite years of uncertainty.

The political backdrop of the resolution is marked by sharp divisions. While the ruling al-

liance strongly backed the move, the opposition YSR Congress Party abstained from the Assembly session, arguing that such a resolution was unnecessary. This absence was criticized by leaders of the ruling

coalition, who interpreted it as a lack of commitment to Amaravati.

Meanwhile, leaders like Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan reiterated that Amaravati would remain the sole capital, highlighting the hardships faced by farmers during the previous regime when development was stalled.

Veerraju further noted that the resolution symbolizes a decisive end to the three-capital debate that had created administrative confusion and political instability in the state. He expressed confidence that the Centre would respond positively to the state's request for amending the Act.

In conclusion, the Amaravati resolution marks a crucial turning point in Andhra Pradesh's political and administrative landscape. By calling it a "historic victory," Somu Veerraju underscored its significance not only as a legislative step but also as a moment of reassurance for the people who have long awaited clarity on the state's capital.



Police Search for Accused in Akividu Violence, 21 Held

Amaravati march 29 TPN Bureau

Tension continues to prevail in Akividu following the recent outbreak of violence, as police intensify efforts to track down those involved in the incident. Authorities have so far detained 21 individuals in connection with the clashes, while special teams have been formed to apprehend the remaining accused who are reportedly absconding. The violence reportedly erupted during the Sri Rama Navami celebrations, triggering unrest in the area. According to preliminary reports, the situation escalated after a dispute between groups led to physical confrontations. Several people sustained injuries in the clashes, with some requiring medical treatment at nearby hospitals.

Police officials stated that cases have been registered under multiple serious sections, including rioting, unlawful assembly, and attempt to murder. Investigators are reviewing CCTV footage, collecting eyewitness accounts, and conducting raids at suspected hideouts to trace those who fled after the incident.

Security has been significantly tightened across

Akividu and surrounding regions to prevent any further escalation. Additional police forces have been deployed, and patrolling has been intensified, especially in sensitive areas. Authorities have also urged residents to maintain peace and refrain from spreading rumors that could aggravate tensions. Senior police officers emphasized that strict action will be taken against all those involved, irrespective of their background. They assured that the situation is now under control, and normalcy is gradually being restored. The administration is also monitoring social media platforms to curb the spread of misinformation related to the incident. Meanwhile, political leaders have reacted strongly, condemning the violence and calling for stringent action against the culprits. The incident has once again brought attention to law and order challenges during large public gatherings and festivals. With 21 arrests already made, police remain focused on identifying and apprehending the remaining suspects. Officials reiterated their commitment to ensuring justice and maintaining communal harmony in the region, as investigations into the Akividu violence continue.



Grand Rama Temple to Be Built in Akividu, Says Bhupathiraju

Amaravati march 29 TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel, Bhupathiraju Srivasa Varma, has announced that a grand Rama temple will be constructed at the existing Ramalayam in Akividu, West Godavari district. The project, he said, will be undertaken by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) with the aim of restoring the temple's past glory and uniting people across communities.

Addressing the media, the minister clarified that the proposed temple construction has no political motive and is purely a cultural and religious initiative. He emphasized that the objective is to bring together Hindus and preserve the spiritual heritage associated with the historic shrine.

The announcement comes amid recent tensions in Akividu, especially ahead of Sri Rama Navami celebrations. The situation turned sensitive following the visit of Andhra Pradesh Assembly Deputy Speaker K. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju to the temple, which triggered unrest in the area. Police have since maintained a strong presence to ensure law and order. Bhupathiraju noted

that representatives from Scheduled Caste communities had met him and clarified that they were not opposed to the temple construction. He stressed that the project would move forward with the support of all sections of society, ensuring inclusivity and harmony. According to him, the temple holds historical significance and deserves to be rebuilt on a grand scale. He further stated that the construction would proceed irrespective of caste, religion, or creed, as long as there is collective support from the public. The minister expressed confidence that the initiative would strengthen communal harmony rather than create divisions. Meanwhile, police officials confirmed that cases have been registered against several individuals in connection with the recent violence, and security arrangements have been tightened in the region to prevent further incidents. In conclusion, the proposed construction of a grand Rama temple in Akividu is being positioned as a cultural revival effort. While the initiative has received support from various quarters, the recent tensions underline the need for careful handling to maintain peace and unity in the region.

Pemmasani Stresses Journalism's Role To Safeguard Democracy

Amaravati march 29 TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Communications Pemmasani Chandrasekhar emphasized the critical role of journalism in protecting and strengthening democracy, stating that the media serves as the "fourth pillar" of the democratic system. He made these remarks while addressing a plenary session of the Indian Journalists Union held in Vijayawada.

Highlighting the historical significance of journalism, Pemmasani noted that the press played a vital role during India's freedom struggle. He recalled how leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Subhas Chandra Bose used journalism as a tool to inspire and mobilize people. He also pointed out that jour-

nalists courageously resisted oppressive laws such as the Vernacular Press Act and stood firm during the Emergency, when press freedom was severely restricted.

Stressing the importance of responsible reporting in today's fast-paced digital era, the minister said that while technology has accelerated the flow of information, it has also increased the responsibility on journalists. He warned against compromising truth for speed and urged media professionals to avoid sensationalism and divisive narratives. According to him, maintaining public trust is essential, and there should be a clear distinction between news and opinion.

Pemmasani also highlighted the evolving role of journalists, who now multitask as reporters, editors, videographers, and fact-checkers.

Despite these changes, he said, credibility remains the foundation of journalism. He advocated for data-driven reporting and careful use of terms like "breaking news" to preserve the integrity of the profession. Addressing challenges faced by the media industry, he expressed concern over financial instability and called for better wages, job security, healthcare, and pension benefits for journalists. He stressed that without safeguarding press freedom, democracy itself would be weakened.

In conclusion, Pemmasani reiterated that journalism must act as the voice and conscience of society. His remarks underscored the need for ethical, responsible, and fearless reporting to ensure transparency, accountability, and the continued strength of democratic values.



Kakani Alleges Nexus in Boat Release, Seeks Return of Vessels

Amaravati march 29 TPN Bureau

Former minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) district president Kakani Govardhan Reddy has alleged a nexus behind the mysterious release of seized fishing boats and demanded their immediate return to local fishermen. The issue has sparked political controversy in Andhra Pradesh's coastal region, particularly in Nellore district.

Addressing the media, Kakani claimed that four boats, which were reportedly seized by local fishermen near Juvvaladinne, were "secretly released" overnight. He alleged that this could not have happened without the involvement of officials and leaders from the ruling coalition, pointing to what he described as a coordinated nexus.

Raising serious questions about governance, Kakani asked how such vessels could be moved without the knowledge of authorities. He criticized the administration for what he termed a failure in monitoring and accountability. According to him, suspending a single police officer was insufficient, and action should be taken against all those responsible for the alleged misconduct.

The YSRCP leader also referred to statements made by a fisherman, which reportedly hinted at the involvement of certain individuals. He urged those named to clarify their positions and demanded transparency in the investigation. Kakani further alleged that officials were being used as "pawns" in a larger scheme, suggesting that the release of the boats had deeper political and administrative links.

Highlighting the broader context, he touched upon interstate fishing disputes, noting that boats from regions like Karaikal often cross into Andhra waters. He accused some leaders of misleading the public on such issues and failing to protect the interests of local fishermen.

Demanding immediate action, Kakani called on the government to trace the missing boats—reportedly moved to Puducherry—and return them to their rightful owners. He also insisted on a fair and transparent inquiry to uncover the truth behind the incident. Concluding his remarks, Kakani warned that the opposition would continue to raise the issue until justice is delivered to the fishing community, emphasizing that the livelihoods of coastal fishermen must be safeguarded at all costs.

Doctors' Recruitment in AP Fast Tracked With Transparent Online Counselling

Amaravati march 29 TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has accelerated the recruitment of doctors by introducing a fully transparent and digital online counselling system, marking a significant shift in public healthcare hiring. Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar Yadav announced that 638 Civil Assistant Surgeon (CAS) posts will be filled through this new process, ensuring speed, efficiency, and fairness.

For the first time, the entire recruitment—from counselling to issuance of posting orders—is being conducted online with the support of AP Online. This eliminates the need for physical attendance and minimizes human intervention, thereby reducing the chances of irregularities.

The online counselling process is designed to be swift and time-bound. It begins on Mon-



day and will be completed within just 34 hours. Candidates are allowed to select their preferred postings by entering options for hospitals in order of priority. The option-entry window remains open for about 31 hours, after which the system automatically generates posting orders within two to three hours and sends them

to candidates via email.

Out of the total 638 vacancies, 611 posts will be filled immediately through automated allotment based on merit, reservation policies, and candidate preferences. The remaining posts, including those under special categories like sports quota, will be filled separately after due verification.

The recruitment drive primarily targets strengthening healthcare services at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and government hospitals. It also includes 124 tutor positions in teaching hospitals, indicating a dual focus on both service delivery and medical education.

Officials highlighted that earlier recruitment methods—

whether physical counselling or virtual sessions—were time-consuming and required extensive logistical arrangements. The shift to a fully digital system enhances accessibility for candidates across the state while ensuring transparency and accountability. Selected candidates are required to report to their respective District Medical and Health Offices or teaching hospitals within 15 days of receiving appointment orders, where final certificate verification will be conducted. All appointments are permanent, adding stability to the healthcare workforce. This initiative aligns with the government's broader goal of filling vacancies quickly and improving healthcare infrastructure.

By leveraging technology, Andhra Pradesh aims to set a benchmark in transparent and efficient recruitment practices, ultimately strengthening public health services across the state.

SC Morcha Organizes Successful Screening of PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' 132nd Episode in Machilipatnam

Vijayawada March 29 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) SC Morcha successfully organized a large-scale screening of the 132nd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular radio programme Mann Ki Baat across Andhra Pradesh, with a notable event held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukul School in Rudravaram village of Krishna district.

The programme was conducted as per the directions of State SC Morcha President Panthala Suresh, who called for organizing the screening in Ambedkar Gurukul hostels across all districts in the state, ensuring student participation and engagement. In line with these instructions, the Machilipatnam event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and party representatives.

State SC Morcha Vice President Ulluri Gangadhar attended the programme as the chief guest. After watching the episode along with the students, he interacted with them and discussed key points highlighted by Prime Minister Modi



during the broadcast. The interactive session aimed to enhance students' understanding of current issues and inspire them through the themes addressed in the programme.

To make the event more engaging, a quiz competition was conducted based on the topics

discussed in the episode. Students actively participated, showcasing their knowledge and enthusiasm. Gangadhar stated that such initiatives not only improve awareness but also sharpen the intellectual abilities of young minds.

He further informed that the

SC Morcha organized similar screenings at around 56 centers across the state on the same day, marking a significant achievement and setting a new record in terms of coordinated outreach and participation.

The event also saw the presence of several party leaders

and organizers, including District SC Morcha President Eku-la Vijayendra Kumar, Mann Ki Baat District Convener Victor Paul, Kanaparthi Vijayanand, Sole Venkata Koteswara Rao, and District Vice President Poolana Ashok. Their participation added momentum to the programme and ensured its smooth execution.

D. Vishnuvardhan Rao served as the State Convener for the Mann Ki Baat programme, overseeing the coordination and implementation of the initiative across Andhra Pradesh.

The programme highlighted the BJP SC Morcha's commitment to engaging students and the wider community through informative and interactive platforms. By organizing such events, the party aims to connect people with national initiatives and encourage active participation in societal development. Overall, the successful conduct of the Mann Ki Baat screening in Machilipatnam reflects the growing enthusiasm among students and organizers alike, reinforcing the programme's role as a platform for communication, awareness, and inspiration.



TDP Celebrates 44th Foundation Day with Grandeur at NTR Bhavan in Vijayawada

Vijayawada March 29 | TPN Bureau

The 44th foundation day of the Telugu Desam Party was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Vijayawada Parliament Office, NTR Bhavan, located in Guru Nanak Colony. The event witnessed the participation of several senior leaders and party cadres, reflecting the party's enduring legacy and strong grassroots presence.

Leaders paid floral tributes to the statue of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), the founder of TDP, acknowledging his immense contribution to Telugu pride and political transformation in the state. The party flag was ceremonially hoisted, marking the significance of the occasion.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivvanath (Chinni) and organized by TDP State Executive Secretary Boppana Bhavakumar. Prominent leaders including Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram, Building and Other Construction Workers Advisory Committee Chairman Gotumukkala Raghurama Raju, former UDA Chairman Thumati Premnath, and Durga Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi) attended the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Kommareddy Pattabhiram said that the formation of TDP brought global recognition to the Telugu community. He praised NTR as a visionary leader who introduced several revolutionary reforms. He

highlighted that NTR granted equal property rights to women at a time when such progressive measures were rare, laying a strong foundation for women's empowerment and welfare.

He further noted that during 1985-89, TDP emerged as the only regional party to play the role of the principal opposition in the Lok Sabha. By forming the National Front coalition, NTR paved the way for coalition politics at the national level, offering an alternative to the Congress party.

Leaders also lauded Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for ushering in IT growth and power sector reforms, which elevated the global stature of Telugu people. They appreciated the efforts of Nara Lokesh for promoting the principle of "Karyakarta is the leader," focusing on the welfare and respect of party workers.

Former UDA Chairman Thumati Premnath stated that Chandrababu Naidu is steering Andhra Pradesh toward a brighter future aligned with NTR's vision. TDP leader Chennupati Gandhi emphasized that achieving a "Swarna Andhra," as envisioned by NTR, is possible under the current leadership.

The celebrations concluded with distribution of sweets among party workers and the public, symbolizing unity and joy. Several leaders, including former corporators, district-level representatives, and members from various party wings, participated in the event, making it a grand and memorable occasion.



Collector Announces Grievance Redressal Programme via PGRS on March 30 in NTR District

Vijayawada March 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha has announced that petitions from the public will be received on March 30 (Monday) through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) under the "Meekosam" programme. The initiative will be conducted at the District Collectorate to address public issues in a structured and timely manner.

According to the Collector, the programme is being organized as per government directives to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism and provide an accessible platform for citizens to present their concerns. The objective is to ensure quick resolution of problems and improve transparency in governance.

He stated that, in addition to the Collectorate, grievance petitions will also be accepted at divisional, municipal, and mandal-level offices. Officials at these centers will be available to receive applications and respond to issues raised by the public. This decentralized arrangement is intended to make the process more convenient for citizens across the district.

The Collector also informed that Revenue Clinics will be

conducted at divisional and mandal levels to specifically address revenue-related grievances. Citizens are encouraged to submit their applications at these clinics for faster processing of land, property, and other revenue matters.

To further enhance accessibility, applicants can register their grievances online through the official Meekosam portal (Meekosam.ap.gov.in). The platform allows users to submit petitions digitally and track the status of their applications.

Additionally, a dedicated helpline number, 1100, has been made available for citizens to check the status of their grievances and obtain relevant information. This facility ensures better communication between the administration and the public.

The Collector urged residents to take full advantage of both offline and online options to register their grievances. He reiterated that the administration is committed to resolving public issues efficiently and ensuring responsive governance.

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

Last Chance Tomorrow for Property Tax Payments with 50% Interest Rebate: VMC Commissioner

Vijayawada March 29 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has issued a final reminder to citizens to clear their pending property taxes and avail the 50 percent interest rebate offered by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Commissioner Dhyana Chandra stated that March 31, 2026, is the deadline to benefit from this concession, urging residents not to miss this limited-time opportunity.

Addressing the media, the Commissioner highlighted that the rebate applies to both house tax and vacant land tax arrears. Citizens who pay their dues in a lump sum before the deadline can significantly reduce their financial burden by availing the interest waiver. He emphasized that such initiatives are designed to support taxpayers while improving overall revenue collection for civic development.

Due to the increasing rush at municipal cash counters, the

VMC has taken special measures to ensure convenience for the public. Cash counters across the city are now operating with extended hours, from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. In addition, ward secretariats have also been authorized to accept tax payments, functioning from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. This step aims to reduce overcrowding at central payment points and provide easier access to citizens in different localities.

The Commissioner informed that residents can make their payments at any of the 286 secretariats within the city limits, apart from the designated municipal offices. This decentralized approach is expected to streamline the payment process and help citizens avoid long queues, especially during the final days leading up to the deadline.

Dhyana Chandra appealed to all property owners to act responsibly and settle their dues without delay. He pointed out that timely payment of property taxes plays a crucial role in the development and main-

tenance of urban infrastructure, including roads, sanitation, drainage systems, and public amenities.

He further noted that the VMC staff and officials have been instructed to assist citizens and ensure a smooth and hassle-free payment experience. Adequate arrangements have been made at all centers to handle the increased footfall, including additional staff deployment and proper queue management.

The Commissioner reiterated that the 50 percent interest rebate is a valuable opportunity for citizens to regularize their tax payments at a reduced cost. Missing the deadline would mean losing this benefit and having to pay the full interest amount later.

The announcement, issued by the Public Relations Office of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, serves as a final call for residents to take advantage of the scheme and contribute to the city's growth while saving on their tax liabilities.



TDP Founded for Upliftment of the Poor and Weaker Sections: Former MLC Y.V.B. Rajendra Prasad

Vijayawada March 29 | TPN Bureau

The 44th foundation day of the Telugu Desam Party was celebrated with enthusiasm in Uyyuru town under the leadership of TDP Town President Jampana Gurnatha Rao. Former MLC Y.V.B. Rajendra Prasad attended the event as the chief guest and participated in the celebrations along with party leaders

As part of the programme, Rajendra Prasad hoisted the party flag and paid floral tributes to the portrait of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), the founder of the party. The celebrations also included a cake-cutting ceremony, sym-



bolizing the party's 44-year journey and its continued commitment to public service.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajendra Prasad stated that NTR established the Telugu Desam Party with the vision of

ensuring food, shelter, and clothing for the poor and marginalized sections of society. He emphasized that the party created history by coming to power within just nine months of its formation, a rare achieve-

ment in Indian politics.

He further said that for the past 44 years, party workers have stood firmly by the party through various challenges and hardships, never giving up the party flag. He extended his heartfelt greetings to all party members on the occasion of the 44th foundation day, appreciating their dedication and commitment.

Rajendra Prasad also highlighted that TDP has always worked towards the welfare of weaker sections and continues to uphold the ideals set by its founder. He noted that the party's journey reflects its strong connection with the and its focus on inclusive development.

Several senior leaders and local representatives participated in the programme, including former municipal chairmen Vallabhaneni Satyanarayana, Jampana Poornachandra Rao, and Abdul Quddus. TDP Sagara Sadhikara State Convener Jampana Veera Srinivas, Cooperative Bank Chairman Kunapa Reddy Vasu, Vishmalayam Chairman Bhaskar, and party leaders Chiranjeevi, Sekhar, Nazeer, Kutumba Rao, and Nagaraju were also present.

The event concluded on a celebratory note, with leaders and party workers reaffirming their commitment to the party's principles and future growth.



Call for Minimum Wages for Journalists: Yarlagaadda Venkatrao

Vijayawada March 29 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagaadda Venkatrao has urged the newly elected executive body of the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) to work towards ensuring minimum wages for journalists, who he described as one of the fundamental pillars of society.

He made these remarks while attending the concluding session of the 11th plenary meeting of the IJU held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram on Sunday evening. The three-day event witnessed participation from journalist leaders across the country.

Addressing the gathering, Venkatrao expressed concern over the lack of implementation of minimum wages for journalists, calling it unfortunate. He emphasized that the newly elected IJU leadership should take the initiative to engage with both central and state governments to ensure the enforcement of minimum wage laws for media professionals. He noted that journalists often go through significant effort and challenges to gather news, highlight public issues, and contribute to societal development. Given their role in strengthening democracy and public awareness, he said the government must extend adequate support to the journalist community.

Venkatrao also highlighted that it was a matter of pride for Vijayawada to host the IJU plenary after nearly 24 years. He appreciated the efforts of the Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ) for successfully organizing the event.

Congratulations the newly elected IJU leadership, including President Balwinder Singh Jammoo and Secretary General D. Somasundar, Venkatrao praised their commitment towards resolving journalists' issues. He also assured his support in addressing their concerns and improving their working conditions.

During the event, the newly elected office bearers were felicitated with shawls as a mark of respect. Several prominent leaders and members of the journalist community attended the programme, including IJU President Srinivas Reddy, APUWJ State President I.V. Subba Rao, C.R. Media Academy Chairman Alapati Suresh Kumar, and other senior leaders such as Chava Ravi, Devulapalli Amar, Echuri Siva, Dasari Nagaraju, Ajay, Atluri Rajasekhar, Koduru Ramakrishna, Chalamalasetti Srinivas, Nallaganchu Sriramakrishna, and Dasari Chenchu Krishna.

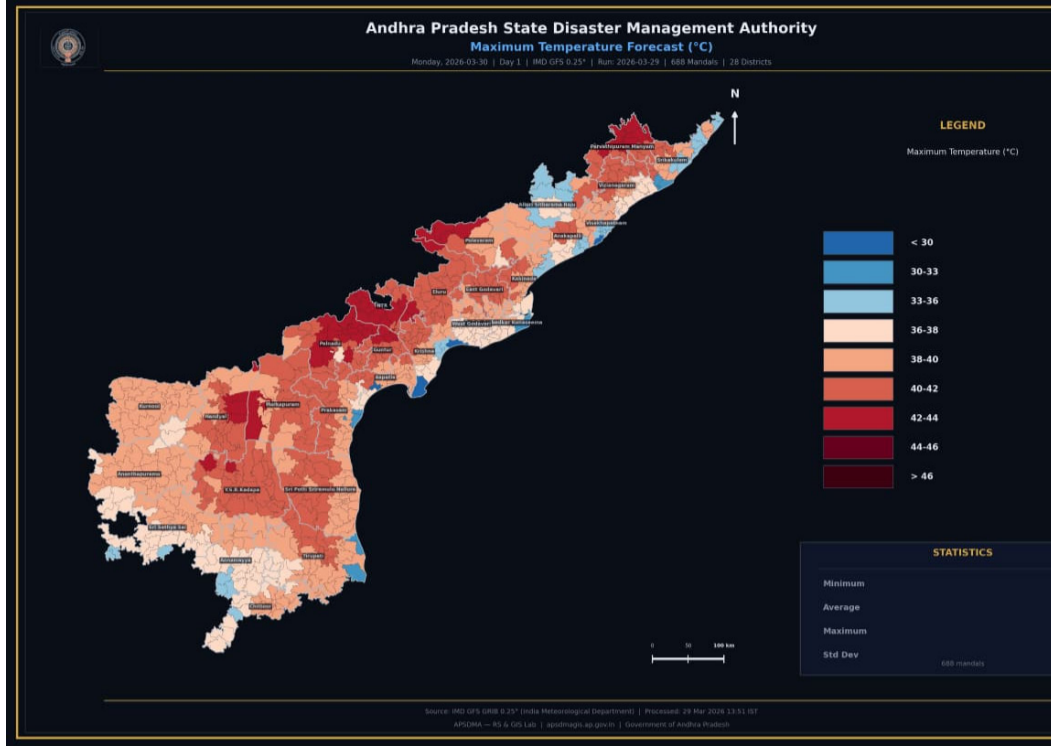
The event concluded with a strong call for collective efforts to secure better rights, wages, and welfare measures for journalists across the country.

Light to Moderate Rains Likely in Rayalaseema; Heat to Slightly Reduce: AP Disaster Management Authority

Amaravati, March 29 TPN Bureau:

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has forecast light to moderate rains accompanied by thunderstorms in parts of Rayalaseema over the next two days. According to Managing Director Prakhar Jain, the weather changes are due to a surface-level cyclonic circulation persisting over Rayalaseema and adjoining regions.

He stated that the impact of these weather conditions is likely to bring a slight reduction in the prevailing heat intensity. However, people have been advised to remain alert to sudden changes in weather, particularly during thunderstorms. The authority warned the public to avoid standing under trees, in open fields, or in exposed areas during lightning and thunderstorm activity, as such conditions can pose serious risks. Meanwhile, heatwave conditions are expected to affect several on Monday (March 30). In Vizianagaram



district, Badangi, Merakamudidam, Terlam, and Vangara are likely to experience strong heatwave conditions. Similarly, in Parvathipuram Manyam district, Balijipeta, Garugubilli, Gummalakshimpuram, and Seethanagaram are expected to be affected. In Polavaram district, Chintoor and Kunavaram may also witness heatwave impact. Officials indicated that

heatwave conditions could expand to around 12 mandals by the following day.

The report further highlighted that on Sunday, as many as 78 locations across the state recorded temperatures above 40°C. Markapuram district recorded 13 such locations, followed by Kadapa with 12, Tirupati and Nellore with 11 each, and Chittoor with 8 locations.

Among the highest recorded temperatures, Gudur in Nellore district registered 42.4°C, Nandanamarella in Markapuram district recorded 42.3°C, Pedapurupudi in Krishna district saw 42.1°C, and Pottipadu in Kadapa district recorded 41.9°C. Other high temperatures included Nagalapuram in Tirupati and Sindhurajapuram in Chittoor at 41.7°C, Rajam in Vizianagaram at 41.2°C, and several other places recording temperatures above 40°C. Authorities continue to monitor the situation and have urged people to take necessary precautions against both thunderstorms and heatwave conditions.



TDP Belongs to Its Cadre, Says MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan at Foundation Day Celebrations

Chittoor, March 29, TPN Bureau

Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan stated that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) truly belongs to its dedicated cadre, who love the party more than their own families. He described such committed workers as the party's greatest strength and fortune.

The 44th Foundation Day of TDP was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Chittoor on Sunday. The celebrations began with the hoisting of a massive 45-foot party flag at Kongareddipalli, marking a grand start to the event. Floral tributes were paid to the statues of party founder N. T. Rama Rao at multiple locations, including the TDP office, DCC Bank premises, Municipal Office, and Zilla Parishad grounds.

Addressing party leaders and workers, the MLA emphasized that NTR's legacy will remain eternal as long as the Telugu Desam Party exists. He highlighted that TDP has always ensured equal opportunities for people from all communities, and those who worked sincerely for the party have

risen to prominent positions.

Gurajala Jagan Mohan noted that several leaders who began their political journey in TDP have gone on to achieve significant roles, including becoming Chief Ministers in other states. He praised the sacrifices made by party workers over the years, stating that their dedication and the leadership's support are the true pillars of the party.

He also credited Nara Lokesh for energizing the party through initiatives like the Yuvagalam padayatra, which played a key role in bringing the party back to power. Under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh, the party continues to move forward with renewed strength.

The MLA encouraged younger leaders to learn from senior members and take the party forward for the next several decades. As part of the celebrations, senior party workers were honored with mementos, and the MLA shared a meal with them, symbolizing unity and camaraderie.

Several leaders and a large number of party cadre participated in the event.

TDP Foundation Day Celebrated Grandly in Tirupati Under Panabaka Lakshmi's Leadership

Tirupati, March 29, TPN Bureau

The 44th Foundation Day of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Tirupati constituency under the leadership of Panabaka Lakshmi, Tirupati Parliament President, along with Parliament General Secretary Divakar Reddy.

As part of the celebrations, party leaders performed palabhishekam to the statue of party founder N. T. Rama Rao and paid rich tributes. Later, party leaders and cadre jointly hoisted the TDP flag across the Tirupati Parliament constituency, marking the occasion with enthusiasm and unity.

Addressing the gathering, Panabaka Lakshmi recalled that NTR founded the Telugu Desam Party to uphold the self-respect of Telugu people. She stated that the present leadership continues to move forward with the same spirit and commitment.

She described the recent As-

sembly decision to declare Amaravati once again as the capital as a historic move that restored the pride of Andhra people. Highlighting the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, she said he is working with a vision to transform the state into a "Golden Andhra Pradesh" by 2045 through comprehensive development across all sectors. She also praised Nara Lokesh for his efforts in creating employment opportunities for youth and strengthening the state both economically and socially. Various initiatives are being implemented to address unemployment and promote inclusive growth, she added. Recalling NTR's contributions, she noted that he introduced reforms in Tirumala and launched the Nitya Anandanam scheme. He also played a key role in establishing major institutions in Tirupati such as SVIMS, BIRRD Hospital, and Sri Padmavati Women's University, contributing significantly to healthcare and women's empowerment.



A large number of party leaders, workers, and supporters participated in the celebrations. Tirupati constituency in-charge Mannaru Sugunamma, Yadav Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, State Media Coordinator Sridhar Varma, SAAP Chairman Ravi Naidu, Brahmin Corporation Chairman Ram Prasad, and several other state, district, and constituency leaders attended the event, making it a grand success.



Two Jewellery Thieves Arrested in Emmiganur; Stolen Property Worth 6.7 Lakh Recovered

Emmiganur, March 29 | TPN Bureau :

In a swift and coordinated operation, Emmiganur Town Police successfully cracked a jewellery theft case and arrested two accused, recovering stolen property worth approximately 6.7 lakh. The district Superintendent of Police, Vikrant Patil, appreciated the police team for their effective investigation and timely action.

According to Circle Inspector V. Srinivasulu, the case was registered based on a complaint filed by T. Prameela on March 17, 2026. She reported that unidentified persons had stolen gold ornaments worth around 6.8 lakh from her scooter on March 16 after she retrieved them from a bank. The case was registered under Crime No. 32/2026.

Acting on the directives of SP Vikrant Patil and under the supervision of DSP N. Bhargavi Murrivada, special teams were formed. The police collected and analyzed CCTV footage from the crime scene and nearby areas, along with technical evidence, to identify the suspects. Continuous surveillance led to the arrest of the accused on Sunday near Sri Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple on Mantralayam Road in Emmiganur.

The accused were identified as Shankar Bovi alias Shankar Naidu (28) and Karthik Bovi (19). During interrogation,

they confessed to committing the theft. Police recovered a gold chain weighing about 13 grams, a gold necklace weighing around 17 grams, and cash amounting to 1.9 lakh. Additionally, a Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle used in the crime was seized. Important documents belonging to the complainant, including passbooks and cheque books, were also recovered.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused operated across multiple states, including Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh. They targeted individuals near banks, followed them, and stole valuables from vehicles or bags when an opportunity arose. The accused also possessed fake identity documents such as Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, and driving licenses under different names to evade detection.

Police records indicate that the prime accused, Shankar Bovi, is involved in at least six previous cases across various states. Further investigation is underway to uncover additional details and possible links to other crimes.

The police advised the public to remain cautious while carrying valuables from banks and avoid leaving them unattended in vehicles. Citizens were also encouraged to install CCTV cameras at homes and shops and report any suspicious activity to the authorities immediately.

Sri Rama Pattabhishekam Celebrated with Grandeur at Kodandarama Swamy Temple in Tirupati

Tirupati, March 29, TPN Bureau

The sacred Sri Rama Pattabhishekam was celebrated with great fervor and grandeur at Sri Kodandarama Swamy Temple on Sunday night, drawing a large number of devotees.

The rituals began early in the morning with Suprabhatam, awakening the deity, followed by abhishekam to the presiding idols. At around 8:00 AM, the utsava murtis were ceremoniously taken to the Unjal Mandapam. Subsequently, abhishekam was performed to Lord Kodandarama using holy water brought from Narasimha Theertham.

Between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, special rituals including Agni Pratishta and Chaturdasa Kalasha Snapana Tirumanjanam were conducted in the yagasala, marking an important part of the day's spiritual proceedings.

The highlight of the program, Sri Rama Pattabhishekam, was held in the evening starting from 7:00 PM in a grand manner. The ceremony symbolized the coronation of Lord Rama and was performed with traditional Vedic rituals and devotion.

Later, from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM, a grand procession was organized. The idols of Lord Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana were taken on the Bangaru Tiruchi, while Lord Hanuman was carried on a special Tiruchi. The deities were taken in a procession through the four mada streets surrounding the temple, allowing devotees to have darshan.

Temple Deputy Executive Officer Smt. Nagaratna, Temple Inspector Suresh, along with other leader oversaw the smooth conduct of the program. A large number of devotees participated in the celebrations, making the event spiritually vibrant and successful.



One Address, Three Identities: Financial Firm in Rajahmundry Raises Serious Concerns

TPN Bureau, East Godavari:

A financial establishment operating near the Brother and Church area on Korukonda Road in Rajahmundry has come under scrutiny for allegedly running multiple entities under different names from the same premises, creating confusion among customers and raising regulatory concerns.

The issue revolves around a franchise of SVB Nidhi Limited, originally taken by an individual identified as Adhem Kothapalli from founder K. Lavraju about a year ago. The franchise initially began operations under the name SVB Nidhi Limited after leasing a building in the locality. How-

ever, the situation reportedly took a controversial turn soon after.

According to sources, the name of the firm was allegedly changed to "SVB Nidhi Society" without informing the founder. Simultaneously, another entity titled "Shiva Venkata Bhavani Nidhi Multiple Aided Co-operative Society" was reportedly registered and operated from the same address. This has led to a peculiar situation where the lease agreement remains in the name of SVB Nidhi Limited, signboards display SVB Nidhi Society, while official records reflect a different cooperative society. Such overlapping identities have triggered questions about regulatory oversight. As

per cooperative department norms, field-level verification is mandatory before granting registration to any society. However, how permissions were granted for a new entity at a location already hosting an existing financial firm remains unclear. Allegations are now surfacing about possible misrepresentation or negligence during inspections.

Customers, meanwhile, appear to be the most affected. Reports suggest that deposits are being collected under different names, with varying explanations given to clients—some are told it is a Nidhi company, others a society, and some a cooperative setup. This ambiguity raises serious concerns about accountability in

case of financial discrepancies in the future. Responding to the issue, founder K. Lavraju stated that while a franchise was indeed granted, he had no knowledge of any parallel cooperative society operating at the same address. Officials from the cooperative department acknowledged the registration of the society but claimed they were unaware of other entities functioning at the same premises, adding that strict action would be taken if violations are confirmed. Given the financial implications, locals are demanding an immediate and thorough investigation into the matter to ensure transparency and safeguard depositors' interests.



25,000 Households to Get Rooftop Solar Power by April 14 in APSPDCL Region

Tirupati, March 29 TPN Bureau :

APSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Siva Sankar Lotheti announced that rooftop solar systems will be installed for 25,000 households across the APSPDCL jurisdiction by April 14 as part of an accelerated clean energy initiative.



The CMD inspected the solar equipment warehouse at Renigunta Industrial Area near Tirupati on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that in line with State Government directives, a special drive is underway in districts including Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Kadapa, Annamayya, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, and Sri Sathya Sai to promote rooftop solar adoption among consumers.

To create awareness, APSPDCL will organize a 'Surya Utsav' from April 4 to April 14, encouraging households to adopt solar power solutions. As part of the initia-

tive, authorities have been instructed to prepare and implement a plan to provide rooftop solar systems to 25,000 SC and ST households within the nine districts by the end of the program. Adequate staff deployment has also been directed to ensure timely completion, with strict emphasis on maintaining quality standards in installations.

Lotheti further revealed that solar installation works have already commenced for around 29,000 households within APSPDCL limits. These works are being carried out across 36 sections with a total capacity of 58

MWp. So far, installations have been completed for about 1,400 households, and the remaining works are progressing rapidly.

During his visit, the CMD also inspected ongoing rooftop solar installations in Madibaka village of Yerpedu mandal in Tirupati district. He examined the installation of solar panels, lightning arresters, and earthing systems to ensure safety and efficiency. Interacting with beneficiaries, including M. Tulasi and K. Velayudham, he explained the maintenance and long-term benefits of solar systems. He noted that solar installations are being carried out for 60 SC/ST households in Madibaka, with 17 already completed. Officials were directed to expedite the remaining works. Additionally, he reviewed electricity infrastructure upgrades under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), including transformers, power lines, and agricultural electricity services, and instructed officials to complete them at the earliest.

SVICCAR Hosts Academic Conclaves on Oncology Nursing and Oncopathology Excellence

Tirupati, March 29 TPN Bureau :

Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care & Advanced Research (SVICCAR), in collaboration with Tata Cancer Care Foundation (TCCF), successfully conducted two major academic events aimed at enhancing cancer care standards and patient safety.

CNE on Oncology Nursing Excellence (March 28)

The Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) program, themed "Educate, Empower, Evolve - Strengthening Infection Control in Cancer Care," witnessed the participation of 247 nursing professionals.

Experts delivered insightful sessions on critical areas such as workplace safety, Surgical Site Infections (SSI), Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI), Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP), and antimicrobial stewardship.

The program also featured hands-on training workshops focusing on infection control bundles including VAP, CLAB-



SI, and CAUTI, along with CVAD handling, aimed at strengthening bedside clinical practices and improving patient safety outcomes.

Workshop on Practical Oncopathology (March 29)

A specialized Continuing Medical Education (CME) program titled "Best Practices in Onco-Pathology" brought together oncologists and pathologists from SVICCAR, RCHRC, and the Center for

Oncopathology.

The workshop focused on key aspects such as oncology specimen grossing, frozen section decision-making, immunohistochemistry (IHC) interpretation, and synoptic reporting. The event also included engaging panel discussions on site-specific oncology including breast, head & neck, and gastrointestinal cancers, along with a quiz competition and poster presentations.

Medical Director's Insight

Dr. Prasanth Penumadu, Medical Director of SVICCAR, emphasized the importance of such initiatives, stating that every cancer treatment plan begins with an accurate pathology report and is effectively implemented through skilled nursing care. He noted that these programs reflect SVICCAR's commitment to TCCF's principles of delivering standardized, high-quality care to improve patient outcomes.



MLA Battula Extends Support to Family of Child Who Died in Borewell Tragedy

TPN Bureau, East Godavari:

In a compassionate gesture, Rajanagaram MLA Battula Balaramakrishna extended financial and moral support to the family of a young boy who tragically lost his life after falling into a borewell in Divan Cheruvu village. The victim, identified as Kadamanchi Srinu, died in a heart-breaking accident that has shocked the local community. Soon after the incident, the MLA visited the grieving family and expressed his condolences. As immediate assistance, he provided 1 lakh from his personal funds and facilitated 2 lakh from the government to support the family during their difficult time.

Demonstrating continued commitment to the family's welfare, Battula Balaramakrishna took the matter further by meeting the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister to explain the circumstances of the tragedy. Following his request, the government sanctioned an additional compensation of 2 lakh. On Sunday, the MLA personally visited the victim's residence once again and handed over the cheque to the family members.

Speaking during the visit, the MLA described the incident as extremely unfortunate and stressed the urgent need to

implement strict safety measures in rural areas to prevent such tragedies. He pointed out that open and unattended borewells pose a serious threat, especially to children, and called for increased awareness and accountability at the village level.

He assured the family that he would continue to stand by them and ensure that they receive all possible assistance from the go. He also emphasized that necessary steps would be taken to prevent similar incidents in the future by enforcing safety norms and monitoring abandoned borewells.

The incident has sparked concern among local residents, who have urged authorities to take immediate action to identify and seal unsafe borewells. Community members expressed their grief and solidarity with the bereaved family, highlighting the need for collective responsibility in ensuring public safety.

Leaders and members from various political parties, including Jana Sena Party, Telugu Desam Party, and Bharatiya Janata Party, along with women representatives, participated in the programme. They extended their support to the family and called for stronger preventive measures to avoid such unfortunate incidents in the future.

Myths on Blood Cancer Must Be Cleared: Expert Highlights Role of Bone Marrow Transplant

TPN Bureau, East Godavari:

Noted hematologist and bone marrow transplant specialist Dr. Karuna Kumar emphasized the need to dispel widespread myths surrounding Blood Cancer and create greater awareness among the public. Speaking at a special media interaction held in Rajahmundry on Sunday, the expert from Yashoda Hospitals said that early diagnosis and timely treatment can help many patients recover completely. He cautioned that symptoms of blood cancer are often mistaken for common illnesses, leading to dangerous delays in



diagnosis.

He listed key warning signs such as persistent fever, fatigue, weakness, repeated infections, unexplained weight loss, swelling or lumps in the

body, unusual bleeding, and easy bruising. If such symptoms are observed, individuals should immediately consult a hematologist for proper evaluation.

Addressing fears about bone marrow transplants, Dr. Karuna Kumar clarified that the procedure is not a major surgery but is similar to a blood transfusion process. He stated that with proper patient selection, a suitable donor, and an experienced medical team, successful outcomes are highly achievable. He added that thousands of patients across India and globally have recovered through this advanced treatment.

The doctor stressed that identifying blood cancer in its early stages is crucial for effective treatment and urged people not to ignore health issues.

He called for increased awareness to eliminate misconceptions about both blood cancer and bone marrow transplants, encouraging the public to rely on expert medical advice.

On this occasion, he also announced that to make advanced healthcare services more accessible to people in the Godavari districts, he would be available for consultations every fourth Thursday of the month at the Yashoda Medical Centre in Rajahmundry.

The event was attended by Andhra Pradesh Marketing Manager Nallam Bala Veerabhadra and Executive Raghava Chaitanya, among others.

TDP 44th Foundation Day Celebrated Grandly in Buchireddypalem

Buchireddypalem, March 29 TPN Bureau

The 44th Foundation Day of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Buchireddypalem town under Kovur constituency in Nellore district. Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prasanthi Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and was accorded a grand welcome by party leaders and cadre.

As part of the celebrations, the MLA laid the foundation stone for the installation of a statue of TDP founder N. T. Rama Rao near the Vavuru Cooperative Bank Center. The continued at KVR Kalyana Mandapam, where senior party workers who have been associated with the party since its inception were felicitated. Active cadre who played a key role in taking party programs



to the people were also honored with mementos. Speaking on the occasion, Prasanthi Reddy described March 29, 1982, as a historic day that marked a

turning point in the self-respect movement of Telugu people. She recalled that NTR founded the party with the powerful slogan, "Society is

the temple - People are the Gods," which continues to inspire generations. She emphasized that the party's electoral success, including a majority

of 54,000 votes, was the result of the collective efforts of party workers. She assured that no worker who stood by the party during challenging times would be treated unfairly and urged them to bring any issues directly to her attention. Highlighting the role of N. Chandrababu Naidu, she stated that he gave the party strong organizational structure and direction after its formation. She also praised Nara Lokesh, noting that he has demonstrated leadership by striving to fulfill the aspirations and ideals of previous generations. During the event, the MLA administered a pledge to party leaders and workers, reaffirming their commitment to the party's ideology and principles. A large number of party leaders and cadre from across the constituency participated in the celebrations, making the event a grand success.

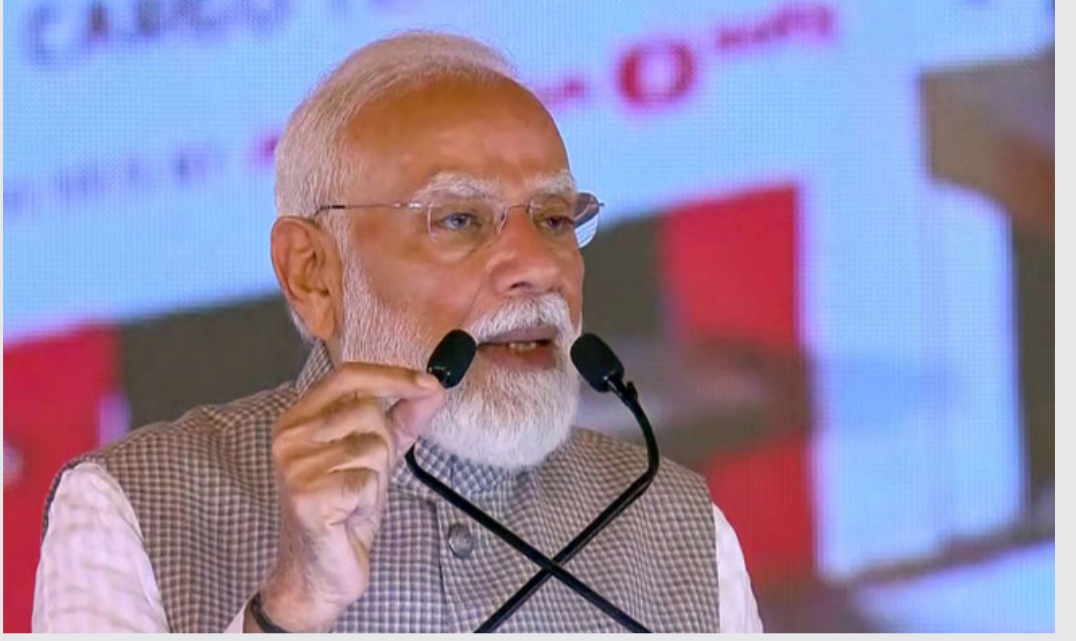
'No Place for Self-Serving Politics': Modi's Message Amid Gulf War Tensions

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has issued a strong message against politicising the ongoing Middle East conflict, urging unity and responsibility at a time when global tensions are impacting India directly. Speaking during the latest episode of his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat, Modi emphasised that the situation in West Asia is serious and requires a collective, national approach rather than political point-scoring. He cautioned political parties and citizens against using the crisis for personal or partisan gains, stating that there is "no place for self-serving politics" during such challenging times. The Prime Minister also warned against the spread of

rumours and misinformation, stressing that such actions could create unnecessary panic and confusion among the public. He urged people to rely only on verified information, particularly as the conflict continues to evolve rapidly. Highlighting India's response to the crisis, Modi expressed gratitude to Gulf nations for extending support and assistance to Indian citizens living in the region. He noted that the safety and well-being of Indians abroad remain a top priority for the government, with continuous monitoring of the situation. The ongoing conflict has had far-reaching implications, especially for energy supplies and global trade.

Modi acknowledged that India, like many other countries, is facing challenges due to disruptions in fuel supply chains. However, he assured that the government is taking proactive steps to manage the situation and maintain stability. He also pointed to India's strengthened global ties as a key factor in navigating the crisis. Over the years, India has expanded its diplomatic and economic relationships, which are now helping the country respond effectively to international disruptions. The Prime Minister's remarks come amid heightened political debate within the country over the government's handling of the crisis. By calling for unity, Modi

sought to reinforce the need for a coordinated national response during a period of global uncertainty. India has been actively engaging with multiple countries in the region, advocating for peace and stability while ensuring that its own strategic and economic interests are protected. As the Gulf war continues to impact global markets and security, Modi's message underscores the importance of maintaining national unity and avoiding divisive politics. With rising concerns over energy security and the safety of Indian nationals abroad, the government's focus remains on stability, preparedness, and international cooperation.



'Wounds Reopen': Sajad Lone Draws Parallel Between Abdullah Attack and Father's Killing

Sajad Gani Lone delivered an emotional speech in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, drawing a painful parallel between the recent attack on Farooq Abdullah and the assassination of his own father, Abdul Ghani Lone. Speaking during a discussion on the attack on Abdullah, Lone condemned the incident and highlighted what he described as long-standing failures in providing adequate security. He said such incidents reopen old wounds for families who have suffered similar tragedies. "Whenever there is an attempt or an assassination, our wounds get opened again," Lone said, reflecting on the emotional toll such violence continues to have. He recalled the assassination of his father in 2002, stating that the trauma of that loss still lingers and resurfaces during such incidents. Lone emphasised that violence in politics leaves a lasting impact that goes beyond immediate loss. He noted that several political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir have been targeted over the years, pointing out that around 20 members of the Assembly have lost their lives to such attacks. While expressing relief that Farooq Abdullah survived the recent attack, Lone described him as one of the most prominent and dynamic figures in the region's political landscape.



He said the incident should not be used for political point-scoring, but rather as a moment for reflection and reform. Raising serious concerns about security arrangements, Lone questioned whether ideological differences should ever result in inadequate protection. He argued that denying or reducing security due to political disagreements is unacceptable and could have dangerous consequences. Recalling the circumstances surrounding his father's death, Lone said there were prior indications of threats, yet sufficient protection was not provided. He also shared a deeply personal account, revealing that he was not given security to attend his father's funeral at the site where he was killed. The remarks come amid widespread criticism in the As-

sembly over the attack on Farooq Abdullah, with several leaders calling it a serious security lapse. Lawmakers across party lines have demanded accountability and a thorough review of security protocols. Lone's speech stood out for its emotional intensity and broader message, urging policymakers to learn from past failures. He stressed that ensuring the safety of political leaders must remain a priority, regardless of ideological differences. As debates continue in the Assembly, the incident has once again brought focus on the region's fragile security environment and the need for stronger, non-partisan measures to prevent such attacks in the future.

Congress Gains Ground in Uttarakhand as Former BJP, BSP MLAs Switch Sides

In a significant political development ahead of the 2027 Uttarakhand Assembly elections, several prominent leaders, including former MLAs from the BJP and BSP, have joined the Congress, giving the party a boost in the state. Among those who switched sides are Rajkumar Thukral, a two-time BJP MLA from Rudrapur, Bhimlal Arya, and Narayan Pal. The leaders were inducted into the Congress at the party headquarters in New Delhi in the presence of senior party leadership. The move comes at a crucial time, with less than a year remaining for the state elections. Political observers see the defections as an indication of shifting loyalties and possible dissatisfaction within rival parties, particularly the BJP. Rajkumar Thukral, once a strong BJP figure, had been denied a party ticket in the 2022 elections, after which he contested as an independent candidate. Despite his strong local influence and past electoral success, he failed to secure victory, finishing behind both BJP and Congress candidates. Bhimlal Arya's political journey has also seen multiple turns. A former BJP MLA, he was suspended from the party for anti-party activities and later disqualified for cross-voting during a political crisis in



the state. Over the years, he has contested elections under different banners, including Congress and as an independent. Narayan Pal, a former BSP MLA, has had a long political career, having won elections in the early 2000s but facing setbacks in later contests. His entry into Congress is seen as part of the party's strategy to consolidate support across constituencies.

Apart from these former legislators, several other local leaders also joined Congress, including former Roorkee mayor Gaurav Goyal, Lakhman Singh Negi, Anuj Gupta, and Yashpal Rana. Their inclusion is expected to strengthen the party's grassroots network. Congress leaders described the development as a sign of growing public dissatisfaction with the ruling BJP government led by Chief Minister

Pushkar Singh Dhami. They claimed that more leaders could join the party in the coming months. With Uttarakhand heading towards a crucial electoral battle in 2027, such political realignments are likely to play a key role in shaping the contest. The Congress hopes the new entrants will enhance its prospects, while the BJP will aim to retain its dominance in the state.

Actor-Politician Vijay to Contest from Two Seats in Tamil Nadu Poll Debut

Actor-turned-politician Vijay has announced that he will contest the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections from two constituencies — Perambur in Chennai and Trichy East — marking a significant step in his political debut. The announcement came as Vijay unveiled the full list of candidates for his party, Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam, which is entering electoral politics for the first time. Urging voters to support his party, Vijay called for a "chance" to bring change, highlighting TVK's symbol and positioning the election as a crucial moment for the state. The Tamil Nadu Assembly elections will be held in a single phase on April 23, covering all 234 constituencies. The contest is expected to be highly competitive, with multiple parties in the fray, including the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, opposition alliances, and regional players. Vijay's decision to contest from two seats is seen as a strategic move to maximise his chances of electoral success in his first attempt. Perambur, located in Chennai, and Trichy East, a key constituency in central Tamil Nadu, are both politically significant and currently represented by DMK leaders. Political analysts believe the choice of constituencies reflects a broader strategy to es-



establish TVK's presence across different regions of the state — urban Chennai and the influential Trichy belt. By contesting from two seats, Vijay aims to strengthen his party's visibility and appeal among diverse voter groups. The entry of Vijay into active politics has added a new dimension to Tamil Nadu's electoral landscape. Known for his massive fan following, the actor is attempting to convert his popularity into political support. His party has decided to contest independently, positioning itself as an alternative to established political forces. The upcoming election is shaping into a multi-cornered contest, with alli-

ances and regional parties intensifying the competition. Vijay has framed the election as a direct fight between his party and the ruling establishment, signalling an aggressive campaign strategy. With campaign activities expected to gather momentum in the coming weeks, all eyes will be on how Vijay performs in his first electoral outing. His decision to contest from two seats underlines both ambition and caution, as he seeks to secure a strong foothold in Tamil Nadu politics. As the state heads toward polling day, Vijay's political debut is set to be one of the most closely watched developments in the 2026 elections.

Rajnath Calls for Long-Term Strategy, Strong Action Against Fake News Amid West Asia Crisis

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stressed the need for a medium- to long-term strategy and stronger measures to counter misinformation during a high-level government meeting on the ongoing West Asia conflict. Chairing the first meeting of the Informal Empowered Group of Ministers (IGoM), Singh highlighted the importance of preparedness and coordinated action as the geopolitical situation continues to evolve. The group has been constituted to closely monitor developments in the region and assess their impact on India across multiple sectors. During the meeting, Singh directed various ministries and departments to actively share accurate and timely information to counter rumours, misinformation, and fake news related to the conflict. He underlined that unchecked misinformation could create confusion and panic, making it essential for the government to ensure clear and verified communication reaches the public. The Defence Minister emphasised adopting a proactive, coordinated, and forward-looking approach, urging all stakeholders to remain vigilant given the fluid nature of the situation. He called for swift decision-making and effective implementation of policies to respond to emerging challenges. The IGoM reviewed the



broader implications of the West Asia crisis on India, including its potential impact on energy supplies, economic stability, and critical infrastructure. Senior ministers and officials participated in the discussions, focusing on sector-specific risks and preparedness measures. Seven Empowered Groups of Secretaries (EGoS) presented detailed assessments during the meeting, outlining existing policies and strategies already in place to manage the situation. Singh instructed them to continue closely monitoring developments and ensure

strong coordination between departments. A key focus of the discussions was maintaining resilience in supply chains and ensuring the availability of essential commodities in the face of global disruptions. The government is particularly concerned about the potential fallout from the conflict, including volatility in oil prices and trade routes. Singh reiterated that India must remain prepared not just for immediate challenges but also for long-term consequences arising from the crisis. He stressed that planning ahead and maintaining high levels of coordina-

tion would be crucial in navigating uncertainties. The meeting reflects the government's broader effort to stay ahead of rapidly changing global developments. With the West Asia conflict continuing to evolve, India is prioritising preparedness, effective communication, and policy coordination to safeguard its national interests. As geopolitical tensions persist, the emphasis on combating fake news and adopting a long-term strategy signals a comprehensive approach to managing both domestic and international challenges.

'Gate of Tears' Emerges as New Global Shipping Flashpoint After Hormuz Crisis

As tensions escalate in the ongoing US-Iran conflict, global attention is rapidly shifting from the Strait of Hormuz to another critical maritime chokepoint — the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, ominously known as the "Gate of Tears." This narrow waterway at the southern end of the Red Sea is now emerging as a potential second front in what experts describe as one of the most severe disruptions to global energy markets in recent history.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, making it a vital route for ships traveling between Asia and Europe via

the Suez Canal. A significant share of global trade passes through this corridor, including around 10-12% of the world's oil and gas shipments, underscoring its strategic importance.

With the Strait of Hormuz already facing severe disruption due to the conflict, concerns are mounting that Bab el-Mandeb could be the next major chokepoint under threat. Experts warn that while Hormuz primarily affects oil flows, Bab el-Mandeb has a much broader impact, influencing container shipping, cargo movement, vessel availability, insurance costs, and overall global trade economics.

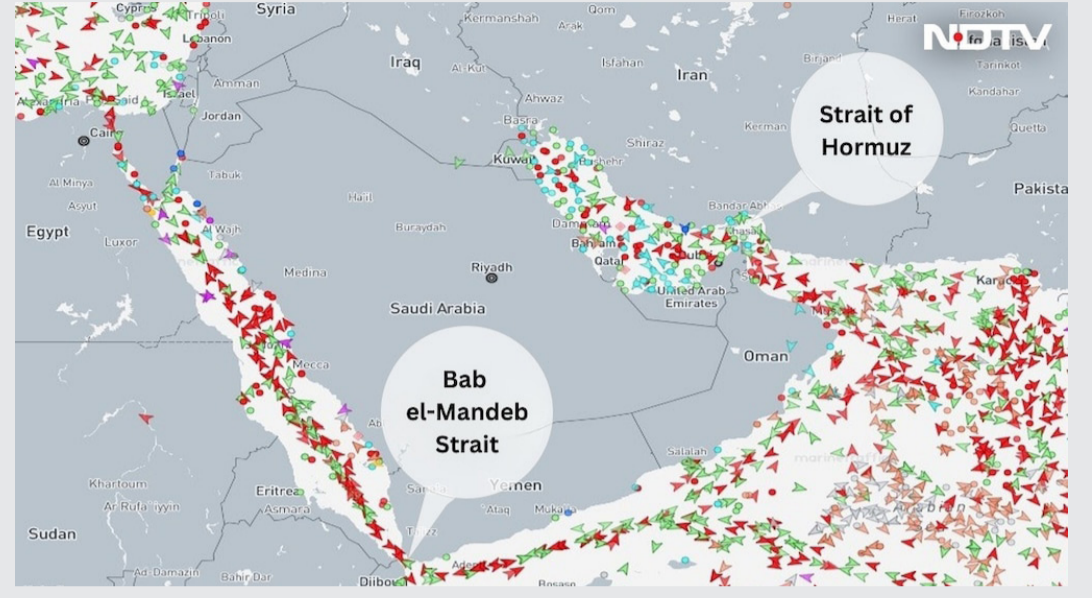
The situation has become more volatile with Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels entering the conflict. Their presence near the strait raises fears of attacks on commercial vessels, which could disrupt one of the busiest maritime trade routes in the world. Iran has also warned that it may escalate tensions in additional waterways, including the Red Sea, if its energy infrastructure comes under further attack.

The Bab el-Mandeb has gained even greater importance as countries seek alternatives to Hormuz. For instance, Saudi Arabia has been routing oil via pipelines to its Red Sea port of

Yanbu, allowing shipments to bypass Hormuz entirely. However, this workaround depends heavily on the security of the Bab el-Mandeb route.

If both chokepoints are disrupted simultaneously, the consequences could be far-reaching. Global supply chains may face severe delays, shipping costs could surge, and energy prices might spike further, adding pressure to already fragile markets.

As the conflict widens and new actors join the fray, the "Gate of Tears" may soon live up to its name, posing a serious threat not just to regional stability but to the global economy at large.



Trump's 'Kiss My A' Remark on Saudi Crown Prince Sparks Outrage, Mixed With Praise

US President Donald Trump has triggered fresh controversy after making a crude remark about Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, even as he went on to praise him during the same address.

Speaking at a public event, Trump used unusually blunt language while referring to the Saudi leader, suggesting that the crown prince now had to "be nice" to him amid shifting geopolitical dynamics. In a remark that quickly went viral, Trump said he did not expect the Saudi leader to act in such a favorable manner, using an explicit phrase that drew widespread criticism. (www.ndtv.com) The comment, seen by many as undiplomatic, sparked strong reactions on social media and among political observers. Critics described the language as inappropriate for a head of state, especially when

referring to a key ally in the Middle East. The remark also raised questions about the tone of US foreign policy communication during a period of heightened regional tensions.

However, Trump's comments were not entirely critical. In the same speech, he praised Mohammed bin Salman, describing him as a strong and capable leader. He suggested that the United States currently holds significant leverage in its relationship with Saudi Arabia, particularly in the context of the ongoing conflict involving Iran. The statement comes at a time when Saudi Arabia finds itself in a delicate position. While not officially part of the war, the kingdom remains a crucial US ally and plays a key role in regional security and global energy markets. Its leadership has been navigating complex pressures, balancing ties with Washington while avoiding direct con-

frontation with Iran. Trump's remarks reflect his often unconventional communication style, which has repeatedly broken from traditional diplomatic norms. While supporters argue that his candid approach signals strength and transparency, critics warn that such language risks undermining long-standing alliances. The episode also highlights the evolving dynamics between the US and Saudi Arabia. Despite occasional public tensions, the two nations continue to maintain close strategic and economic ties, particularly in defense cooperation and energy interests. As the Iran conflict continues to escalate, the relationship between Washington and Riyadh remains critical. Trump's comments, though controversial, underscore the high-stakes nature of global diplomacy at a time when alliances are being tested and recalibrated.

US Eyes Ground Ops in Iran as Hormuz Tensions Escalate, Kharg Island in Focus

The ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran is entering a more dangerous phase, with reports indicating that Washington may be preparing for limited ground operations targeting key Iranian assets, including the strategically vital Kharg Island near the Strait of Hormuz.

Kharg Island, located in the Persian Gulf, plays a critical role in Iran's economy as it handles nearly 90% of the country's oil exports. Its strategic importance has made it a prime target in the escalating conflict. Recent US airstrikes in the region have reportedly focused on military infrastructure, while avoiding major damage to oil facilities.

According to emerging developments, the Pentagon is considering more direct military action, including special operations or short-term ground raids aimed at weakening Iran's ability to control key maritime routes. These plans



are believed to focus on high-value targets such as Kharg Island and coastal defense systems near the Strait of Hormuz.

The Strait of Hormuz remains a central flashpoint in the conflict. As one of the world's most important oil transit chokepoints, any disruption here has immediate global consequences. Iran has already taken steps to assert control over the strait, including warnings that it could

block or mine the waterway if tensions escalate further.

The potential seizure of Kharg Island is seen by US strategists as a way to disrupt Iran's oil exports and pressure Tehran into reopening Hormuz to international shipping. However, military experts caution that such an operation would be highly risky. The island is heavily fortified with air defense systems, mines, and missile installations, making any ground assault com-

plex and potentially costly. Meanwhile, the United States has been steadily increasing its military presence in the region, deploying additional forces as part of contingency planning. Despite this buildup, officials suggest that a full-scale invasion remains unlikely, with the focus instead on targeted and time-bound operations.

The broader conflict, which has intensified in recent weeks, has already disrupted global energy markets and shipping routes. Instability in the Strait of Hormuz has pushed oil prices higher and raised concerns about long-term impacts on global supply chains.

As tensions continue to rise, the possibility of direct US ground action inside Iran marks a significant escalation. With strategic locations under threat and regional instability growing, the situation remains volatile, carrying serious implications for global security and economic stability.

3,500 US Troops Reach Middle East as Trump Weighs Ground Action in Iran

The United States has significantly increased its military presence in the Middle East, with more than 3,500 troops arriving in the region amid the escalating conflict with Iran. The deployment, carried out aboard the USS Tripoli, marks one of the largest American military buildups in the region in nearly two decades.

The reinforcement includes Marines and sailors positioned under US Central Command, signaling heightened preparedness as tensions continue to rise. The move comes as Washington evaluates its next steps in the ongoing war, with growing speculation over whether President Donald Trump may authorize ground operations inside Iran.

According to emerging reports, the Pentagon is preparing contingency plans that could involve limited ground missions rather than a full-scale invasion. These operations are expected to focus on strategic targets, including key Iranian military sites and coastal infrastructure near the



Strait of Hormuz — a critical global oil transit route.

Despite the increased troop presence, officials have indicated that a large-scale ground war remains unlikely. Instead, the US appears to be considering short-term, targeted actions using a combination of conventional forces and special operations units. Analysts suggest this approach is aimed at minimizing risks while maintaining pressure on Tehran.

The military buildup reflects the intensifying nature of the conflict, which began in late February and has since expanded across multiple fronts. Iran has responded with missile and drone attacks across the region, raising concerns about a broader regional war. At the same time, key shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz have been severely impacted, disrupting global energy supplies and driving up

oil prices. The arrival of thousands of US troops has also fueled speculation about a possible shift in strategy. While airstrikes have been the primary tool so far, ground forces could be used to secure critical assets, conduct raids, or deter further Iranian aggression.

However, any decision to deploy troops on Iranian soil carries significant risks. Iran's military capabilities, including missile systems and asymmetric warfare tactics, pose a serious challenge to US forces. Additionally, there is growing political pressure within the United States, where public support for deeper military involvement remains uncertain.

As the situation continues to evolve, the presence of US troops in the region underscores the fragile and volatile nature of the conflict. With diplomatic efforts ongoing but tensions still high, the possibility of further escalation — including limited ground operations — remains a key concern for global security and stability.

Millions Rally in 'No Kings' Protests Across US, Europe Over Iran War and Trump Policies

Millions of people poured onto the streets across the United States and several European cities in a massive wave of "No Kings" protests, expressing strong opposition to President Donald Trump's policies and the ongoing conflict with Iran. The demonstrations are being described as one of the largest coordinated protest movements in recent years.

Organisers say the protests spanned thousands of locations across all 50 US states, with solidarity rallies held in major international cities. What began as a movement focused on democratic values and civil liberties has now gained momentum amid escalating tensions in the Middle East.

Protesters carried banners reading "No Kings," "Stop the War," and "Defend Democracy," reflecting growing concerns over what they view as authoritarian tendencies within the administration. Many demonstrators also voiced strong criticism of the

US military actions against Iran, calling for an immediate de-escalation and a renewed focus on diplomacy.

Major cities including New York, Washington, Chicago, and Los Angeles witnessed massive turnouts, while smaller towns also saw significant participation. In several locations, community leaders, activists, and public figures addressed crowds, urging unity and peaceful resistance.

The protests were not confined to the United States alone. Demonstrations were held across Europe, including in cities such as London and Rome, where participants echoed similar concerns. Protesters highlighted issues ranging from global instability and military conflict to rising nationalism and threats to democratic institutions.

The "No Kings" movement represents a broader wave of dissatisfaction over multiple issues, including foreign policy decisions, immigration measures, economic

challenges, and governance concerns. While the majority of the protests remained peaceful, authorities maintained a strong presence in some areas to manage large crowds and prevent disruptions.

The White House has largely dismissed the protests as politically driven, maintaining that its policies are focused on national security and global stability. However, analysts suggest that the sheer scale of participation reflects growing public frustration and could influence the political landscape in the coming months.

As tensions between the United States and Iran continue, and domestic divisions deepen, the protests underscore rising pressure on the administration. With millions demanding change, the "No Kings" movement is emerging as a powerful symbol of resistance, highlighting calls for peace, accountability, and the protection of democratic values.



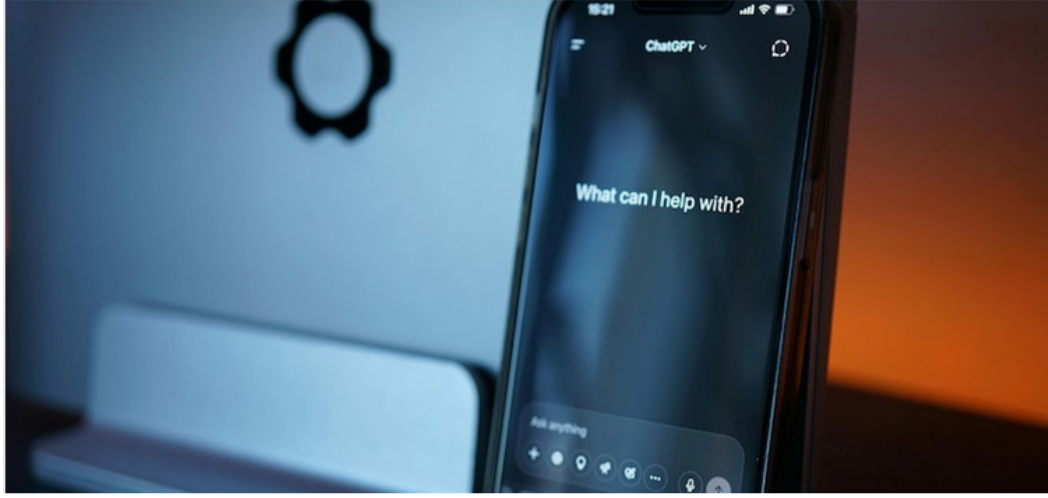
Teen Says NEET Aspirant Sister Spends 10 Hours Daily With AI Chatbots, Sparks Online Debate

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 companionship. 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 introducing 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 emotional 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.



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 demonstrates 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 admired 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 atten-

tive 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 us-

ing 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.

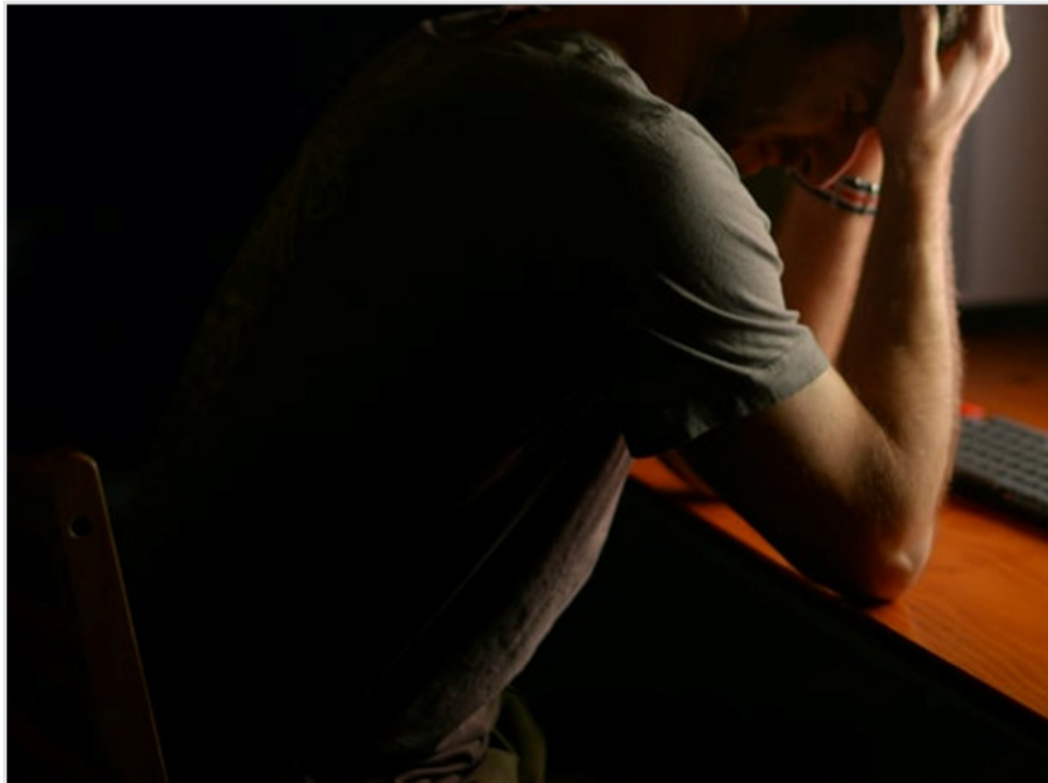
No Warning, No Explanation

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 us-



ers 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 sudden 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 opportuni-

ties 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 considering 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.

Pohela Boishakh 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. Farm-



ers 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 cultural 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.

MI BREAK OPENING MATCH JINX WITH SIX-WICKET WIN OVER KKR

In a thrilling start to the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, Mumbai Indians overcame a long-standing opener curse to secure a six-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday. The win marked Mumbai's first opening-match triumph since 2012, giving the team and its fans a significant morale boost.

After winning the toss, Kolkata Knight Riders elected to bat first and posted a competitive total of 220/5, thanks to half-centuries from skipper Ajinkya Rahane and Angkrish Raghuvanshi. Their steady partnerships kept KKR in a strong position, but they struggled to accelerate in the latter stages of the innings against disciplined bowling from the hosts.

Chasing 221, Mumbai Indians received a stellar start from captain Rohit Sharma and South Afri-

can opener Ryan Rickelton. Rohit played a whirlwind 38-ball 78, striking six sixes and six fours, while Rickelton complemented him with a quick 81 off 43 deliveries, including eight sixes. Their 148-run partnership dismantled the KKR bowling attack and put Mumbai firmly in control of the chase.

Despite brief resistance from KKR's bowlers, Mumbai's middle and lower order, including contributions from Hardik Pandya and Naman Dhir, ensured the team crossed the finish line comfortably at 224/4 in 19.1 overs. The Wankhede crowd erupted in celebration as the hosts ended a 13-year jinx of losing their opening matches, signaling a strong start to their IPL campaign.

For KKR, Rahane's 67 and Raghuvanshi's 51 were notable contributions, but the team could

not contain Mumbai's power hitters, especially in the middle overs where the chase was decisively turned. The defeat will prompt KKR to rethink their bowling strategies ahead of upcoming matches.

The victory highlighted Mumbai's batting depth and experience, with Rohit's leadership and Rickelton's explosive form setting the tone for what could be a competitive season for the franchise. As the IPL progresses, Mumbai Indians look well-positioned to challenge for the title, having finally broken their opening-day hoodoo in style.

This win not only gave them points on the board but also sent a clear message to other teams: the defending champions are back with intent, combining seasoned campaigners and dynamic newcomers to mount a serious title challenge.



Gavaskar Urges Tougher Rules as IPL Pullouts Continue Despite Ban

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has called for stricter penalties against players who withdraw from the Indian Premier League at the last moment, saying the existing two-year ban rule is failing to deter such decisions.

His remarks come after England batter Ben Duckett pulled out of IPL 2026 despite being picked by Delhi Capitals in the auction. The late withdrawal has left franchises scrambling to find replacements and disrupted team strategies just days before the tournament.

Currently, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) imposes a two-season ban on overseas players who pull out without valid reasons after being selected. However, Gavaskar believes this rule is not strong enough to prevent players from backing out when other commitments arise.

Speaking about Duckett's decision, Gavaskar acknowledged that international commitments and financial incentives from other leagues may influence players. However, he stressed that once a player enters the IPL auction and is picked by a franchise, there should be a greater sense of responsibility and commitment.

He pointed out that last-minute withdrawals not only affect team balance but also undermine the credibility of the tournament. Franchises invest

heavily in building squads and planning combinations, and sudden exits create unnecessary complications.

Gavaskar suggested that the BCCI should consider stricter measures, possibly including longer bans or financial penalties, to ensure players honor their commitments. According to him, stronger enforcement is essential to maintain discipline and protect the integrity of the league.

The issue of player availability has become a recurring concern in recent IPL seasons, with several overseas players prioritizing international schedules or other franchise leagues. This has led to frustration among teams and fans, who expect a high level of professionalism from players participating in one of the world's biggest T20 competitions.

The IPL, known for its global appeal and financial strength, relies heavily on the participation of top international talent. Frequent pullouts risk affecting the quality and competitiveness of the tournament.

Gavaskar's comments have reignited the debate around player accountability and the need for stricter regulations. As IPL 2026 gets underway, the spotlight is now on the BCCI to review its policies and ensure that such disruptions are minimized in the future.



RCB Outsmart SRH With Smart Tactics to Begin IPL 2026 Campaign in Style

Royal Challengers Bengaluru delivered a statement performance in the IPL 2026 opener, defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad by six wickets in a high-scoring clash. More than just a win, it was a tactical masterclass as RCB managed to beat SRH at their own aggressive game plan.

SRH, known for their explosive batting, posted a strong total of 201/9. However, RCB's strategy with the ball ensured the innings never truly got out of control. New recruit Jacob Duffy made an immediate impact, striking early to reduce SRH to 29/3 in the powerplay. This early damage disrupted Hyderabad's momentum and forced their middle order to rebuild rather than dominate.

While SRH did recover through a solid innings from their middle order, the lack of sustained partnerships and early wickets prevented them from pushing towards an even bigger total. RCB's bowlers maintained discipline, focusing on tight lines and clever variations, which restricted SRH despite the batting-friendly conditions.

Chasing 202, RCB flipped the script by adopting the same aggressive approach that SRH are famous for. Virat Kohli anchored the innings with a composed yet attacking unbeaten 69, showcasing his trademark control during a chase. At the other end, Devdutt Padikkal

provided explosive support, smashing 61 off just 26 balls.

The duo stitched together a rapid partnership that effectively took the game away from SRH. By attacking early and maintaining a high scoring rate, RCB ensured there was no pressure during the chase. They reached the target in just 15.4 overs, registering one of the fastest chases of a 200-plus total in IPL history.

What stood out was RCB's clarity of approach. They combined disciplined bowling with fearless batting — a formula often associated with SRH in recent seasons. By executing both aspects better, RCB managed to outplay their opponents in every department.

This victory also highlighted RCB's evolution as a team. Once seen as overly dependent on individual brilliance, they now appear more balanced and tactically sharp. Their ability to adapt and counter the opposition's strengths could prove crucial as they aim to defend their IPL title.

For SRH, the loss exposed gaps in both their batting structure and bowling discipline. As the tournament progresses, they will need to regroup quickly to avoid further setbacks.

RCB, meanwhile, have sent a strong message to the rest of the league — they are not just champions, but a tactically formidable unit.



Harbhajan Singh Loses Cool After 'Jealousy' Remark About Ashwin Sparks Online Spat

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh found himself at the center of controversy during IPL 2026 after losing his temper on social media following a fan's comment linking him with alleged jealousy towards Ravichandran Ashwin.

The incident unfolded during the early phase of the Indian Premier League season, when Harbhajan, who is part of the Hindi commentary panel, was already facing criticism from some viewers over his commentary style. Amid the backlash, a social media user took things further by accusing him of being jealous of Ashwin's achievements and suggesting that his relevance was fading.

The remark did not go down well with Harbhajan, who responded sharply. In a strongly worded reply, he lashed out at the troll, using harsh language

and dismissing the criticism outright. His reaction quickly went viral, triggering widespread debate among cricket fans.

The controversy gained more attention because of the long-standing comparisons between Harbhajan and Ashwin, two of India's prominent off-spinners from different eras. While Harbhajan was a key figure in India's bowling attack in the early 2000s, Ashwin rose to prominence later and went on to become one of the country's leading wicket-takers.

Interestingly, the "jealousy" narrative is not new. In previous interactions, Harbhajan himself had addressed such claims directly, even asking Ashwin in a candid conversation whether he ever believed there was any envy between them. Ashwin had responded diplomatically, acknowledging that competitive feelings can

exist among players but insisting it was a natural part of professional sport.

Despite this, social media continues to fuel comparisons between the two, often leading to unnecessary controversies. The latest episode highlights how quickly online criticism can escalate, especially during high-profile tournaments like the IPL. While some fans supported Harbhajan for standing up to online trolling, others felt his reaction was excessive for a public figure. The debate reflects a broader issue faced by athletes and commentators in the digital age, where scrutiny and criticism are constant.

As IPL 2026 progresses, the focus is expected to return to on-field action. However, this incident serves as a reminder of the intense spotlight on former players and the challenges of handling social media pressure in modern cricket.



Hardik Pandya's 12 Crore Ferrari Struggles on Mumbai Speed Breaker, Video Goes Viral

A video of Hardik Pandya driving his newly acquired luxury Ferrari on the streets of Mumbai has gone viral, but for an unexpected reason. The high-end sports car, reportedly worth around 12 crore, was seen struggling to cross a speed breaker, highlighting the challenges of driving low-clearance supercars on Indian roads.

The clip, widely shared on social media, shows the Mumbai Indians captain carefully maneuvering his Ferrari while approaching a speed breaker. Instead of driving straight over it, Pandya adopts a cautious, angled approach to avoid scraping the underside of the car.

The incident has drawn attention not just because of the cricketer's star status, but also due to the stark contrast between luxury vehicles and real-world road conditions in cities like Mumbai. Supercars like Ferrari models are designed for smooth highways and race tracks, with very low ground clearance to enhance speed and aerodynamics. However, such design features make them less suited for uneven roads and frequent speed bumps.

As IPL 2026 unfolds, Pandya will look to shift focus back to cricket, but this viral moment has once again highlighted his larger-than-life persona — both on and off the field.

his impressive collection. The car has already become a talking point among fans and automobile enthusiasts, with multiple videos of him driving it in Mumbai surfacing online.

The timing of the viral video is also noteworthy, as it comes just ahead of the IPL 2026 season, where Pandya is leading the Mumbai Indians. While the focus is usually on his on-field performances, moments like these often capture public attention off the field as well.

The episode has sparked a mix of reactions online. While some fans found humor in the situation, others pointed out the practical limitations of owning such high-performance vehicles in Indian conditions. Many users commented on how even the most expensive cars are not immune to everyday road challenges.

Despite the minor hiccup, Pandya handled the situation with care, ensuring that his prized possession remained undamaged. The video serves as a reminder that while luxury cars offer unmatched performance and style, their usability can sometimes be limited by infrastructure realities.

As IPL 2026 unfolds, Pandya will look to shift focus back to cricket, but this viral moment has once again highlighted his larger-than-life persona — both on and off the field.

Vettori Blames SRH Bowlers After RCB Defeat, Praises Kohli's Brilliance

Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori did not hold back after his team's heavy defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their IPL 2026 opener, openly criticising the bowling unit for a poor and undisciplined performance.

Despite posting a competitive total of 201/9, SRH were unable to defend it as RCB chased down the target comfortably in just 15.4 overs. The defeat was largely attributed to ineffective bowling, with Vettori admitting that his team failed to execute even basic plans.

"We weren't disciplined," Vettori said after the match, describing it as one of SRH's weaker performances with the ball. He pointed out that the bowlers failed to maintain the right lengths and allowed too



many scoring opportunities, which ultimately cost them the game. A key concern highlighted by the coach was the inability of the bowlers to adapt to conditions. He noted that

RCB's bowlers had shown how to use the pitch effectively, but SRH could not replicate the same approach. This lack of execution allowed RCB's batters to dominate throughout

the chase.

Much of the damage was inflicted by Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal, who stitched together a match-winning partnership. Kohli's composed yet aggressive innings stood out, with Vettori acknowledging that his bowlers gave the star batter far too many chances to score freely. "They were able to capitalise on anything loose," Vettori admitted, stressing that against players of Kohli's calibre, even small mistakes can prove costly.

The coach also pointed to debutant Jacob Duffy from RCB as an example, praising his ability to hit the right lengths consistently. In contrast, SRH's bowlers struggled to maintain control, which allowed the opposition to keep the required run rate well within reach.

While the loss exposed serious concerns in the bowling department, Vettori did find positives in the batting performance. SRH's total of over 200 showed that the lineup has enough firepower, but he emphasised that such efforts would go in vain without better support from the bowlers.

The defeat marks a disappointing start for SRH in IPL 2026, raising questions about their balance and execution. Vettori made it clear that immediate improvements are needed, particularly in bowling discipline, if the team hopes to bounce back in the tournament.

As the season progresses, all eyes will be on how SRH respond — especially whether their bowlers can correct the flaws that were brutally exposed by RCB's clinical chase.

“Suyodhana” Team Celebrates Success in Hyderabad

The team of the recently released Telugu film Suyodhana held a grand success meet in Hyderabad following the movie's positive reception at the box office. Produced under the Prajwala Line Creations banner, the film stars Priyadarshi and Drishika Chander in lead roles, with prominent performances by Sai Kumar and Prema. The film is directed by Y. S. Madhav Reddy and produced by Bosubabu Nidumolu.

Released on March 27, Suyodhana has been receiving encouraging responses from audiences across regions. The makers expressed happiness over the film's success and thanked viewers for their support.

Speaking at the event, pro-



ducer Bosubabu Nidumolu said that achieving success with their very first attempt was a significant milestone. He expressed confidence in delivering an even bigger blockbust-

er with their next project. He noted that the film has been receiving positive feedback from all areas and added that the experience gained through Suyodhana would help them come back with stronger content. The producer also revealed plans to collaborate with an established production house for future ventures and advised aspiring producers to enter the industry with adequate understanding and preparation.

Distributor Papiraju highlighted the role of media in promoting small films and bringing them closer to audiences. He appreciated the performances of Priyadarshi and Sai Kumar, noting that both actors delivered compelling performances. He also praised director Y. S. Madhav Reddy for executing the film with the finesse of an experienced filmmaker, adding that every frame of the movie was well-crafted.

Director Y. S. Madhav Reddy expressed gratitude for the audience's response, stating that the film is witnessing an increase in screens with each passing show. He also mentioned that Suyodhana is receiving a positive response overseas, with viewers sharing encouraging feedback. He credited the performances of Priyadarshi and Sai Kumar as major highlights of the film and urged media and audiences to continue supporting the movie. The film also features Vishnu (Laddu), Devi Prasad, and Rajashri Nair in key roles. With music composed by Jai Krish and technical contributions from a skilled crew, Suyodhana continues its successful run in theatres.

“Acting First, Glamour Next: Nayan Sarika's Focus”

Hyderabad, March 29: Emerging Tollywood actress Nayan Sarika has emphasized that her priority in films is strong performance-oriented roles rather than glamour, as she steadily builds her career in the Telugu film industry.

In a recent interaction, the actress shared that she is keen on choosing characters that leave a lasting impact on audiences. She made it clear that she is not interested in roles that are limited to glamour or songs, but instead prefers scripts that allow her to showcase her acting abilities. According to her, being remembered for performance is far more important than simply appearing on screen.

Originally from Maharashtra, Nayan Sarika has been making a mark in Telugu cinema with her natural acting style. She admitted that language was initially a challenge, but with dedication and consistent effort, she has been able to adapt and improve her Telugu. She also expressed admiration for the language and culture, which she says helped her connect better with audiences.

The actress gained recognition with her early projects, particularly those set in rural backdrops, where her performances were appreciated for their authenticity. She believes such roles gave her the opportunity to prove her potential and helped her establish a strong foundation in the industry.

Speaking about her approach to success, Nayan Sarika said she does not focus much on box office numbers. Instead, she measures success by how well she has performed and how audiences respond to her character. For her, audience appreciation remains the biggest reward.

Looking ahead, she is excited about her upcoming projects, including roles that explore new dimensions of storytelling. She expressed interest in taking up more challenging characters, including action-oriented roles, to expand her versatility as an actress.

Reflecting on her journey, Nayan Sarika revealed that she once aspired to pursue a career in law but eventually found her passion in acting. She entered the entertainment field through modeling before transitioning into films.

With a clear focus on meaningful roles and a growing presence in Tollywood, Nayan Sarika is steadily emerging as a promising talent to watch in the coming years.

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“Anakapalli” Teaser Packs Raw Punch and Romance

The makers of Anakapalli, starring Vikram Sahidev in his first lead role, unveiled a powerful teaser that promises an intense blend of action and emotion. Directed by Khagesh Tammineni, the film features Sandhya Vasishtha as the female lead and Tarak Ponnappa in a pivotal role. Backed by producers Thrinadh Rao Nakkina and Kandregula Naidu under the banners Bhavya Sri Movie Makers and Nakkina Narratives, Anakapalli is gearing up for a sum-

mer release. The teaser offers a gripping first look into a world driven by power, love, and conflict.

The teaser opens with a thunderous monologue delivered by Vikram Sahidev's character, setting a fierce tone for the film. His dialogue establishes a rugged environment where dominance and fear dictate survival. This intense introduction transitions into a rustic love story, presenting a softer yet emotionally charged layer to the narrative.

Vikram Sahidev impresses with his dual-shaded performance, portraying both aggression and vulnerability with notable maturity. His transformation from a fierce, intimidating presence in action sequences to a tender lover adds depth to his character. Sandhya Vasishtha shines as the spirited love interest, bringing charm and emotional weight, while Tarak Ponnappa adds a strong negative edge with his menacing portrayal. Apart from producing the film, Thri-

nadh Rao Nakkina has also contributed the story and screenplay and appears in a key role as the protagonist's father. Indraj plays the mother, adding emotional gravitas to the family backdrop. The ensemble cast includes Mahabob Basha, Srinivas Vadlamani, Kandregula Naidu, Nandini Rai, and Sangeetha Krish in significant roles. Technically, the teaser stands out with Maaya V's cinematography capturing the gritty, rustic tone effectively. Music composer Davzand enhances

the mood with a powerful background score, while dialogues penned by Uday Bhagavathula leave a strong impact.

Director Khagesh Tammineni appears to have blended action, romance, and emotional intensity seamlessly, making Anakapalli an engaging watch. With its raw narrative style and compelling performances, the teaser has raised expectations, hinting that the film could strike a chord with audiences across age groups upon its release.



“Google My Friend” Songs Launched in Grand Event

Hyderabad, March 29: The songs of the upcoming multilingual film Google My Friend were launched in a grand event held in the presence of members of the Telugu Directors' Association. Starring Pranav Rao Rani and Prajakta Gaikwad in lead roles, the film is directed by Govind Varaha and produced by Divakar Reddy under the Dollars Media and Entertainment banner.

The film is gearing up for a grand theatrical release in both Telugu and Marathi languages. The song launch event was attended by prominent directors including V. N. Aditya, Sai Rajesh, V. Samudra, Sailesh Kolanu, and Konda Vijay Kumar, who unveiled the film's music and extended their best wishes.

Speaking at the event, director Sai Rajesh said that the teaser, songs, and other promotional content of Google My Friend appear promising. He appreciated director Govind Varaha's effort in simultane-



ously making the film in Telugu and Marathi and expressed hope that the film would bring both recognition and financial success to the team.

Director V. N. Aditya highlighted Govind Varaha's experience in making films across multiple languages and wished for the film to achieve major success. He also hoped the director would go on to create more pan-India projects. Simi-

larly, V. Samudra expressed over the film being launched in multiple languages and said that releasing the songs in the presence of Directors' Association members made the occasion special.

Director Konda Vijay Kumar compared Govind Varaha's multilingual approach to that of legendary producer D. Ramaaidu, noting that making films across languages reflects

ambition and vision. He wished the film success in every language it releases.

Director Govind Varaha shared that he has previously directed films in Telugu, Malayalam, and Marathi, and is now bringing Google My Friend simultaneously in multiple languages. He said it was a proud moment to launch the songs in the presence of his peers from the Directors' Association. He also thanked noted producers like A. M. Rathnam, K. K. Radhamohan, and Chitturi Srinivas for supporting his journey.

The film also features Saiya Revadkar, Ashwini

Kulkarni, Madhav Abhyankar, and others in key roles. With music composed by S. Sagar, Karthik, and Lyric Johnson, Google My Friend is set to hit theatres soon, aiming to appeal to audiences across languages.

Akhil's “Lenin” Postponed to Avoid Clash with “Peddi”



Hyderabad, March 29: The release of Lenin, starring Akhil Akkineni, has been postponed to avoid a box office clash with Ram Charan's upcoming film Peddi.

The film, which was initially slated for release on May 1, will now hit theatres on June 26. The makers reportedly took this decision to ensure a better release window and maximize the film's box office prospects.

Lenin, directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, is an action drama featuring Bhagyashree Borse as the female lead. The film has been generating de-

cent buzz, and the team is confident that the new release date will help it reach a wider audience without major competition.

Meanwhile, Peddi, starring Ram Charan, is scheduled for release a day earlier and is expected to be a big-ticket film with wide theatrical reach. Given its scale and strong pre-release hype, trade circles anticipate that it will dominate screens during its opening weeks.

Industry observers note that avoiding a direct clash with a high-profile release is a strategic move, especially for films that rely on steady audience turnout. By postponing Lenin, the makers aim to secure better screen availability and give the film more breathing space at the box office.

The decision is also being seen as a reflection of the healthy rapport within the industry, as actors and producers increasingly coordinate release plans to avoid unnecessary competition.

With the revised date now in place, expectations remain steady for Lenin, while Peddi continues to build anticipation ahead of its release.

Who is Jonita Gandhi? Singer Behind Viral Item Song Buzz



Hyderabad, March 29: Popular playback singer Jonita Gandhi is currently trending after her latest item song created a strong buzz among music lovers and film audiences alike. Known for her unique voice and versatility, Jonita has carved a niche for herself across multiple film industries.

Born in New Delhi and raised in Canada, Jonita Gandhi began her musical journey by uploading cover songs online, which quickly gained attention. Her big breakthrough came in Bollywood with the title track of Chennai Express, after which she became a sought-after voice in the industry.

Over the years, Jonita has delivered several popular songs in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu films. Her ability to effortlessly switch between romantic melodies, peppy dance numbers, and soulful tracks has made her one of the most versatile singers

of her generation.

The singer is now in the limelight for lending her voice to a glamorous, high-energy item song that is gaining traction for its catchy composition and stylish presentation. The track has struck a chord with younger audiences and is rapidly trending across platforms.

Apart from playback singing, Jonita has also made her presence felt in the independent music scene. She has released several singles and collaborated with international artists, expanding her reach beyond Indian cinema. Her global exposure and musical experimentation have helped her build a diverse fan base.

In addition to singing, Jonita is gradually exploring opportunities in front of the camera as well. She is expected to appear in special song sequences, adding another dimension to her career.

Despite her growing popularity, Jonita Gandhi continues to focus on evolving as an artist. She remains committed to experimenting with different genres and languages while maintaining her distinct musical identity. With her latest song going viral and her career steadily rising, Jonita Gandhi is proving to be a dynamic force in the music industry, balancing commercial success with artistic versatility.

