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Either Change the Law or Enforce It

: SC Status Row Triggers Political Storm in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravathi 04.03.2026
TPN Bureau :

A fresh political controversy has erupted in Andhra Pradesh over the eligibility of certain elected representatives who allegedly continue to claim Scheduled Caste (SC) reservation benefits despite professing religions not recognized under the existing legal framework for SC status.

Under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, SC status is restricted to individuals professing Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism. Those who convert to Christianity or Islam are not eligible to claim SC reservation benefits under current law. This legal position has been reaffirmed in several rulings by the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts, which have consistently held that religious conversion can impact eligibility for SC reservations.

The issue recently resurfaced during discussions in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council, where questions were reportedly raised regarding the religious identity of certain members elected from SC-reserved constituencies. The debate has since intensified on social media, with activists and political commentators making competing claims.

Leaders from major political parties, including the Telugu De-



sam Party (TDP) and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), have found themselves drawn into the controversy. While some critics allege that individuals across party lines may be affected, others argue that the accusations are politically motivated and lack concrete evidence.

Former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has also been mentioned in public discussions, with opponents claiming that he has participated in both Christian and Hindu religious practices. However, his supporters have dismissed these allegations, stating that participation in religious ceremonies does not automatically determine one's legal religious status.

Legal experts caution that proving religious conversion in a court of law is a complex process requiring documentary evidence and adherence to due process. They emphasize that mere allegations or public perception

cannot be treated as definitive proof. Any challenge to an elected representative's SC status must follow established constitutional and legal procedures.

Some political analysts suggest that the controversy underscores the need for clarity. They argue that policymakers must either revisit the law to reflect contemporary social realities or ensure strict enforcement of existing provisions where violations are legally established. Others warn that the debate, if mishandled, could deepen social and religious divisions.

As of now, no formal disqualification proceedings have been publicly confirmed against any sitting legislator. Whether the issue leads to legal challenges or legislative reform remains uncertain, but it has once again brought the complex intersection of religion, law, and politics into sharp focus in Andhra Pradesh.



Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu Emphasises Investments, Job Creation and Healthcare for Growth

Amaravathi 04.03.2026 TPN
Bureau :

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu underscored the state government's strong focus on attracting investments, creating jobs and expanding healthcare services as key drivers of economic growth and social welfare during a detailed address in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. His remarks highlighted the administration's strategy to strengthen the economy while improving quality of life for citizens across the state.

In his speech, Naidu pointed out that since the coalition government assumed office, Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a renewed wave of investor confidence, with multiple industries showing interest in setting up operations in the state. The improved business environment, characterised by transparent governance and streamlined processes, has helped re-energise economic activity and spur private sector participation in sectors such as IT, manufacturing and healthcare.

Job creation remains a top priority for the government, and Naidu highlighted that substantial progress has been made on this front. According to recent figures, over 6.28 lakh jobs have already been created across public and private sectors over the past 21 months. These employment opportunities span a range of fields including MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), food processing, industry and government recruitment, reflecting a broad and inclusive jobs drive.

The Chief Minister also emphasised the government's commit-

ment to healthcare, noting that comprehensive health initiatives are being introduced to make quality medical services accessible and affordable. A universal health policy has been rolled out to provide free or subsidised treatment of up to 2.5 lakh for beneficiaries. In addition, the state is working towards establishing 100-bed hospitals in every assembly constituency, strengthening healthcare infrastructure even in remote districts.

Naidu's government has taken proactive steps to address preventive healthcare issues as well. Recent launches include a state-wide HPV vaccination drive to prevent cervical cancer among young girls, underlining the administration's focus on long-term health outcomes and cancer prevention.

In education and skill development, the Chief Minister reiterated the importance of equipping youth with competitive skills for emerging industries. Initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between academic training and industry demand are underway, while plans for industrial parks and innovation hubs are expected to further enhance employment prospects across sectors.

Naidu also said that investments secured in recent summits, including commitments worth more than 13 lakh crore, are expected to generate jobs for over 16 lakh people and propel the state toward rapid economic growth.

Throughout his address, Naidu reaffirmed that the government's vision is to build a robust and inclusive Andhra Pradesh where economic development goes hand-in-hand with social welfare, healthcare access and broad-based employment opportunities.

Minister Nara Lokesh Slams YSRCP Over Tirumala Laddu Adulteration Debate in Assembly

Amaravathi 04.03.2026
TPN Bureau :

In the midst of a heated debate in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council over alleged adulteration of ghee used in the preparation of Tirumala laddus, Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh strongly castigated members of the YSR Congress Party for their conduct during the proceedings on Wednesday. The session, marked by sharp political exchanges and emotional appeals, underscored how the sensitive issue of Tirumala prasadam has escalated into a major political flashpoint in the state legislature.

Addressing the Council, Minister Lokesh criticised the YSRCP members for what he described as diversionary tactics and unsubstantiated allegations on the matter of ghee adulteration. He firmly reiterated the ruling alliance's stance



that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) report clearly indicated adulteration, asserting that even central investigations have identified irregularities in the supply chain of ghee used for the sacred Tirumala prasadam.

Lokesh said that the controversy should be a matter of fact-based discussion rather than a political spectacle. He pointed out that his family and his party have maintained deep respect and devotion to Lord Venkateswara of Tirumala, and accused the opposition of attempting to make political mileage out of a religiously sensitive subject. He brought up that the government conducts annual annadanam at Tirumala on

March 21 to honour their community traditions.

The minister also reportedly challenged the opposition members to present clear evidence if they claimed that adulteration had not occurred. He questioned whether they expect the government to continue supplying poor-quality ghee at inflated prices, and insisted that doubts around the matter should be subject to judicial and investigative scrutiny rather than political exaggeration.

Lokesh further criticized opposition leaders for what he described as "irrelevant debates" on issues beyond the core question of ghee quality. He warned that such tactics would neither strengthen public confidence nor advance the investigation. The minister used strong language, suggesting that members who insisted that no adulteration occurred should instead be embarrassed by their position, saying "there should be some sense of shame" when

debating a matter touching millions of devotees.

The remarks came against the backdrop of a larger confrontation in the Council, where tensions have previously led to adjournments and disruptions. Several ministers, including Agriculture and other senior leaders, have participated in the debate, accusing the opposition of procedural violations and raising unrelated issues during discussions.

The laddu adulteration controversy has become more than a bureaucratic inquiry; it has turned into a symbol of political contention between parties in Andhra Pradesh, amplifying sentiments around governance, cultural respect and religious faith. The issue continues to dominate legislative proceedings, with the government emphasising transparency and inviting scrutiny through established investigative mechanisms while calling for temperate debate.

Legislative Council Adjourned After Heated Uproar Over Tirumala Laddu Debate

Amaravathi
04.03.2026 TPN
Bureau :

High drama unfolded in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council on Wednesday as heated arguments over the Tirumala laddu issue led to repeated disruptions and eventual adjournment of the House. The tense debate, centered on allegations related to the preparation of the sacred laddu prasadam at Tirumala, quickly spiraled into political confrontation between treasury and opposition benches.

The controversy relates to claims about the quality of ghee used in the preparation of laddus offered at the revered Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati. The issue has drawn widespread public attention due to the temple's religious

significance and the sentiments attached to its prasadam.

During the discussion, sharp exchanges took place between ministers and opposition members. A remark made by senior minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu triggered strong protests from members of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). The opposition alleged that the comments were inappropriate and demanded an immediate apology, leading to sloganeering and members trooping into the well of the House.

The situation escalated despite repeated appeals from Chairman Koyve Moshen Raju for order. He urged members to maintain decorum and allow the debate to proceed in a constructive manner. However, the protests continued unabated, forcing him to adjourn the House tempo-

rarily. When proceedings resumed, the uproar intensified once again, leaving the Chair with no option but to adjourn the Council for the day.

The debate also saw references to former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, with ruling party members accusing the previous government of administrative lapses related to temple affairs. Opposition leaders countered the claims, stating that the issue was being politicized to divert attention from other governance matters.

Adding to the charged atmosphere, BJP MLC Somu Veerraju criticized the opposition's stance and defended the government's position, which further fueled the confrontation. His remarks prompted louder protests from YSRCP members, who insisted that religious sentiments



should not be used for political gain.

The Tirumala laddu holds immense spiritual and cultural importance for millions of devotees across the country. Any allegation concerning its preparation naturally evokes strong reactions. Political analysts observe that the issue has now moved beyond administrative concerns and entered the realm of intense political rivalry in Andhra Pradesh.

With the Council adjourned amid chaos, the matter is expected to re-

surface when the House reconvenes. Whether the debate will proceed in a calmer manner remains uncertain. However, the developments clearly highlight how sensitive religious matters, when intertwined with politics, can lead to significant disruptions in legislative functioning.

The incident underscores the growing polarization in the state's political landscape, as parties continue to clash over issues that carry both emotional and electoral weight.

Markets Crash on Iran War Fears; Sensex Plunges Over 1,100 Points



Amaravathi 04.03.2026 TPN
Bureau :

Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp sell-off on Wednesday as escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia rattled global investors, triggering heavy losses across benchmark indices. The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged more than 1,100 points during the session, closing near the 79,000 mark after extending losses for the fourth consecutive trading day.

The broader Nifty 50 also ended significantly lower, slipping below crucial technical levels as risk aversion gripped Dalal Street. The steep decline resulted in an estimated erosion of nearly 10 lakh crore in total market capitalisation, reflecting a massive wipeout of investor wealth in a single trading session.

Market experts attributed the sharp downturn to rising fears of a wider regional conflict involving Iran and its adversaries. Heightened geopolitical uncertainty pushed global markets into volatile territory, prompting investors to pare exposure to equities and shift funds toward safer assets such as gold and bonds. The escalating tensions also drove crude oil prices higher amid concerns over potential supply disruptions.

Analysts noted that the surge in oil prices poses a particular challenge for India, one of the world's largest crude importers. Higher energy costs can stoke inflationary pressures, strain corporate profit margins, and widen the current account deficit. These factors collectively dampen investor sentiment and weigh on equity valuations.

The market fall was broad-based, with mid-cap and small-cap indices recording even sharper percentage

declines than frontline benchmarks. Sectors such as banking, infrastructure, auto, and consumer durables bore the brunt of the selling pressure. Even information technology stocks, which often benefit from a weaker rupee, failed to cushion the overall fall.

The India VIX, the volatility index often referred to as the market's "fear gauge," spiked sharply during the session, indicating heightened nervousness among traders. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were reportedly net sellers, accelerating the downward momentum. Sustained outflows by overseas funds tend to intensify declines in emerging markets, as global capital reallocates toward perceived safe havens during times of uncertainty.

Brokers advised investors to remain cautious in the near term, citing continued volatility linked to geopolitical developments and crude oil price movements. However, some analysts suggested that such sharp corrections could present selective buying opportunities for long-term investors with strong risk appetite and adequate liquidity.

Despite the sharp drop, market participants emphasized that India's macroeconomic fundamentals—including steady GDP growth, robust domestic demand, and improving infrastructure spending—remain relatively stable. However, until global tensions ease and commodity prices stabilize, markets are expected to remain highly sensitive to international developments.

Wednesday's rout underscores the deep interconnection between global geopolitics and domestic financial markets, highlighting how events thousands of miles away can swiftly impact investor confidence and capital flows in India.

Chinmaya Vidyalaya Foundation Stone Laid in Amaravati



AMARAVATHI 04.03.2026 TPN BUREAU :

In a significant step towards strengthening educational infrastructure in the state capital, the Bhumi Pooja and foundation stone laying ceremony for the proposed Chinmaya Vidyalaya was held in Amaravati on Wednesday morning. The institution will be established in the People's Capital as part of ongoing efforts to enhance social infrastructure in the capital region.

The ceremony was performed by Swami Swaroopnanda, Global Head of the Chinmaya Mission. He conducted the traditional Bhumi Pooja rituals and formally laid the foundation stone for the project, marking the commencement of construction activities. The event witnessed participation from public representatives, officials, and members associated with the institution.

Minister Nadendla Manohar and local MLA Tenali Sravan Kumar attended the programme and extended their support to the establishment of the school in the capital city. Speaking on the occasion, they emphasized the importance of quality educational institutions in the development of Amaravati as a well-planned and vibrant urban center. They noted that the addition of reputed institutions would en-

hance the city's appeal for families and professionals relocating to the capital region.

The proposed Chinmaya Vidyalaya will be developed on three acres of land in Nelapadu, Amaravati. The school is expected to offer value-based education combined with academic excellence, in line with the vision and principles of Chinmaya Mission institutions across the country. Once operational, it is anticipated to cater to the growing educational needs of children in the capital region and surrounding areas.

Senior officials from the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), representatives of the Chinmaya Mission, and other dignitaries were present during the ceremony. Officials stated that the establishment of educational institutions is a key component of the broader master plan for Amaravati, which aims to create a comprehensive ecosystem including governance, residential, commercial, and institutional spaces.

The foundation of Chinmaya Vidyalaya is seen as another milestone in the ongoing development of Amaravati, reinforcing the commitment to building a capital city equipped with modern infrastructure and quality public services, particularly in the field of education.

YSRCP Should Not Politicise Lord Venkateswara's Faith': Atchannaidu



AMARAVATHI 04.03.2026 TPN BUREAU :

Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu strongly criticised the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in the Legislative Council, alleging that the party was politicising the faith associated with Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy. He said it was inappropriate to drag religious beliefs into political debates and accused the opposition of attempting to divert attention from the adulterated ghee controversy.

Referring to the issue of alleged adulterated ghee supplied to Tirumala, the minister stated that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had merely read out portions of the NDDB report in the House. He alleged that YSRCP leaders were distorting facts to mislead the public and evade accountability. According to him, raising unrelated issues was a deliberate attempt to shift focus from the core matter.

Atchannaidu also responded to criticism from Independent member Chandrasekhar Reddy and remarks made by YSRCP leaders during the debate. He alleged that introducing topics such as Heritage and other references was a tactic to deflect attention. The minister made sharp comments, saying such diversionary strategies were not new to YSRCP

leaders.

Expressing anguish as a devotee of Lord Venkateswara, Atchannaidu said he was deeply hurt by what he described as attempts to undermine faith. He questioned why there was "so much animosity" and alleged that former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was acting with bias. He further claimed that he had evidence regarding Jagan's religious affiliation and stood by his remarks, while demanding that YSRCP members apologise for allegedly hurting Hindu sentiments.

However, when Council Chairman Moshen Raju objected to certain comments, the minister withdrew his remarks and apologised to the Chair. He clarified that he respects all religious beliefs and that if any of his comments were inappropriate, they should be pointed out.

The minister also criticised YSRCP members for raising slogans and disrupting proceedings even after the House was adjourned and reconvened. Throwing an open challenge, Atchannaidu said he was ready for a discussion on the adulterated ghee issue for as many days as required.

The statement was issued by the PRO of the Agriculture, Cooperation, Marketing, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister's Office.

Rs. 735 Crore Allocated for Labour Welfare: Vasanamshetty Subhash

AMARAVATHI 04.03.2026 TPN BUREAU :

The Andhra Pradesh government has allocated Rs. 735 crore to the Labour Department for the financial year 2026-27, said Labour Minister Vasanamshetty Subhash. He stated that the government is giving top priority to the welfare of workers, particularly those in the unorganised sector.

The minister said special focus is being placed on the welfare of unorganised workers across the state. Steps are being taken to speed up the registration process so that more workers can benefit from various welfare schemes. Large-scale registration of unorganised workers is continuing through the e-Shram portal.

Welfare measures for building and other construction workers will be further strengthened, he said. The government is also taking steps to provide accident insurance coverage and improved medical facilities to workers. Social security schemes will be expanded to ensure financial protection for workers' families.

Skill development training programmes will be conducted to enhance employment opportunities for workers. The minister added that strict enforcement of labour safety standards in industries will be ensured. Special programmes will also be introduced for the welfare of women workers.

To protect workers' rights, the implementation of labour



laws will be further strengthened. Coordination with industries will continue to boost employment opportunities in the state. The Labour Department's services will be made available in digital mode to enhance transparency and accessibility.

Awareness programmes will be conducted to educate workers about their rights and available welfare schemes. Special inspections will be carried out in hazardous industries to ensure worker safety. The functioning of labour welfare boards will be improved for bet-

ter service delivery. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, the government is committed to improving the living standards of workers, the minister said, adding that workers play a vital role in the overall development of the state.

Excise System Transformed into a Hub of Transparency: Kollu Ravindra

AMARAVATHI 04.03.2026 TPN BUREAU :

Andhra Pradesh Mines, Geology and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra stated in the Assembly that the coalition government has introduced revolutionary reforms in the Excise Department and transformed it into a model of transparency. Participating in a discussion on the Excise Department, he alleged that the previous government led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had misused the department for large-scale irregularities.

The minister accused the former regime of taking complete control of the liquor trade and restructuring the department for vested interests. He alleged that substandard and adulterated liquor brands were introduced and forcibly pushed into the market, while quality brands were sidelined. As a result, he claimed, liquor prices increased and smuggling from neighbouring states intensified. Beer sales, he said, had drastically declined during that period. He further alleged that digital payments accounted for only 0.6 percent of total liquor sales worth nearly Rs. 98,000 crore over five years.

Ravindra said that after coming to power, the coalition government constituted a Special



Investigation Team (SIT) to probe alleged irregularities in the liquor sector. According to him, investigations revealed a scam amounting to approximately Rs. 3,200 crore. A Cabinet Sub-Committee was formed to design a new liquor policy, he added. Following the announcement of the new excise policy, nearly 89,000 applications were

received for liquor shops and bars, generating Rs. 1,800 crore in revenue for the government.

He further stated that 10 percent of liquor shops were allocated to members of the Goud community, with a 50 percent subsidy on licence fees. The government ensured availability of nationally recognised brands, which, he claimed, curbed ille-

gal transportation from neighbouring states and boosted sales in border districts due to competitive pricing.

As part of reforms, the minister said the government introduced a "Track and Trace" system to monitor every liquor bottle from distillery to retail outlet. Through the Excise Suraksha App, consumers can access product details, enhancing transparency. Each batch of liquor is subjected to nine levels of testing before release into the market, he added. The government also launched "Navodayam 2.0" to eliminate illicit liquor and deployed Eagle teams to crack down on ganja smuggling. Digital payments in liquor sales have now increased to 40 percent, he noted.

Ravindra alleged that opposition leaders were attempting to tarnish the government's image by citing incidents such as those in Molakalacheruvu and Ibrahimpatnam. He warned that strict action would be taken against anyone involved in illegal liquor activities.

Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanapaturu observed that while the government estimated the liquor scam at Rs. 3,200 crore, the actual figure could be higher and stressed the need for a transparent investigation.

AP Tourism to Become the State's 'Economic Growth Engine': Kandula Durgesh

AMARAVATHI 04.03.2026 TPN BUREAU :

Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Wednesday declared in the Assembly that the state's tourism sector is being repositioned as the "economic growth engine" of Andhra Pradesh. Presenting a detailed note on departmental initiatives, he said the government aims to transform AP into a global tourism hub by 2047.

Highlighting the New Tourism Policy 2024-29, the minister said tourism has been accorded industrial status under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. This move enables investors to avail GST reimbursements, stamp duty exemptions and capital subsidies. Over the past 20 months, 117 MoUs have been signed, attracting investments worth Rs. 19,693 crore. Of these, 27 major projects have secured approvals from the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), facilitating employment opportunities for nearly 1.22 lakh youth. Projects valued at Rs. 6,681 crore are currently under execution. Durgesh said the government has set a target of adding 50,000

hotel rooms over five years, with approvals already granted for 5,232 branded star-category rooms by 2025-26. Prominent hospitality groups such as Taj Hotels, Marriott International and Atmosphere Core have expressed interest in investing in the state.

The minister announced plans to develop more than 25 thematic circuits, including Buddhist, temple, beach, eco and cruise tourism circuits. Key sites like Tirupati will be developed into a global destination hub, while Visakhapatnam and Amaravati will emerge as mega tourism hubs. The state is currently ranked fourth in domestic tourist arrivals and aims to enter the top two positions soon.

On the cultural front, Durgesh said the government has revived prestigious awards and festivals, including the Nandi Awards. With support from Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, steps are being taken to strengthen film tourism and cinematography. Free permissions are being granted for film shootings, and small-budget films registered in AP are eligible for GST concessions and



cash subsidies.

The minister criticised the previous regime for alleged neglect of tourism between 2019 and 2024 but asserted that the current government has restored momentum through policy reforms, infrastructure development and branding

initiatives. He reiterated that tourism is no longer viewed merely as recreation, but as a strategic sector capable of generating large-scale employment, attracting investments and enhancing Andhra Pradesh's national and international profile.

AP Government Submits Detailed 20-Page Report on Tirumala Laddu Adulteration Case in Legislative Council



Amaravathi 04.03.2026 TPN Bureau :

The Andhra Pradesh government on March 4, 2026 presented a comprehensive 20-page report to members of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council detailing findings and key aspects of the Tirumala laddu adulteration controversy, which has sparked intense debate across the state's political and public spheres. The report was formally distributed to council members during the ongoing budget session, offering an official account of the historical, procedural and investigative details related to the matter.

According to the document, the government has laid out an extensive narrative beginning with the historical background of Tirumala prasadam laddus, the criteria for quality ingredients, and the procurement system (including tendering and

vendor selection processes) employed for ghee supplies used in prasadam preparation. The report specifically examines the tender rules in force between 2014 and 2019 and highlights the subsequent relaxations made to those norms in 2020, including changes reflected in various tender evaluation reports.

The government's announcement traces how these alterations were accepted by the then-TTD board under the chairmanship of YV Subba Reddy, following recommendations by certain executive officers. The report also touches on laboratory test results and quality verification processes related to the ghee used in prasadam production.

A notable portion of the report deals with allegations of corruption and malpractice associated with the ghee supply

chain. It alleges that in 2020, under the previous administration, certain officials — including former executive officers and procurement staff — were involved in misconduct. Evidence presented suggests that one chairman's personal assistant allegedly coerced ghee suppliers and received ₹4.69 crore in bribes, while a dairy expert reportedly gave misleading advice to secure a ₹75 lakh financial gain. According to the report, some accused individuals have accepted responsibility for their involvement.

The government also confirmed that a case was registered based on the available evidence and that further action — including chargesheets, arrests and legal proceedings — has been initiated. The report states that an accountability committee will review institutional reforms and rec-

ommend structural changes to prevent similar irregularities in the future.

The release of this detailed statement in the Legislative Council has triggered heated discussions among political parties, with opposition members challenging the findings and raising procedural issues during the session. Debates have been intense enough that council proceedings at times turned disorderly and were adjourned amid protests.

As the political and legal battle over the Tirumala laddu adulteration issue continues, the government's 20-page report is meant to offer voters and lawmakers transparent insight into how the matter unfolded and what steps are being taken to bring accountability and ensure the sanctity of religious food supplies at one of India's most visited temples.

Jagan Alleges Political Interference and Irregularities in Tirumala Temple Administration



Amaravathi 04.03.2026 TPN Bureau :

The political confrontation in Andhra Pradesh has deepened after YSR Congress Party president and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy levelled serious allegations against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over the administration of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and the controversial Tirumala Laddu ghee procurement issue.

In a strongly worded statement, Jagan asserted that the governance of Tirumala, one of the most sacred pilgrimage centres in the world where Lord Venkateswara is worshipped by crores of devotees, demands the highest standards of integrity, devotion, and moral character. He alleged that the present government has reduced this sacred responsibility to a platform for political considerations, thereby compromising the dignity of the temple institution.

Jagan specifically questioned the appointment of the current TTD Chairman, claiming that serious allegations had been raised against the individual even before the elections. Referring to a complaint allegedly written by a woman accusing the Chairman of misconduct and harassment, Jagan said that such serious accusations warranted a thorough inquiry. However, he alleged that despite being aware of these claims, Chandrababu Naidu went ahead with the appointment, ignoring the need to safeguard the sanctity and reputation of the temple administration.

The former Chief Minister also brought attention to the issue of ghee used in preparing the Tirumala Laddu prasadam, which holds immense spiritual significance for devotees. He claimed

that during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure, certain consignments of ghee were rejected by the TTD laboratory for failing to meet quality standards. According to him, those same consignments were later permitted entry under different names and eventually used in the preparation of the laddu.

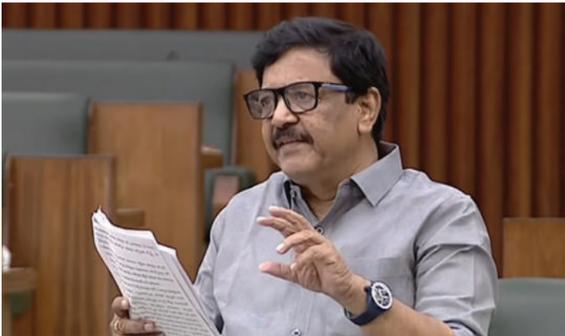
Jagan stated that these findings were mentioned in CBI-SIT charge sheets, which allegedly pointed to lapses and negligence in ensuring the quality of materials used for temple prasadam. He accused the government of failing to take responsibility for the alleged irregularities and instead attempting to divert attention by politicising the matter.

Another major concern raised by Jagan relates to the pricing of ghee supplied to TTD. He claimed that between 2014 and 2019, as well as during the 2019-2024 period, the price of ghee for TTD ranged roughly between Rs.278 and Rs.330 per kilogram. However, he alleged that in 2025, the procurement price rose sharply to around Rs.658 per kilogram under new contracts, leading to significant financial implications.

According to Jagan, these developments raise serious questions about transparency, accountability, and devotion in managing one of India's most revered religious institutions. The allegations have sparked intense political debate, with both the ruling party and opposition exchanging charges over temple governance and procurement practices.

As the controversy unfolds, the Tirumala temple administration has once again become a focal point in Andhra Pradesh politics, highlighting the sensitive intersection of faith, governance, and political accountability.

AP to Be Developed as Film and Television Hub: Minister Kandula Durgesh



Amaravathi 04.03.2026 TPN Bureau :

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh stated that the coalition government is committed to transforming the state into a major hub for the film and television industry. He assured that television artists would be given due recognition and respect on par with the film fraternity.

The Minister made these remarks on Wednesday at his chamber in the Velagapudi Sec-

retariat after representatives of the Television Fraternity Forum, along with FDC Managing Director Viswanathan, met him to discuss issues faced by small-screen artists and proposals for the development of the television sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Kandula Durgesh appreciated the contribution of the television industry over the past 45 years to the state's economy and employment generation for artists and technicians. He emphasized that the government

would frame appropriate policies to extend equal recognition to the television industry, similar to the film sector.

The Minister said that the request made by the Forum members for the development of 'TV Nagar' — including residential plots and studio facilities at the land allocated near Bheemili in Visakhapatnam district — would be examined positively. He further assured that the government would extend full support for establishing studio facilities in Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Rajamahendravaram, and Tirupati to promote decentralized growth of the entertainment industry.

Durgesh also announced that pending TV Nandi Awards would be presented soon. He clarified that television artists would be given proper importance in the upcoming Ugadi awards. The proposal to institute awards in the names of late stalwarts Suman and Devadas Kanakala would also be considered, he added.

Welcoming the appreciation expressed by the Forum mem-

bers over concessions being provided for shootings at government lands, auditoriums, and temple premises, the Minister stated that the government is considering extending similar concessions at tourism guest houses as well. He also informed the delegation that their request to recognize the Television Fraternity Forum as a coordinating committee between the government and the television industry would be taken into consideration.

The Minister assured that all the discussed proposals would be brought to the attention of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for speedy implementation.

Television artists expressed happiness over the Minister's positive response. Producers and directors Sudhakar, Paladugu Viswanath, Dileep Raja, Ram Das Naidu, V.V. Niranjan, actors Balaji, Vijay Yadav, Meka Ramakrishna, and actresses Ragini, Roja Bharathi, and Nagamani were among those who attended the meeting.

Mangalagiri Stadium to Be Main Centre for APL 2026



Vijayawada, March 4 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) has announced that the ACA International Cricket Stadium in Mangalagiri will serve as the main centre for the upcoming Andhra Premier League (APL) 2026. ACA President Kesineni Sivanath stated that the league will be conducted on a larger scale this year, with matches scheduled across multiple venues in Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking after a meeting with franchise representatives and association officials, Sivanath said the decision to make Mangalagiri the primary venue was taken keeping in mind its central location and the availability of modern infrastructure. The stadium will not only host key matches but also function as the administrative hub for the tournament.

Unlike the previous season, which was confined to a single city, the 2026 edition of the APL will follow a three-city model. Matches are set to be played in Visakhapatnam, Mangalagiri and Kadapa. The opening ceremony is expected to take place at the Mangalagiri stadium, while the final match will be hosted in Visakhapatnam towards the end of June.

The ACA has initiated significant upgrades to the Mangalagiri stadium to ensure it meets the standards required for hosting a

major T20 league. Improvements to player facilities, spectator amenities and media infrastructure are underway. Officials indicated that substantial funds are being invested to enhance the overall match-day experience for players and fans alike.

Sivanath emphasized that expanding the APL to multiple venues reflects the association's commitment to promoting cricket across the state. By decentralizing the tournament, ACA aims to provide opportunities to emerging players from different regions and strengthen grassroots development. Preparations are also ongoing to improve infrastructure in other cities to host future tournaments and domestic matches.

In addition to venue expansion, the league is expected to feature a more competitive format this season. District-level matches and talent identification programs are being conducted to scout promising players ahead of the player auction, which is scheduled later in April.

The Andhra Premier League has quickly gained popularity as a platform for young cricketers to showcase their talent. With Mangalagiri stadium set to play a central role, the 2026 edition is anticipated to attract wider public attention and further boost the growth of cricket in Andhra Pradesh.

AP Created 6.28 Lakh Jobs in 20 Months, Says CM Chandrababu Naidu

Amaravathi 04.03.2026 TPN Bureau :

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu informed the State Legislative Assembly that the coalition government has generated 6.28 lakh jobs within 20 months of assuming office. He asserted that the government is not only fulfilling its pre-election promise of employment generation but is also working to transform Andhra Pradesh into a preferred investment destination globally.

Detailing the employment figures, the Chief Minister stated that 2.48 lakh jobs were created in the MSME sector, 1.46 lakh through skill development initiatives, 95,000 in industries, and 64,000 in the food processing sector. Additionally, 30,500 government jobs were provided through Mega DSC recruitment, police constable appointments, and other public sector notifications. He reiterated the government's commitment to providing 20 lakh jobs and announced that a dedicated committee has been formed to monitor employment generation.

Addressing concerns about industrial growth, Chandrababu

Naidu accused the previous YSRCP government of damaging the state's brand image between 2019 and 2024. He claimed that several reputed companies left the state during that period and cited RBI data stating that 913 companies were shut down between 2019-20 and 2023-24. "Earlier, AP was known for Ease of Doing Business. Now, we have become the address for Speed of Doing Business," he said, adding that 26 new policies have been introduced to fast-track approvals and attract investors.

The Chief Minister highlighted that at the recent Global Investors Summit in Visakhapatnam, the state secured investment proposals worth ₹13.25 lakh crore, expected to generate 16 lakh jobs. He announced the development of Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, and Tirupati as major economic regions and projected that Andhra Pradesh would become a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047.

Naidu further stated that globally reputed firms such as Google, Tata Consultancy Services, and ArcelorMittal are investing in the state. Foundation



stones for major projects, including a Google Data Center and ArcelorMittal's steel plant, will be laid soon. He also mentioned green energy initiatives in collaboration with NTPC and other major corporations.

On healthcare, the Chief Minister announced a Universal Health Policy offering free treatment up to ₹2.5 lakh and said medical colleges are being constructed under the PPP model, clarifying that such institutions will remain government-owned assets. He accused the previous

regime of failing to allocate land even for medical colleges.

Emphasizing reforms in education, tourism, and excise policy, Naidu alleged that the previous government was involved in a major excise scam and assured that strict action would be taken against those responsible. He concluded by stating that the NDA government is committed to transparent governance, industrial growth, youth empowerment, and comprehensive development across all regions of the state.

Chinmaya Vidyalaya Foundation Stone Laid in Amaravati



Amaravati, March 4 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) on Wednesday hosted the Bhumi Pooja and foundation stone laying ceremony for the proposed Chinmaya Vidyalaya in the People's Capital Amaravati, marking a significant addition to the region's educational landscape.

The ceremony was led by Swami Swaroopananda, Global Head of Chinmaya Mission, who performed the traditional rituals and formally laid the foundation stone for the institution. The spiritual ceremony was conducted in the presence of dignitaries, officials and well-wishers.

Minister Nadendla Manohar and local MLA Tenali Sravan Kumar attended the programme and expressed their support for establishing the institution in Amaravati. They stated that reputed educational institutions setting up campuses in the capital region would enhance academic standards and provide quality education to students in and around the area.

The proposed Chinmaya Vidyalaya will be developed on approximately three acres of land in Nelapadu village, within Amaravati. Officials said the school is expected to offer a comprehensive curriculum that integrates academic excel-

lence with value-based education, in line with the principles of the Chinmaya Mission.

APCRDA officials noted that the establishment of prominent schools and higher educational institutions is a key component of the master plan for Amaravati's development. The addition of Chinmaya Vidyalaya is seen as a step towards strengthening social infrastructure in the capital region and attracting families to settle in the area.

Senior representatives of the Chinmaya Mission, APCRDA officials and other stakeholders were present at the event. They reiterated their commitment to completing the

project within the stipulated timeframe and ensuring high-quality infrastructure.

The Commissioner's Office of APCRDA stated that the authority continues to facilitate educational, institutional and community development projects as part of its broader vision for Amaravati. The foundation stone laying ceremony marks the formal commencement of construction, with further development activities expected to begin shortly.

With the launch of this project, Amaravati takes another step forward in building robust educational facilities to support its emergence as a planned and vibrant capital city.

Devineni Avinash Should Mind His Words: Dudekula Finance Corporation Chairman K. Nagul Meera



AMARAVATHI 04.03.2026 TPN BUREAU :

Tension escalated in Vijayawada's political circles after senior TDP leaders strongly condemned alleged inappropriate remarks made by YSRCP leader Devine-ni Avinash against Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni). Addressing a press conference at the MP's office in NTR Bhavan, Gurunanak Colony, State Dudekula Finance Corporation Chairman K. Nagul Meera warned Avinash to control his language and refrain from making what he described as baseless allegations.

Nagul Meera, accompanied by TDP State Executive Secretary Boppana Bhavakumar, State Nagavasiya Welfare Corporation Chairman Erubothu Ramana Rao, and NTR District TDP Vice-President Kotteti Hanumantha Rao, criticised Avinash's comments and termed them politically motivated. He stated that MP Kesineni Chinni has been consistently working for the welfare and development of Vijayawada and the parliamentary constituency.

Highlighting the MP's background, Nagul Meera said that even before entering politics, Chinni was a successful entrepreneur who ran a software company in the United States and provided employment to several people. He added that Chinni stepped into politics leaving behind his business interests to serve the public. "A leader who won with a majority of 2.85 lakh votes due to his credibility and clean image does not deserve such unwarranted criticism," he said.

Nagul Meera alleged that Avinash should instead clarify how he accumulated massive wealth over the

years. He accused him of turning Gunadala into a centre for settlements and irregular activities and claimed that leaders associated with corruption have no moral authority to question an elected MP.

Referring to the recent incident at the Nemali Venugopala Swamy temple, he said MP Chinni maintained dignity and restraint even when allegedly insulted by Tiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao. He stated that despite provocation, the MP ensured that temple rituals continued smoothly without causing inconvenience to devotees. He questioned why Avinash appeared to be defending the MLA and asked him to clarify his alleged internal connections.

The leaders further stated that the TDP high command has already taken note of the MLA's conduct. They added that MP Kesineni Chinni has been entrusted with strengthening the party structure in Tiruvuru and is actively coordinating development activities across the parliamentary constituency. According to them, the MP is working on development projects worth nearly 2,500 crore aimed at improving infrastructure and public services.

TDP State Executive Secretary Boppana Bhavakumar accused Avinash of switching political affiliations for personal gain and making inflammatory remarks to secure his position within his party. He warned that if defamatory statements against the MP continue, the party would respond firmly.

The leaders collectively demanded that Devine-ni Avinash exercise restraint in his public statements and focus on constructive politics rather than personal attacks.

Collector Inspects Arrangements for Maha Kumbhabhishekam at Indrakeeladri Temple in Vijayawada

AMARAVATHI 04.03.2026 TPN BUREAU

NTR District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha conducted a field-level inspection of the elaborate arrangements being made for the grand Maha Kumbhabhishekam-2026 at the renowned Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Temple atop Indrakeeladri. The Collector thoroughly reviewed every aspect of the temple premises and directed officials to ensure that devotees face no inconvenience during the mega spiritual event.

During the inspection, the Collector examined queue lines, prasadam counters, ghat roads and the yagasala area. Emphasizing the expected heavy rush of devotees, he instructed officials to maintain high standards of sanitation, ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water and streamline the distribution of annaprasadam. He stressed that meticulous coordination among departments is essential to manage the large influx of pilgrims.

The review was attended by Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner J. Chand, City Police Commissioner Rajasekhar



Babu, and DCP (In-charge) Gunnam Ramakrishna, among other officials. The Collector held detailed discussions with police authorities regarding security measures. Officials informed that extensive police bandobast would be deployed to regulate crowd movement, prevent stampedes and ensure smooth traffic flow in and around Indrakeeladri.

Surveillance through CCTV cameras will be strengthened, and special traffic management plans will be implemented to handle the surge in vehicles during the event. The Collector directed the police department to remain vigilant and proactive to avoid any untoward incidents.

Temple authorities, including Chairman Borra Radhakrishna

and Executive Officer (Special Grade Deputy Collector) Sri Nayak, briefed the Collector about the special arrangements made for the Maha Kumbhabhishekam. They informed that renovation works, including the Vimana Gopuram restoration and painting works, have been completed in preparation for the auspicious ceremony.

The Collector also directed officials to prioritize the comfort of common devotees by ensuring faster darshan arrangements. Considering the rising temperatures, he ordered the installation of shamanias and continuous availability of drinking water facilities to protect pilgrims from heat-related discomfort.

Dr. Lakshmisha expressed confidence that the district administration has taken comprehensive steps to ensure that devotees visiting Indrakeeladri experience a peaceful and spiritually enriching darshan of Goddess Durga during the Maha Kumbhabhishekam. He reiterated that all departments are working in close coordination to make the grand event a smooth and successful one.

Extensive Desilting Works Taken Up with Gang Workers: Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner



AMARAVATHI 04.03.2026 TPN BUREAU :

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has stepped up extensive desilting operations across the city to ensure smooth drainage flow and prevent waterlogging ahead of the rainy season. Municipal Commissioner Dhyana Chandra said that large-scale works are being carried out with the deployment of special gang workers in multiple localities.

On Wednesday morning, desilting activities were undertaken in Ajit Singh Nagar, Payakapuram, Bhavanipuram, One Town and Patamata areas. The Commissioner stated that the civic body has launched a city-wide drive covering every ward and secretariat jurisdiction to clean drains thoroughly, from minor internal drains to major outfall canals.

Addressing officials and staff during the inspection, Dhyana Chandra said that both sanitation and engineering wings are working in coordination to accelerate the process. Special teams of gang workers have been assigned to clear silt, plastic waste, and debris that obstruct water flow in canals. The objective is to ensure that there are no blockages that could lead to stagnation or flooding during heavy rains.

He further explained that in major outfall drains, waste materials are being removed with the help

of heavy vehicles and machinery. By combining manual cleaning with mechanized desilting, the Corporation aims to complete the works within a stipulated timeframe. Continuous monitoring is being conducted to assess progress and identify critical points requiring immediate attention.

Alongside desilting, the Municipal Corporation has intensified anti-malaria operations as part of preventive public health measures. Anti-larval solutions are being sprayed in drains and stagnant water bodies to curb mosquito breeding. The Commissioner emphasized that preventing vector-borne diseases is equally important, particularly with seasonal changes approaching.

Dhyana Chandra noted that proactive steps are being taken to avoid inconvenience to residents during the monsoon season. He urged citizens to cooperate with sanitation workers and refrain from dumping garbage into drains, as public participation plays a crucial role in maintaining proper drainage systems.

The Commissioner reiterated that VMC remains fully alert and committed to ensuring effective drainage management and public health safety. Through sustained efforts and coordinated action, the Corporation aims to keep Vijayawada clean, safe, and prepared for the upcoming rains.

AP JAC Amaravati Launches Women's Day Celebrations with Sports and Cultural Competitions in Vijayawada

AMARAVATHI 04.03.2026 TPN BUREAU

The AP JAC Amaravati State Women's Committee has begun its International Women's Day celebrations with vibrant sports and cultural competitions in Vijayawada. The two-day pre-event activities commenced at the Sub-Collector's Office premises (Montessori College campus), drawing enthusiastic participation from women employees working in various government departments across Vijayawada, Guntur and NTR district offices.

According to a press release issued by AP JAC Amaravati State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and Secretary General Palishetty Damodar Rao, the celebrations aim not only to mark International Women's Day but also to promote awareness about women's rights, equality, dignity and safety in society. They emphasized that Women's Day is not merely a symbolic event but a movement to encourage empowerment, unity and leadership among women employees.

As part of the ongoing festivities, a variety of indoor and recreational competitions are being organized. On the first day,



women employees actively participated in games such as carroms, shuttle badminton and chess, along with fun events including lemon-and-spoon race, musical chairs, skipping, ball games and cup-and-balloon challenges. Participants displayed remarkable enthusiasm and team spirit, making the event lively and engaging.

The organizers stated that the competitions will continue tomorrow with cultural events

such as singing, dance performances, rangoli contests, musical chair rounds and riddles. Winners in all categories of sports, games and cultural events will be awarded first, second, third and consolation prizes as a token of encouragement and appreciation.

The main state-level International Women's Day celebration is scheduled to be held on Saturday, March 7, at 11 a.m. at the Joint Collector's Office

premises in Vijayawada. The event is expected to witness large participation from women employees of various government offices in Vijayawada and Guntur.

Distinguished guests, including Women and Child Welfare Department Secretary A. Surya Kumari and NTR District Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya, will grace the occasion as chief guests. Their presence is expected to inspire and motivate women employees to continue striving for excellence in public service and leadership roles.

AP JAC leaders called upon all women employees from Vijayawada, Guntur and NTR district government offices to participate in large numbers and make the state-level celebrations a grand success. They stressed that women's unity is crucial for strengthening policies that support education, employment opportunities and equal representation.

The organizers expressed confidence that the 2026 Women's Day celebrations under the banner of AP JAC Amaravati would send a strong message of solidarity, empowerment and collective progress among women employees across the state.

Daylight Sand Dredging Raises Alarm Near Godavari Bridges



East Godavari, March 4 | TPN Bureau
Fresh allegations of illegal sand mining have surfaced along the Godavari river stretch near Dhavaleswaram and Katheru villages in East Godavari district, with locals claiming that large-scale dredging is continuing in violation of norms, dangerously close to major bridges.
Residents allege that despite periodic seizures of a few lorries and dredging boats by officials, illegal sand extraction resumes within days. Photographs taken recently show authorities seizing dredging boats at the Dhavaleswaram sand ramp, while other visuals capture active dredging operations in the river during broad daylight.
The controversy centres around sand excavation being carried out close to bridge

structures across the Godavari. As per environmental and river conservation guidelines, sand mining is prohibited near bridge foundations due to the risk of structural instability. However, villagers claim that heavy dredging machines, excavators and transport vehicles are operating continuously near these sensitive zones.
Engineering experts warn that removal of sand around bridge piers can weaken the foundation and pose long-term safety risks. With multiple bridges spanning the Godavari in the Rajamahendravaram region, concerns are being raised about the potential impact on public safety.
Environmentalists have also flagged the ecological consequences of unchecked dredging. Excessive sand removal

can disrupt river flow patterns, reduce groundwater recharge and disturb aquatic ecosystems. "This is not just about revenue loss; it is about environmental balance and future generations," said a local activist.
The issue has gained further attention in light of recent announcements regarding repair works at the Dowleswaram Barrage. The State Irrigation Department had reportedly sanctioned funds for maintenance of crest gates at the historic barrage. Locals question how large-scale sand mining is being permitted in the same vicinity soon after such announcements.
Political reactions have also surfaced, with critics accusing authorities of selective enforcement. Some allege that societies

operating sand ramps are misusing permissions and engaging in large-scale dredging through syndicates. Questions are being raised about whether such operations could continue without local-level support or administrative oversight.
Residents are demanding immediate suspension of dredging activities near bridges, registration of criminal cases against those responsible and a technical review of bridge safety. They are also calling for a transparent sand transportation monitoring system using drones and surveillance mechanisms.
As allegations mount, citizens are awaiting a firm response from the government to curb what they describe as blatant sand plunder in broad daylight along the Godavari.

CPM Slams Poor Conditions in TIDCO Housing During Padayatra



Tadepalligudem, March 4 | TPN Bureau
The district unit of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) on Wednesday criticised the condition of government housing colonies, alleging that TIDCO houses have turned into "centres of problems" instead of providing secure shelter to the poor.

Speaking during the seventh day of the CPM's district-level public awareness padayatra in Tadepalligudem mandal, CPM district secretary J.N.V. Gopalan questioned whether the houses constructed under the TIDCO scheme were meant for people or had been left like abandoned forest land. He said several beneficiaries are facing severe hardships due to lack of basic infrastructure and civic amenities.

Residents from various colonies met the padayatra team and raised multiple grievances. Some elderly citizens complained that they were yet to receive house sites despite repeated applications. A woman alleged that her husband, who is bedridden due to disability, has not been receiving his pension. Others stated that essential government services are not being extended to housing colonies.

People living in KSN Colony expressed anguish that after allotting house sites, authorities had "left them in the middle of nowhere" without proper roads, drainage facilities or drinking water supply. They said the absence

of basic infrastructure has made daily life extremely difficult.

Gopalan alleged that no elected public representative had visited KSN Colony so far to assess the problems. He pointed out that incomplete housing structures have become breeding grounds for snakes and insects, creating constant fear among residents. "Without roads and drainage, people are forced to live in unhealthy and unsafe conditions," he said.

At the TIDCO housing complex, CPM district secretariat member Karri Nageswara Rao also criticised the implementation of the housing scheme. He said the houses, allotted several years ago, were handed over in a hurried and incomplete manner. According to him, issues ranging from garbage disposal to potable water supply remain unresolved.

He further alleged that slab leakages are widespread in several housing units and that repeated representations to officials have yielded no response. Beneficiaries claimed that despite bringing their concerns to the notice of authorities multiple times, no permanent solutions have been provided.

Several CPM district committee members and local leaders participated in the padayatra. The party leaders said they would continue raising these issues until the government ensures proper infrastructure, civic amenities and welfare support for residents of TIDCO and other government housing colonies.

KVPS Slams Remarks Linking Council Chairman to Religion

Bhimavaram, March 4 | TPN Bureau
The district unit of the KVPS on Wednesday strongly condemned remarks allegedly linking Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju to a particular religion, calling the comments inappropriate and disrespectful.
KVPS district general secretary K. Kranti Babu, in a statement issued here, said attributing religion to the Chairman during proceedings of the Legislative Council was unwarranted and undermined the dignity of the House. He was referring to comments reportedly made by Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu during a discussion on the alleged adulteration of temple laddu prasadam.
Kranti Babu said that ever since the coalition government assumed office, there has been a pattern of discriminatory behaviour towards Dalit public representatives. He recalled an incident from last year in which, he alleged, protocol was not properly followed during sports events involving the



Chairman, terming it an act of caste-based discrimination.
He criticised the raising of religious identity during Council proceedings, stating that legislative forums should focus on addressing public issues rather than engaging in discussions related to caste or religion. "When pressing public concerns are set aside and debates revolve around caste and religion, it reflects the lack of seriousness to-

wards governance," he said.
According to the statement, Chairman Moshen Raju clarified in the House that he was not a Christian and identified himself as a Hindu, expressing anguish over what he described as attempts to push him into a different religious identity. Kranti Babu said such a situation, where a constitutional authority feels compelled to clarify personal faith on the floor of the

House, was unprecedented and unfortunate.
He further alleged that certain ministers were acting in line with ideological influences and warned that such tendencies could be harmful to the State's social harmony. Targeting individuals holding high office with personal insinuations, he said, was unbecoming of elected representatives.
Kranti Babu urged the Chief Minister and Home Minister to respond to the issue and ensure that such incidents are not repeated. He also raised concerns about what he described as a growing trend of linking Dalits to religious identity and questioning their caste status. If the government is sincere, he demanded, it should enact measures to ensure that Dalit Christians are treated on par with Scheduled Castes under State law.
The remarks have sparked political debate, adding to the ongoing friction between opposition groups and the ruling coalition.

APCRDA Additional Commissioner Reviews Layouts in Mandadam



Amaravati, March 4 | TPN Bureau
As part of the ongoing implementation of the Negotiated Settlement Policy in the capital city Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) Additional Commissioner A. Bhargava Teja, IAS, on Wednesday conducted a field inspection of proposed layouts in Mandadam village.
The visit was aimed at reviewing the progress of layout planning and ensuring that the development process aligns with the approved framework of the Capital Region. During the inspection, officials provided a comprehensive briefing to the Additional Commissioner on various aspects of the proposed layouts and land allocation patterns linked to the policy.

Using detailed maps and layout plans, department representatives explained the structural design, infrastructure provisions and zoning components incorporated under the Negotiated Settlement Policy. The officials also outlined how the land parcels are being organized and developed to meet regulatory norms and long-term urban planning objectives.
The inspection focused on verifying whether the proposed layouts adhere to stipulated guidelines and whether adequate planning has been undertaken to integrate road networks, public utility spaces and essential infrastructure. The Additional Commissioner reviewed the execution strategy and sought updates on timelines and coordination among

departments.
Officials stated that the Negotiated Settlement Policy forms an important component of Amaravati's development strategy, particularly in areas where land arrangements are being finalized in consultation with stakeholders. The initiative is intended to facilitate orderly development while ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and master plan provisions.
During the visit, Bhargava Teja emphasised the importance of transparency, accuracy in land demarcation and adherence to planning standards to avoid future disputes or administrative complications. He directed officials to maintain detailed documentation and ensure that all procedural norms are followed during implementation.

Senior APCRDA officials and representatives from concerned departments were present throughout the inspection. They assured that the layout development works would proceed systematically in accordance with the capital region's approved planning framework.
The Commissioner's Office of APCRDA reiterated that periodic field inspections are being conducted to monitor development activities across villages within the Capital Region. The authority remains committed to structured urban growth and efficient execution of policies designed to advance Amaravati's infrastructure and planning objectives.

Vighneswara Idol Consecrated at ISTS Women's Engineering College

East Godavari, March 4 | TPN Bureau
A spiritual atmosphere prevailed at East Gonagudem village in Rajanagaram mandal as the idol consecration ceremony of Lord Sri Vighneswara was performed with religious fervour at the campus of International School of Technology and Sciences for Women (ISTS).
The newly constructed temple dedicated to Sri Vighneswara Swamy was inaugurated amid Vedic rituals and traditional ceremonies in the presence of students, faculty and local residents. Rajanagaram MLA Battula Balamakrishna attended the programme as the chief guest and received the prasadam after the rituals.
Addressing the gathering, the MLA appreciated ISTS for providing quality technical education and excellent placement opportunities to women students. He noted that empowering women through technical education plays a vital role in the overall development of society and lauded the institution for its



commitment to academic excellence.
Established in 2009, ISTS is affiliated to Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada and is approved by AICTE with NBA accreditation. The college offers B.Tech and diploma programmes and provides modern laboratory facilities, a Wi-Fi-enabled campus and secure hostel accommodation, creating a conducive learning

environment for women students.
The institution has earned recognition across the State for its strong placement record and focus on skill development. College management stated that their goal is to prepare women to excel in the competitive technological sector while fostering leadership qualities and professional competence.
Speaking on the occasion,

ISTS Chairman Upender Reddy said the temple was constructed with the intention of promoting holistic development among students. "Education is not confined to textbooks alone. We believe in imparting value-based education alongside academic learning," he said. He added that the management is planning to develop a cluster of temples within the campus in the future to nurture a spiritually enriching atmosphere.
Faculty members, non-teaching staff, village elders and students participated in large numbers, making the event a grand success. Attendees expressed that the integration of spirituality with education reflects the institution's broader vision of combining knowledge, values and cultural heritage.
With the consecration ceremony, ISTS marked another milestone in its journey, blending academic growth with spiritual enrichment in the educational landscape of East Godavari district.

When Algorithms Go to War: AI's Silent Role in the Iran Conflict

The nature of warfare is undergoing a profound transformation. No longer confined to soldiers, weapons, and battlefield tactics, modern conflicts are increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence. The recent U.S.–Israel strikes on Iran highlight this shift, revealing how AI systems have quietly become central players in military decision-making.

What makes this development striking is that the same kind of AI used by civilians for writing, research, and everyday problem-solving is now being applied to warfare. These systems are no longer just tools for convenience—they are being used to analyze intelligence, identify targets, and simulate combat scenarios.

From Civilian Innovation to Military Integration

Artificial intelligence models were originally designed to assist with language, communication, and data analysis. However, their ability to process massive amounts of information quickly has made them valuable in military environments.

In conflict situations, vast streams of data must be interpreted—satellite imagery, intercepted communications, reconnaissance reports, and logistical information. Traditionally, this required teams of analysts working under time pressure. AI has changed that dynamic by condensing and interpreting such data in seconds.

This shift allows military planners to act faster and with greater confidence, but it also raises concerns about how much reliance is placed on machine-generated insights.

How AI Shapes Modern Warfare

AI systems are now capable of performing several critical functions in military operations:

- They analyze intelligence data to create a clearer picture of the battlefield.
- They identify and prioritize potential targets based on patterns and probabilities.
- They simulate possible outcomes of military actions, helping planners anticipate consequences.



These capabilities significantly reduce the time between gathering information and taking action. What once took hours or days can now happen in minutes.

The Acceleration of Conflict

One of the most significant changes brought by AI is speed. Military operations have always depended on timely decisions, but AI compresses decision-making into extremely short timeframes.

This acceleration can provide a strategic advantage, allowing forces to act before an opponent can respond. However, it also introduces risks. Faster decisions may mean less time for human deliberation, increasing the likelihood of mistakes.

When decisions are made at machine speed, the margin for error becomes smaller, yet the consequences remain enormous.

The Question of Human Control

Military officials often emphasize that humans remain in control of all final decisions. However, the growing influence of AI complicates this claim.

When an AI system processes more data than any human could manage and presents recommendations, those recommendations can carry significant weight. Humans may begin to rely heavily on these outputs, even if they do not fully understand how the system arrived at its conclusions.

This creates a subtle shift in responsibility. Instead of actively making decisions, humans may end up approving decisions that have already been shaped by AI.

Ethical Concerns and Moral Responsibility

The use of AI in warfare raises serious ethical questions. If an AI-assisted deci-

sion leads to unintended harm, who is responsible?

Unlike traditional weapons, AI systems operate through complex algorithms that are not always transparent. This makes it difficult to trace how a specific conclusion was reached.

There is also the issue of intent. AI does not possess judgment, empathy, or moral reasoning. It operates based on data and patterns, which may not fully capture the complexities of human life and conflict.

Relying on such systems in life-and-death situations raises concerns about whether ethical considerations are being adequately addressed.

A New Kind of Arms Race

The integration of AI into military strategy is not limited to one conflict or one country. As more nations recognize its potential, a new kind of arms race is emerging—one focused on technological superiority rather

than traditional weaponry.

Countries are investing heavily in AI-driven defense systems, seeking to gain an edge in speed, accuracy, and efficiency. This competition could lead to rapid advancements, but it may also increase global instability.

If multiple nations adopt AI-powered warfare, the pace of conflicts could escalate, making them harder to control and potentially more frequent.

The Risk of Overdependence

While AI offers clear advantages, overreliance on it can be dangerous. Systems are only as good as the data they are trained on, and flawed or incomplete data can lead to incorrect conclusions.

There is also the risk of bias. If an AI system is trained on skewed data, its outputs may reflect those biases, potentially leading to

unjust or harmful decisions.

In high-stakes environments like warfare, even small errors can have devastating consequences. This makes it essential to maintain a balance between technological assistance and human judgment.

The Changing Nature of Decision-Making

The introduction of AI into military operations is reshaping how decisions are made. Instead of long discussions and layered approvals, decisions can now be informed by real-time analysis and predictive modeling.

This shift has the potential to improve efficiency and precision. However, it also changes the role of human decision-makers. They must now interpret and evaluate AI-generated insights, rather than relying solely on their own expertise.

This requires new skills, new training, and a deeper

understanding of how these systems work.

Accountability in an AI-Driven World

One of the most pressing challenges is establishing accountability. In traditional warfare, responsibility is clearly defined within the chain of command. With AI, that clarity begins to fade.

If an AI system contributes to a flawed decision, responsibility may be shared across multiple parties—the developers who built the system, the operators who used it, and the commanders who approved its recommendations.

Without clear guidelines, it becomes difficult to assign responsibility or prevent similar mistakes in the future.

A Turning Point in Warfare

The use of artificial intelligence in the Iran conflict represents a significant turning point. It signals the beginning of a new era in which technology plays a central role in shaping military outcomes.

This transformation is not inherently good or bad. AI has the potential to make operations more precise and reduce unintended harm. At the same time, it introduces new risks that must be carefully managed.

The key challenge lies in how these systems are used. Technology alone does not determine the outcome—human choices do.

Conclusion

The growing role of AI in warfare reflects a broader shift in how conflicts are conducted. As technology becomes more advanced, the line between human and machine decision-making continues to blur.

This evolution demands careful consideration. Speed and efficiency must be balanced with accountability and ethical responsibility. Without proper oversight, the very tools designed to assist humans could end up diminishing their role in critical decisions.

The future of warfare is being shaped now, not just on battlefields, but in the design and deployment of intelligent systems. How they are used will determine whether they serve as instruments of precision or sources of greater uncertainty and risk.

Middle East in Flames: Why India Could Be the World's Quiet Peacemaker

The escalating conflict in the Middle East has turned the region into a dangerous flashpoint with global consequences. What began as targeted strikes has now expanded into a wider confrontation involving multiple countries, threatening energy routes, economic stability, and civilian lives. In this volatile environment, one question gains urgency: who can step in to calm the crisis? The answer, increasingly, points toward India.

The Middle East today is witnessing one of its most dangerous phases in recent history. Attacks and counterattacks between Iran, Israel, and the United States have widened the conflict beyond traditional battle zones. Drone strikes, missile attacks, and threats to key infrastructure have made the situation unpredictable and fast-moving. Crucially, the conflict is no longer contained within borders. It has spread across the Gulf, affecting countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia, and even targeting diplomatic missions. The disruption of shipping routes, especially around the Strait of Hormuz, has added a new layer of global concern, as this corridor handles a significant portion of the world's oil supply.

While the conflict is geographically distant from many nations, its consequences are deeply interconnected with the global economy. Oil prices, trade routes, and supply chains

are all vulnerable to disruptions in the region. For India, the stakes are particularly high. A large portion of its energy imports comes from the Middle East, and any instability directly impacts fuel prices, inflation, and economic growth. Rising oil prices can strain public finances, weaken the currency, and complicate economic policy decisions. Beyond economics, there is also a human dimension. Millions of Indians live and work in Gulf countries, making their safety a top priority for New Delhi. The government has already activated emergency mechanisms and diplomatic outreach to ensure their protection.

India occupies a rare and strategically valuable position in global diplomacy. Unlike many Western powers, it maintains working relationships with all major actors in the Middle East. It has strong ties with Israel in areas such as defense and technology. At the same time, it shares historical, cultural, and economic connections with Iran. Additionally, India enjoys close partnerships with Gulf nations like the UAE and Saudi Arabia. This balanced approach allows India to engage with all sides without being seen as overtly partisan. In a conflict where trust is scarce, this neutrality becomes a powerful asset.

India's foreign policy has long emphasized strategic autonomy—the ability to make



independent decisions without aligning completely with any one bloc. This approach has enabled it to navigate complex geopolitical situations while maintaining credibility. In the current crisis, India has consistently called for dialogue, de-escalation, and diplomacy. Its leadership has engaged with multiple stakeholders, reinforcing the need for peaceful resolution rather than pro-

longed confrontation. This consistent messaging strengthens India's image as a responsible global actor committed to stability rather than conflict.

The intensity of the current conflict makes mediation both urgent and difficult. Traditional mediators often face trust deficits or are seen as aligned with one side. This limits their effectiveness. India, however, does not carry the same bag-

gage. Its relationships across the region, combined with its growing global stature, position it as a credible intermediary. Moreover, India has no direct military involvement in the conflict, which further enhances its acceptability. It is seen as a stakeholder in peace rather than a participant in war.

Despite its advantages, India's path to becoming a medi-

ator is not without obstacles. The scale and complexity of the conflict make any diplomatic intervention challenging. There are also geopolitical pressures. Major powers like the United States, Russia, and China have their own interests in the region. Any mediation effort would need to navigate these competing agendas. Additionally, maintaining neutrality while protecting national interests requires careful balancing. India must ensure that its actions do not strain relationships with key partners.

One of the strongest reasons for India to step into a mediating role is economic self-interest. Stability in the Middle East is essential for ensuring uninterrupted energy supplies and stable trade routes. Any prolonged conflict could lead to sustained high oil prices, supply disruptions, and broader economic uncertainty. These effects would not only impact India but also ripple across the global economy. By advocating for peace, India is not just acting as a diplomatic player but also safeguarding its own economic future.

India's potential role goes beyond immediate crisis management. It represents an opportunity to redefine its position on the global stage. By facilitating dialogue and reducing tensions, India could demonstrate leadership in international diplomacy. This

would enhance its credibility and influence in global affairs. At a time when traditional power structures are being questioned, a successful mediation effort could signal the rise of new diplomatic actors capable of shaping outcomes.

For India to effectively play the role of mediator, it must leverage both its diplomatic networks and its reputation for balance. Quiet negotiations, back-channel communications, and multilateral engagement could all play a role. Equally important is the ability to remain patient. Conflicts of this scale are rarely resolved quickly, and meaningful progress often requires sustained effort. India's approach must combine pragmatism with principle—prioritizing peace while protecting its own interests.

The Middle East conflict represents a moment of profound uncertainty for the world. As tensions escalate and consequences spread, the need for credible mediation becomes increasingly urgent. India, with its unique relationships, strategic autonomy, and commitment to diplomacy, stands out as a potential bridge between opposing sides. While challenges remain, the opportunity is significant. In a world searching for stability, India has the chance to emerge not just as a regional power, but as a global peacemaker.

BJP's Nitin Nabin Set for Rajya Sabha Entry: Strategy Behind First Candidate List

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has unveiled its first list of candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, with Nitin Nabin emerging as a prominent name. His nomination reflects a calculated political strategy by the party, balancing organisational leadership, electoral performance, and regional representation.

Nitin Nabin, a seasoned leader from Bihar, currently holds a significant position within the BJP's national structure. Over the years, he has built a reputation as a dependable party organiser and an effective administrator. His elevation to the Rajya Sabha signals the party's intent to reward loyalty and consistent performance, while also strengthening its leadership bench in Parliament.

Having served multiple terms as a legislator in Bihar, Nabin has held key ministerial portfolios, including road construction, urban development, and law. His governance experience and grassroots connect have contributed to his steady rise within the party ranks. More recently, his role in organisational affairs at the national level further enhanced his visibility and influence, making him a natural choice for a parliamentary role.

The BJP's candidate selection for the Rajya Sabha is rarely arbitrary. It often reflects a mix of political messaging and long-term planning. In Nabin's case, the decision underscores the party's emphasis on promoting leaders who have demonstrated both administrative capability and organisational commitment. It also indicates a preference for individuals who can effectively articulate the party's policies in the Upper House.



Another important aspect of this move is the regional calculation. Bihar remains a politically crucial state for the BJP, and elevating a leader like Nabin helps consolidate the party's position there. By sending a strong representative from the state to the Rajya Sabha, the BJP aims to maintain its influence and ensure that regional concerns are addressed at the national level.

The timing of the announcement is also significant. With elections approaching in several states and the national political landscape becoming increasingly competitive, the BJP appears focused on strengthening its parliamentary presence. Leaders like Nabin, who combine experience with organisational acumen, are seen as assets in navigating complex legislative and political challenges.

Furthermore, the selection

reflects the party's broader strategy of recognising performers who have contributed to its growth beyond electoral victories. Nabin's work in expanding the party's organisational network and managing key responsibilities has not gone unnoticed. His nomination can be seen as part of a larger pattern where the BJP rewards leaders who deliver results both on the ground and within the party structure.

The Rajya Sabha, often described as the Council of States, plays a crucial role in shaping legislation and national policy. By inducting leaders with administrative experience and political insight, the BJP aims to ensure effective participation in debates and decision-making processes. Nabin's entry is expected to add depth to the party's presence in the Upper

House.

At a broader level, the BJP's first candidate list highlights its focus on continuity and stability. Instead of opting for dramatic changes, the party has chosen to rely on trusted leaders who understand its ideology and organisational dynamics. This approach is likely to help maintain cohesion within the party while also projecting a sense of reliability to voters.

Nitin Nabin's nomination, therefore, is more than just an individual advancement. It represents a strategic decision that aligns with the BJP's long-term goals of strengthening its leadership, reinforcing regional representation, and ensuring effective governance. As the Rajya Sabha elections approach, his entry will be closely watched as an indicator of the party's evolving political priorities.

DMK, Congress Close to Sealing Seat-Sharing Pact for Tamil Nadu Polls

The alliance between the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Indian National Congress appears set to enter a crucial phase, with both parties moving towards finalising a seat-sharing agreement for the upcoming Tamil Nadu elections. Negotiations have gathered pace, and a formula allocating around 28 to 29 seats to the Congress is reportedly under serious consideration.

The discussions have been closely monitored by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who has played a key role in guiding the party's strategy. His involvement signals the importance the Congress attaches to the alliance, particularly in a state where it has historically relied on partnerships to remain electorally relevant.

The DMK, led by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin, is keen on maintaining stability within the ruling coalition while also ensuring that its own electoral dominance is not diluted. The party is expected to retain the lion's share of seats, reflecting its strong position in the state's political landscape.

Seat-sharing negotiations between the two allies have not been without friction. The Congress has been pushing for a larger share, citing its improved performance in previous elections and its role in



strengthening the alliance's overall vote base. However, the DMK has been cautious, balancing demands from multiple alliance partners while trying to avoid internal dissent.

Despite these differences, both sides appear committed to preserving the alliance, which has been a cornerstone of Tamil Nadu politics under the broader Secular Progressive Alliance framework. The coalition has historically brought together several parties with a shared ideological stance, enabling them to present a united front against opposition forces.

Political observers note that the proposed 28-29 seat formula represents a middle ground.

It allows the Congress to expand its presence compared to previous allocations while ensuring that the DMK retains overall control of the electoral strategy. This compromise is seen as essential for avoiding last-minute disputes that could weaken the alliance's prospects.

The urgency in finalising the agreement is also driven by the approaching election timeline. Both parties are keen to move quickly from negotiations to campaign mode, focusing on candidate selection, constituency-level planning, and voter outreach. Delays in seat-sharing decisions can often lead to confusion at the grassroots level, something the

alliance is eager to avoid.

For the Congress, the stakes are particularly high. A better seat share offers the party an opportunity to regain political ground in Tamil Nadu, where it has played a secondary role for decades. At the same time, it must ensure that it contests in constituencies where it has a realistic chance of winning, rather than merely increasing the number of seats it fights.

On the other hand, the DMK is focused on consolidating its position as the dominant force in the state. By carefully managing alliance dynamics, it aims to prevent any fragmentation of votes while keeping its partners satisfied enough to campaign effectively.

The evolving agreement also reflects broader political calculations ahead of the elections. With opposition alliances taking shape and competition intensifying, both the DMK and Congress understand the importance of presenting a cohesive and well-coordinated front.

As talks near their conclusion, all indications suggest that a formal announcement could be made soon. Once finalised, the seat-sharing deal is expected to set the tone for the alliance's campaign and play a crucial role in shaping the electoral contest in Tamil Nadu.

India Sets Up Control Room As Middle East Conflict Intensifies

India has established a special control room to assist its citizens amid the escalating conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran in West Asia.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the control room operates daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (IST). It provides assistance through toll-free and landline numbers and shares emergency contact details for Indian embassies in countries such as Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, and the UAE.

The move comes as tensions in the region have sharply intensified following US-Israel strikes on Iran, which triggered retaliatory missile and drone attacks by Tehran across multiple Gulf nations. Several



countries, including Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE, have reported interceptions of incoming projectiles, along with disruptions to civilian life and

temporary airspace closures. The situation has raised serious concerns for the safety of Indian nationals living in the region. The government re-

viewed the developments during a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by Narendra Modi.

Expressing concern over the escalating crisis, the Prime Minister emphasized India's commitment to peace and diplomacy, stating that disputes should be resolved through dialogue. He also assured that India would continue working closely with countries in the region to ensure the safety and security of its citizens.

The ongoing conflict marks one of the most serious confrontations in the region in recent decades, with fears of further escalation impacting global stability and the large Indian expatriate community in West Asia.

Middle East Tensions Disrupt Flights as Bengaluru Sees Wave of Cancellations

The escalating conflict in the Middle East, particularly involving Iran, Israel, and the United States, has begun to significantly impact global aviation, with India also feeling the ripple effects. Several international flights operating from Bengaluru have been cancelled as airspace restrictions tighten and safety concerns grow across the region.

At Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, multiple flights to key destinations in West Asia, including Saudi Arabia and Oman, were cancelled due to the worsening security situation. Airlines have been forced to either suspend or reroute services as parts of the Middle Eastern airspace become increasingly unsafe for civilian aviation.

The cancellations come amid a broader escalation in hostilities following military strikes and counterattacks in the region. The situation intensified after coordinated actions involving Iran and its adversaries, raising fears of a prolonged conflict that could disrupt not only travel but also global trade and energy supplies. As tensions rise, several countries in the region have either closed their airspace entirely or imposed strict restrictions, forcing airlines to reassess flight paths.

For passengers, the disruption has led to confusion and inconvenience, with many left stranded or scrambling to find alternative routes. Airlines are offering refunds, rescheduling options, or rerouting passengers through safer corridors, but the uncertainty surrounding the conflict continues to pose challenges for both carriers and travelers.

Aviation experts note that the Middle East serves as a critical hub for international air travel, connecting



Asia, Europe, and Africa. Any disruption in this region has a cascading effect on global flight networks. Rerouting flights often leads to longer travel times, increased fuel consumption, and higher operational costs for airlines. These additional expenses could eventually translate into higher ticket prices for passengers.

The impact is particularly significant for Indian carriers and passengers, given the large volume of travel between India and the Gulf region. Millions of Indian expatriates live and work in countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman, making these routes some of the busiest for Indian airlines.

Airlines are closely monitoring the evolving situation and coordinating with international aviation authorities to ensure passenger safety. Decisions regarding flight cancellations or rerouting are being made on a day-to-day basis, depending on the security environment and advisories issued by governments and aviation regulators.

The crisis has also highlighted the vulnerability of global aviation to geopolitical tensions. Even localized conflicts can have far-reaching consequences, disrupting not just regional travel but also long-haul international routes that pass through affected airspaces.

Meanwhile, governments, including India, are taking precautionary measures to safeguard their citizens. Authorities are advising travelers to stay updated on flight schedules and to remain in contact with airlines for the latest information. Emergency response mechanisms are also being strengthened to assist those affected by sudden cancellations or disruptions.

As the situation continues to evolve, the aviation industry remains on high alert. The duration and intensity of the conflict will play a crucial role in determining how long these disruptions persist. For now, passengers and airlines alike must navigate an uncertain landscape shaped by rapidly changing geopolitical developments.

Bombay High Court Rules WhatsApp Chats Alone Not Enough to Prove Cruelty in Divorce Case



In a significant ruling on matrimonial disputes, the Bombay High Court has held that divorce cannot be granted solely on the basis of allegations of cruelty derived from WhatsApp conversations, stressing the need for substantial and convincing evidence.

The case involved a couple entangled in a legal battle where one spouse sought divorce on the grounds of mental cruelty, citing WhatsApp chats as primary proof. The petitioner argued that the messages reflected behavior that caused emotional distress and justified the dissolution of the marriage.

However, the court took a cautious view of relying exclusively on digital communication as evidence. It observed that while WhatsApp messages may provide context or support claims, they cannot, by themselves, establish cruelty unless backed by clear, corroborative material. The judges emphasized that isolated excerpts from conversations can often be misleading and may not reflect the full nature of a relationship.

The court underscored that cruelty, as a legal ground for divorce under Indian law, must meet a certain threshold. It should be serious, sustained, and of such a nature that continu-

ing the marital relationship becomes untenable. Casual exchanges, emotional outbursts, or disagreements reflected in chats do not automatically qualify as cruelty.

Importantly, the bench noted that modern communication methods, including instant messaging platforms, have become an integral part of daily life. However, their informal and often impulsive nature makes them unreliable as standalone evidence in sensitive legal matters like divorce. Messages may be written in moments of anger, frustration, or misunderstanding, and therefore require careful interpretation.

The ruling also highlighted the importance of context. A few messages taken in isolation cannot capture the broader dynamics of a marriage. Courts must examine the entire relationship, including conduct, circumstances, and other supporting evidence, before arriving at a conclusion.

Legal experts believe the judgment reinforces the principle that matrimonial disputes must be assessed holistically. It discourages the tendency to selectively present digital conversations to build a case while ignoring the larger picture.

The court further pointed out that granting divorce is

a serious legal step with long-term consequences for both parties. Therefore, decisions must be based on comprehensive evaluation rather than fragmented or potentially misleading material.

This judgment aligns with a broader judicial trend of scrutinizing claims of cruelty with greater rigor. Courts have repeatedly stressed that not every disagreement or unpleasant interaction between spouses amounts to cruelty. Instead, there must be a consistent pattern of behavior that causes significant harm or suffering.

The decision also raises important questions about the role of digital evidence in legal proceedings. While such evidence is increasingly common, courts are cautious about over-reliance on it without proper authentication and context.

In conclusion, the Bombay High Court's ruling serves as a reminder that while technology has transformed communication, legal standards for proving serious allegations like cruelty remain stringent. WhatsApp chats may support a case, but they cannot replace the need for credible, comprehensive evidence in determining whether a marriage has irretrievably broken down.

Friendly Fire in the Gulf: Kuwaiti Strike Downs US Jets Amid Iran War Chaos

A dramatic and troubling incident unfolded in the skies over Kuwait during the intensifying Iran conflict, when multiple American fighter jets were mistakenly shot down—not by enemy forces, but by a regional ally. The episode highlights the fog of war gripping West Asia, where overlapping military operations, missile barrages, and aerial threats have created a dangerously volatile environment.

The incident occurred amid ongoing hostilities linked to the widening confrontation involving Iran, the United States, and its regional partners. As military operations escalated, the skies above Kuwait became crowded with aircraft, drones, and incoming missiles, creating conditions ripe for miscalculation.

At the centre of the episode were three advanced American F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jets. These aircraft were part of ongoing military operations connected to strikes on Iran and defensive responses to Iranian retaliation. While operating over or near Kuwaiti airspace, the jets were mistakenly identified as hostile targets by Kuwait's air defence systems.

In what has been described as a "friendly fire" incident, Kuwaiti defences engaged and shot down all three aircraft.

Despite the severity of the incident, there was a significant relief: all six crew members aboard the aircraft managed to eject safely before the jets crashed. They were later recovered, with reports indicating that they survived without serious injuries.

The shutdown reportedly took place during a period of intense combat activity. Iranian forces had launched a wave of attacks involving drones, ballistic missiles, and possibly aircraft targeting US and allied positions across the region. This barrage forced regional defence systems into a high-alert mode, increasing the likelihood of misidentification.

Initial confusion surrounded the cause of the crash. Early claims suggested that enemy forces had downed the jets. However, subsequent clarifications



confirmed that the incident was the result of an error by Kuwaiti air defences, not hostile action.

The chaotic nature of the battlefield contributed heavily to the mistake. With multiple threats appearing simultaneously on radar—ranging from incoming missiles to fast-moving aircraft—distinguishing friend from foe became extremely difficult. In such high-pressure situations, even advanced identification systems can fail or be misinterpreted.

Reports suggest that Kuwait's air defence network, possibly including surface-to-air missile systems or fighter aircraft, engaged the US jets after misidentifying them as hostile. Some accounts indicate that Kuwaiti fighter jets may have played a role in the shutdown, though investigations are ongoing.

This incident underscores a persistent challenge in modern warfare: coordination among allied forces operating in shared airspace. Even with sophisticated communication systems and identification protocols, the speed and complexity of combat can overwhelm safeguards designed to prevent such errors.

The loss of three high-value

fighter jets represents a notable material setback, though the absence of casualties has prevented the situation from becoming a larger tragedy. Still, the incident raises serious questions about operational coordination, rules of engagement, and the reliability of identification systems in contested environments.

Both sides have initiated investigations into the incident. These inquiries are expected to examine how the misidentification occurred, whether technical systems failed, and if procedural lapses contributed to the mistake.

The broader context is equally significant. The incident comes amid a rapidly escalating regional conflict that has seen direct strikes, retaliatory attacks, and growing involvement from multiple countries. The expanding battlefield has increased the complexity of military operations and heightened the risk of unintended consequences.

As the conflict intensifies, the risks of further accidental engagements increase. Airspace congestion, electronic warfare, and the sheer volume of threats can overwhelm even well-trained forces. The Kuwait inci-

dent may serve as a warning of how quickly allied coordination can break down under pressure.

Strategically, such incidents can strain alliances, even if they are ultimately understood as accidents. Maintaining trust between military partners requires transparency, accountability, and rapid corrective measures.

The incident also highlights the importance of improving identification systems and ensuring seamless communication between allied units. In modern warfare, where seconds can determine outcomes, even minor delays or errors in identification can have serious consequences.

In conclusion, the mistaken shutdown of US fighter jets over Kuwait is a stark reminder of the dangers inherent in high-intensity, multi-actor conflicts. While no lives were lost, the incident reveals how fragile operational coordination can be in the midst of chaos. As the Iran conflict continues to evolve, preventing such errors will be critical—not only to avoid material losses but to ensure that alliances remain intact in the face of mounting regional instability.

US Navy Steps In As Gulf Tensions Threaten Global Oil Lifeline



Rising conflict in the Middle East has pushed global energy markets into turmoil, prompting the United States to consider direct military involvement in safeguarding one of the world's most critical oil routes. As tensions escalate following military strikes on Iran, the Strait of Hormuz—through which nearly a fifth of global oil supply passes—has emerged as the focal point of economic and strategic concern.

In response, US President Donald Trump has announced that the US Navy may begin escorting oil tankers through the Strait if necessary. The move is aimed at ensuring the uninterrupted flow of energy supplies and stabilizing volatile oil markets rattled by fears of prolonged disruption.

The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow but vital maritime corridor between Iran and Oman, has seen shipping severely affected in recent days. Escalating hostilities have made commercial vessels vulnerable, while war-risk insurance premiums have surged sharply. Many shipping companies have already begun avoiding the route altogether, further tightening global oil supply chains.

To counter these disruptions, the US administration has adopted a two-pronged strategy—military protection and financial reassurance. Alongside the potential deployment of naval

escorts, Washington has directed the US International Development Finance Corporation to provide political risk insurance and financial guarantees to shipping companies operating in the Gulf. This step is intended to reduce the financial risks associated with navigating conflict-prone waters and encourage vessels to resume transit.

The decision marks one of the most assertive US interventions in global energy security in recent years. It reflects growing urgency within the administration to contain rising oil prices, which have surged since the outbreak of hostilities. The conflict, triggered by joint US and Israeli strikes on Iran, has disrupted oil production and transportation infrastructure across the region, intensifying fears of a prolonged supply shock.

Energy markets have reacted swiftly. Crude oil prices have climbed significantly, while concerns over supply shortages have spread across global economies. The disruption has not only affected oil shipments but has also contributed to broader financial instability, with stock markets experiencing volatility amid uncertainty over the conflict's trajectory.

The Strait's strategic importance cannot be overstated. It serves as a crucial artery for energy exports from major Gulf producers, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates,

and Qatar. Any sustained blockade or threat to shipping in this region has immediate and far-reaching consequences for global energy prices and economic stability.

Iran's posture has added to the uncertainty. Reports indicate that Iranian forces have threatened to target vessels in the region, raising the risk of further escalation. The presence of sea mines, drone attacks, and potential naval confrontations has heightened fears among shipping operators and insurers alike.

Historically, the US has undertaken similar missions to protect oil shipments in times of crisis. During the late 1980s, it launched a large-scale naval operation to escort tankers through the Gulf amid the Iran-Iraq War. That precedent underscores both the feasibility and the risks of such an action, as military involvement in commercial shipping lanes can sometimes lead to unintended confrontations.

Today's situation, however, is more complex. The current conflict involves multiple actors, advanced weaponry, and a highly interconnected global economy that is more sensitive than ever to energy price shocks. Even short-term disruptions can ripple across industries, affecting everything from transportation costs to inflation and consumer prices worldwide.

Despite the announcement of

potential naval escorts, challenges remain. Experts point out that providing continuous protection to commercial vessels across such a busy and strategically sensitive waterway would require significant military resources and coordination with allies. There are also concerns about whether such a move could escalate tensions further, especially if US naval forces come into direct contact with Iranian units.

Additionally, the effectiveness of the insurance measures will depend on how shipping companies assess the risks. While financial guarantees may offset some concerns, the threat of physical attacks could still deter operators from entering the region until stability is restored.

The broader geopolitical implications are equally significant. The US move signals a willingness to take decisive action to secure global energy flows, but it also highlights the fragility of the current situation. As long as the conflict continues, markets are likely to remain volatile, and the risk of further disruptions will persist.

For now, the focus remains on maintaining the "free flow of energy," a phrase repeatedly emphasized by the US administration. Whether through military escorts, financial backing, or diplomatic efforts, the goal is to prevent a full-scale energy crisis that could have severe consequences for economies around the world.

However, much will depend on how the situation evolves in the coming days. If tensions de-escalate, the need for such extraordinary measures may diminish. But if the conflict intensifies, the Strait of Hormuz could become a flashpoint not just for regional confrontation, but for a global economic shock.

In this high-stakes environment, the US decision to step in underscores a stark reality: in an interconnected world, regional conflicts can quickly transform into global crises, with energy security at the center of it all.

Iran's Leadership Shift: Mojtaba Khamenei Emerges Amid War and Uncertainty



Iran is witnessing a dramatic and uncertain transition of power following reports that Mojtaba Khamenei has been chosen as the country's new Supreme Leader. The development comes in the wake of the reported death of his father, Ali Khamenei, during a major escalation involving the United States and Israel. While official confirmation from Tehran remains limited, the reports have already sparked intense global debate about Iran's political future and the implications for regional stability.

The selection of Mojtaba Khamenei is said to have been made by Iran's powerful Assembly of Experts, the body constitutionally responsible for appointing the Supreme Leader. His emergence marks a potentially historic moment for the Islamic Republic, as it could signal the first instance of a quasi-hereditary transfer of power within a system that has long rejected monarchy in principle. Though Iran's leadership structure is theoretically based on clerical merit and religious authority, critics have often warned of increasing centralization of power within a small elite circle.

Mojtaba Khamenei, long considered an influential but shadowy figure, has operated largely behind the scenes for years. Known for his close ties to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), he is believed to have wielded considerable influence over political and security matters even before this reported elevation. His low public profile, however, has made him a relatively opaque figure both domestically and internationally.

The circumstances surrounding the transition are extraordinary. Reports indicate that Ali Khamenei was killed in a joint US-Israel strike, a development that—if fully verified—would mark one of the most consequential moments in Middle Eastern geopolitics in decades. The incident is said to have also resulted in the deaths of members of his family, further deepening the shock within Iran's leadership and society.

Following his death, Iran initially moved to establish an interim leadership council, in line with constitutional provisions

designed to ensure continuity of governance. This council reportedly included senior figures from the judiciary, executive, and religious establishments, tasked with overseeing the transition until a permanent Supreme Leader was selected. However, the process appears to have been accelerated, likely due to the urgent need for centralized authority during a time of military confrontation and internal uncertainty.

Mojtaba Khamenei's rise is not without controversy. Many observers argue that his appointment could intensify concerns about legitimacy within Iran's political system. Unlike his father, who had a long history of public religious and political leadership before assuming power, Mojtaba lacks a comparable public record. This raises questions about his religious credentials and whether they meet the traditional expectations for the role of Supreme Leader.

At the same time, his supporters point to his deep connections within Iran's power structure as a source of strength. His relationship with the IRGC, in particular, may help consolidate authority during a period of heightened external threat. In a system where security considerations often outweigh other factors, such backing could prove decisive in maintaining internal stability.

The broader geopolitical context cannot be ignored. Iran is currently navigating one of its most volatile periods in recent history, with tensions involving the United States and Israel escalating into open confrontation. The leadership transition therefore carries implications not just for Iran, but for the entire region. A new Supreme Leader will play a critical role in shaping Iran's military posture, diplomatic strategy, and response to external pressures.

There are also significant domestic challenges. Iran's economy has been under strain for years due to sanctions, inflation, and structural inefficiencies. A leadership transition of this magnitude could either provide an opportunity for policy recalibration or exacerbate existing uncertainties. Much will depend on how Mojtaba Khamenei positions himself in relation to both reformist and

hardline factions within the country.

Historically, the position of Supreme Leader has been central to Iran's political system, combining religious authority with ultimate control over the military and key state institutions. Ali Khamenei held the role for more than three decades, shaping Iran's domestic and foreign policies in profound ways. His tenure was marked by a consistent emphasis on resistance to Western influence and a commitment to maintaining Iran's regional influence.

The prospect of his son succeeding him introduces a new dynamic. While continuity in ideological direction is likely, the style and priorities of leadership may evolve. Mojtaba Khamenei's relatively limited public exposure means that much about his approach remains unknown. This uncertainty is contributing to both speculation and worry among analysts and policymakers.

International reactions have been cautious but attentive. Governments and observers around the world are closely monitoring developments in Tehran, aware that any shift in Iran's leadership could have far-reaching consequences. From nuclear negotiations to regional alliances, the decisions made in the coming weeks and months will be critical.

In the absence of official confirmation, it is important to treat current reports with caution. Iran's political system is complex, and leadership decisions often involve multiple layers of consultation and negotiation. Nevertheless, the possibility that Mojtaba Khamenei has assumed the role of Supreme Leader represents a significant moment in the country's history.

Ultimately, Iran stands at a crossroads. The combination of external conflict, internal challenges, and a major leadership transition creates a highly uncertain environment. Whether Mojtaba Khamenei can consolidate power, maintain stability, and navigate the country through this turbulent period remains to be seen. What is clear, however, is that the outcome will have lasting implications not only for Iran but for the broader Middle East and the global order.

Markets Tumble as US–Iran Tensions Trigger Sharp Sell-Off



Indian equity markets witnessed a significant downturn amid rising geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran, leading to a broad-based sell-off across sectors. Benchmark indices, including the BSE Sensex and Nifty 50, ended the session deep in the red as investor sentiment weakened.

The Sensex plunged by over 1,100 points, while the Nifty slipped below the crucial 24,500 mark, reflecting heightened uncertainty in global markets. The decline was largely attributed to escalating tensions in the Middle East, which triggered fears of supply disruptions and a spike in crude oil prices. Since India is a major oil importer, any rise in oil prices tends to fuel inflation concerns and put pressure on the economy.

The sell-off was widespread, with most sectoral indices closing lower. Financial stocks bore the brunt of the decline, dragging the benchmarks down. Heavyweights in banking and financial services saw notable losses as investors turned cautious. IT stocks also remained under pressure, while auto and FMCG sectors recorded declines amid weak sentiment.

Market participants were particularly worried about the ripple effects of geopolitical instability on global

growth and trade. Rising crude oil prices added to concerns over input costs for companies and potential pressure on corporate earnings. Investors also remained wary of foreign fund outflows, as global uncertainties tend to push capital towards safer assets.

Broader markets mirrored the weakness seen in benchmark indices. Mid-cap and small-cap stocks also ended lower, indicating that the selling pressure was not limited to large-cap stocks alone. Analysts noted that the sharp fall came after a period of relative stability, suggesting that the current correction was triggered by external factors rather than domestic fundamentals.

Despite the steep decline, some experts believe the fall could be temporary if geopolitical tensions ease. However, in the near term, markets are expected to remain volatile, with global cues playing a decisive role. Investors are advised to stay cautious and focus on fundamentally strong stocks while avoiding panic-driven decisions.

Overall, the session highlighted how sensitive Indian markets remain to global developments, particularly geopolitical risks and fluctuations in crude oil prices.

Airspace Curbs and Rising Fuel Costs Threaten Indian Airlines' Profits



Indian aviation is facing a fresh wave of turbulence as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East disrupt flight operations and push up costs. Airlines such as IndiGo and SpiceJet are among the hardest hit, grappling with airspace closures, mounting cancellations, and surging jet fuel prices—factors that are expected to significantly dent profitability in the near term.

The ongoing tensions have forced several countries in the Middle East to restrict or shut their airspace, compelling airlines to reroute flights. These diversions increase flying time, fuel consumption, and operational complexity. For Indian carriers, which rely heavily on international routes passing through this region, the impact has been immediate and substantial. Flights to parts of Europe and West Asia have either been cancelled or delayed, leading to revenue losses and passenger inconvenience.

The scale of disruption is considerable. Analysts

estimate that a notable portion of airline capacity is being affected. Around 20 percent of IndiGo's operations, roughly 32 percent of SpiceJet's, and an even larger share for some full-service carriers are exposed to these route disruptions. This has forced airlines to rethink schedules, cut frequencies, and absorb higher operational costs, all at a time when margins are already under pressure.

A key concern is the sharp rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs. As flights take longer routes to avoid restricted airspace, fuel consumption increases significantly. ATF already accounts for a major share of an airline's operating expenses, and any sustained rise can quickly erode profitability. The situation is further aggravated by currency weakness, which makes imported fuel more expensive for Indian carriers.

Airlines are also dealing with the cascading effects of cancellations. When flights are grounded or rescheduled, carriers must provide refunds, accom-

modations, or alternative arrangements for passengers. This not only increases costs but also affects brand reputation and customer loyalty. In a competitive market, repeated disruptions can push travelers toward more reliable options, intensifying pressure on already strained airlines.

Another dimension of the crisis is operational uncertainty. Airlines must continuously monitor geopolitical developments and adjust routes accordingly. This dynamic environment makes long-term planning difficult and complicates crew scheduling, aircraft utilization, and maintenance cycles. The unpredictability adds a layer of risk that airlines must factor into their strategies.

Despite these challenges, there are some mitigating factors. Industry experts note that fleet availability is gradually improving after a period marked by engine failures and supply chain disruptions. A higher number of operational aircraft can help airlines manage dis-

ruptions more effectively by providing flexibility in deployment. However, this alone may not be sufficient to offset the broader impact of geopolitical instability.

Financially, the outlook remains cautious. The combined effect of higher fuel costs, disrupted routes, and lower passenger volumes on certain sectors is expected to weigh on earnings in the coming quarters. Some estimates suggest that the aviation sector could face significant profit erosion if the situation persists. Airlines with weaker balance sheets are particularly vulnerable, as they have less capacity to absorb shocks.

The situation also underscores the structural challenges within India's aviation industry. High fuel taxes, intense competition, and thin margins have historically made the sector volatile. External shocks like geopolitical tensions amplify these vulnerabilities, exposing the fragile economics of airline operations.

Looking ahead, much

will depend on how quickly geopolitical tensions ease and airspace restrictions are lifted. A prolonged crisis could force airlines to implement fare hikes to offset rising costs. However, this comes with its own risks, as higher ticket prices may dampen demand, especially in price-sensitive markets like India.

For now, airlines are focused on navigating the immediate crisis—optimizing routes, managing costs, and maintaining service reliability as much as possible. The coming months will be crucial in determining whether the industry can weather this storm or faces a deeper financial strain.

In essence, the convergence of geopolitical disruptions and cost pressures has created a perfect storm for Indian aviation. While the industry has shown resilience in the past, the current challenges highlight the need for greater adaptability and stronger financial buffers to withstand global uncertainties.

Rupee Hits Record Low, Analysts Warn of Further Slide Towards ₹93



The Indian rupee has fallen to a record low against the US dollar, triggering concerns among market participants and analysts about continued depreciation in the near term. The sharp decline reflects a mix of global pressures and domestic vulnerabilities, with experts cautioning that the currency may weaken further to touch the ₹93 mark if current trends persist.

The rupee's fall is largely being driven by strengthening of the US dollar amid global uncertainty and rising geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Middle East. Investors are increasingly moving towards safe-haven assets, boosting the dollar while putting pressure on emerging market currencies like the rupee. Additionally, higher crude oil prices are worsening India's import bill, further straining the currency.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have also contributed to the downward pressure by pulling money out of Indian equities and debt markets. This capital outflow reduces dollar inflows into the country, weakening the rupee. Analysts note that sustained FII selling, combined with global risk aversion, is amplifying volatility in currency markets.

On the domestic front, India's trade

deficit remains a key concern. As a major importer of crude oil, the country is highly sensitive to rising energy prices. When oil prices increase, demand for dollars rises, putting additional pressure on the rupee. At the same time, limited export growth has not been sufficient to offset these pressures.

Experts believe the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to intervene periodically to curb excessive volatility, but may not aggressively defend any specific level. Instead, the central bank is expected to focus on smoothing sharp fluctuations rather than preventing gradual depreciation.

Looking ahead, analysts warn that if global conditions remain unfavorable—particularly if US interest rates stay high and geopolitical tensions escalate—the rupee could continue to weaken. Many forecasts suggest that breaching the ₹93 per dollar level is a real possibility in the coming months.

However, some stability could emerge if crude oil prices ease, capital inflows return, or global risk sentiment improves. Until then, the rupee is expected to remain under pressure, with market participants closely monitoring global cues and central bank actions.

Metal Stocks Sink as Geopolitical Fears Rattle Markets

Heightened geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran triggered a sharp sell-off in Indian equity markets, with metal stocks emerging as some of the worst-hit counters. Investors turned cautious amid fears of a broader global disruption, leading to significant losses across the sector and dragging benchmark indices lower.

The sell-off was particularly severe in the metals space, where companies such as Tata Steel and JSW Steel witnessed steep declines. These stocks figured prominently among the top losers on the Nifty 50, reflecting widespread investor anxiety about the global economic outlook.

The Nifty Metal index tumbled over 4 percent during the session, mirroring the broader pessimism in global commodity markets. Analysts attributed this decline to concerns that escalating conflict in the Middle East could dampen global growth, disrupt supply chains, and reduce demand for industrial metals. Since metal companies are highly sensitive to global economic cycles, they are often the first to react to such uncertainties.

Investor sentiment weakened further due to fears of rising input costs. A potential spike in crude oil prices—often associated with geopolitical instability in the Middle East—could increase production and transportation costs for metal companies. This would, in turn, put pressure on profit margins, especially for firms already grappling with fluctuating global demand.



In addition, a stronger US dollar—another common consequence of global uncertainty—tends to weigh on commodity prices and emerging market equities. Metal stocks, which are closely tied to international pricing benchmarks, often face selling pressure when the dollar strengthens, as it makes commodities more expensive for buyers using other currencies.

Broader market weakness compounded the fall in metal stocks. Benchmark indices declined as investors adopted a risk-off approach, shifting funds away from equities to safer assets. The sell-off was not limited to metals, but the sector bore the brunt due to its cyclical nature and high sensitivity to global developments.

Market participants also pointed to concerns about demand from key economies such as China, a major consumer of metals. Any slowdown in Chinese industrial activity, combined with geopolitical disruptions, could further weaken the outlook for steel and other metal producers. This added another layer of caution among investors, prompting them to reduce exposure to the sector.

The decline in metal stocks comes at a time when the sector had been showing signs of recovery in previous months. Expectations of improved infrastructure spending and steady domestic demand had supported prices, but the sudden escalation in geopolitical tensions has overshadowed these positives.

Experts believe that volatility may persist in the near term as markets closely track developments in the Middle East. Any further escalation could lead to sharper swings in commodity prices, currency movements, and global equities. For metal companies, the outlook will largely depend on how these external factors evolve in the coming weeks.

Despite the near-term challenges, some analysts remain cautiously optimistic about the long-term prospects of the metal sector. Structural drivers such as infrastructure development, urbanisation, and government spending continue to support demand in India. However, in the short term, global uncertainties are likely to dominate

market sentiment.

Investors are therefore advised to remain cautious and focus on fundamentally strong companies with resilient balance sheets. While the current correction may present selective buying opportunities, the broader environment remains fragile, and any investment decisions should take into account the heightened risk levels.

In conclusion, the sharp decline in metal stocks underscores the vulnerability of cyclical sectors to global geopolitical events. As tensions between the US and Iran continue to unfold, markets are likely to remain volatile, with metal stocks staying under pressure until greater clarity emerges on the global economic and political front.

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



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

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

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

The tenant later shared their experience on social media, explaining that they only discovered the alteration by carefully comparing the new agreement with the previous one. They urged others to read rental documents

thoroughly instead of relying solely on verbal assurances from landlords.

Despite maintaining a good relationship with the landlord—paying rent on time and adhering to rules—the tenant felt disappointed by what they viewed as a lack of transparency. After identifying the discrepancy, they decided to vacate the property and informed the landlord of their concerns.

The story quickly gained traction online, with many users sharing similar experiences. Several people reported encountering unexpected changes in agreements, such as longer notice periods, increased security deposits, or additional clauses introduced without proper explanation.

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

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

Giant Python Spotted Swimming Through Flooded Streets in Bali



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

The unusual sight emerged after nearly three days of continuous rain turned roads into streams and residential areas into waterlogged zones. As floodwaters rose, locals and tourists began spotting large snakes moving through the streets, with some reportedly measuring up to five metres in length.

Videos captured from balconies and nearby buildings show the python calmly swimming across submerged roads and villa courtyards, creating a mix of fear and fascination among viewers online. The clips quickly spread across social media, with many users expressing shock at seeing such a large reptile navigating urban floodwaters.

The presence of these snakes is not entirely unusual for the region. Bali is home to several species of large reptiles, including the reticulated python, which is native to Indonesia and known for its strong swimming ability. During extreme weather events like floods, wildlife is often displaced from natural habitats and forced into human-populated areas.

The flooding itself has caused widespread disruption across the island. Streets in several towns became impassable, vehicles were partially submerged, and residential properties experienced water ingress. Authorities issued warnings urging people to avoid flooded areas and remain cautious, as conditions can be unpredictable during intense rainfall.

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

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

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

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



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

In a social media post, the returnee reflected on trading the so-called “American dream” for a life rooted in familiarity, family, and comfort. While life in the US offered pro-

fessional growth, the emotional and practical advantages of living in India ultimately outweighed those benefits.

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

Another major advantage was access to afford-

able and fresh food. The individual appreciated the availability of homemade vegetarian meals and reasonably priced groceries, something they found difficult to maintain in the US.

Equally significant was the ease of hiring domestic help. Services such as cooks and housemaids are far more accessible and affordable in India, contributing to a better work-life balance.

The NRI also highlighted the quality of urban living, particularly in cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Well-maintained gated communities

with modern amenities provided a comfortable and secure lifestyle comparable to global standards. Additionally, the presence of green spaces like Lalbagh Botanical Garden and Cubbon Park added to the appeal of city life.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leveraging this popularity, Mumbai Police shared a series of posts on Instagram that combined the monkey's story with an important public message. The campaign cleverly used the traditional “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” concept, featuring images of monkeys paired with messages like “Bura Mat Dekho,” “Bura Mat Suno,” and



“Bura Mat Kaho.” The final slide included Punch's image along with a strong message encouraging people not to engage in wrongdoing and to report crimes responsibly.

The campaign also introduced catchy phrases and hashtags such as “Just Punch in 112” and

“Wise Monkey Advise,” creatively linking the monkey's name to the helpline number. This wordplay made the message more engaging and easier to remember, especially for younger audiences active on social media.

The 112 helpline is a nationwide emergency num-

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

Delhi Police also joined the trend, using Punch's

story in their own social media outreach. Their message emphasized that help is always available and encouraged people to dial 112 whenever needed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The challenge, which initially seemed manage-



able, quickly became unrealistic. Skipping rope over a million times was clearly impossible for a child. Realising this, Tangdou admitted he could not complete the task and humorously asked his father to help

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

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

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

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

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

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

India vs England Semi-Final: No Room for Error in High-Stakes Wankhede Clash



The much-anticipated T20 World Cup 2026 semi-final between India and England at the iconic Wankhede Stadium is shaping up to be more than just another knockout game—it is a moment of reckoning. With both teams carrying history, pressure, and expectations, the contest promises intensity where even the smallest mistake could prove decisive.

India enter the semi-final as defending champions, but their campaign has not been flawless. While they have shown resilience—most notably in their crucial win over West Indies to secure a semi-final spot—there are lingering concerns. The top order has struggled with consistency, often failing to provide strong starts. This has put added pressure on the middle order, which, although capable, cannot always be relied upon to rescue the team in high-pressure knockout matches.

One of the biggest concerns has been fielding lapses. Dropped catches and missed opportunities have threatened to derail India's momentum at key

moments. In a knockout game against a team like England cricket team, such errors could prove fatal. The phrase “thirteen drops, one reckoning” reflects the underlying reality—India may not get away with repeated mistakes this time.

Despite these concerns, India's strengths remain formidable. Their middle order, packed with explosive hitters, has the ability to change games in a matter of overs. The bowling unit, led by experienced pacers and complemented by quality spin options, has been effective in containing opposition teams and picking up crucial wickets. If both departments click together, India can be a very difficult side to beat.

England, on the other hand, come into the contest with growing confidence. After a shaky start to the tournament, they have found rhythm at the right time. Their batting lineup is deep and aggressive, capable of taking on any bowling attack. Their all-round strength adds balance to the team, making them a well-rounded and danger-

ous opponent.

Importantly, England are not overawed by the occasion. Many of their players have experience of playing in Indian conditions through franchise cricket, which reduces the home advantage factor. Their mindset heading into the semi-final is clear—they see this as an opportunity rather than a challenge.

History adds another compelling layer to this clash. This is the third consecutive T20 World Cup where India and England meet in the semi-finals. Interestingly, in recent editions, the winner of this encounter has often gone on to lift the trophy, making this match feel like an unofficial final.

The venue itself could play a crucial role. Wankhede Stadium is known for its batting-friendly conditions, short boundaries, and high-scoring matches. While this suits aggressive batting sides like England, it also aligns well with India's strength in chasing targets. However, the pitch can also assist bowlers early on, making the powerplay phase extremely important.

For India, the key will be execution under pressure. They must address their fielding concerns, ensure a solid start with the bat, and maintain discipline with the ball. Any slip-up could shift momentum instantly in a format as unpredictable as T20 cricket.

England, meanwhile, will look to exploit India's vulnerabilities. Early wickets, aggressive intent, and sharp fielding could tilt the balance in their favour. Their ability to stay composed in big matches makes them a dangerous opponent.

Ultimately, this semi-final is not just about skill—it is about temperament. Knockout games often come down to handling pressure, and both teams have experienced both triumph and heartbreak in similar situations.

As the two sides prepare to face off, one thing is certain: there is no margin for error. In a contest where every run, catch, and decision counts, only the team that holds its nerve will move one step closer to the T20 World Cup title.

“You Fossils Complained”: Dinesh Karthik Takes Aim at England Legends After Pakistan Exit



Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik stirred a lively debate during the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 after taking a sharp and humorous dig at former England captains Nasser Hussain and Michael Atherton following Pakistan's early exit from the tournament.

Pakistan's campaign ended in disappointment as they failed to qualify for the semi-finals. Their journey in the Super 8 stage saw a rain-affected match against New Zealand, a defeat to England, and a win over Sri Lanka. However, it wasn't enough, as net run rate ultimately cost them a place in the knockout stage.

Karthik, who has been part of the commentary panel, used the opportunity to revisit a debate from the previous year. During the 2025 Champions Trophy, Hussain and Atherton had suggested that India benefited from playing all their matches at a single venue in Dubai, calling it an “advantage” that contributed to their title-winning run.

Drawing a parallel, Karthik pointed out that Pakistan enjoyed a similar situation in this tournament. Due to political tensions, Pakistan played all their matches in Colombo, stayed at the same hotel, and became well-acquainted with local conditions. Yet, despite these perceived advantages, they failed to progress.

In a witty remark, Karthik said that by the same logic used earlier, Pakistan should have performed much better. His “you fossils complained” comment, directed at the English duo, was delivered in a light-hearted tone but carried a pointed message about consistency in analysis.

The remark quickly gained attention for its blend of humor and critique. Karthik essentially challenged the narrative that familiarity with conditions alone determines success in major tournaments. Instead, he emphasized

that performance, skill, and execution under pressure are far more decisive factors.

The exchange also highlighted a broader conversation in cricket about perceived advantages in global tournaments. Scheduling, venues, and travel have often been debated topics, especially in competitions involving multiple host nations. However, Karthik's response underscored that such factors cannot overshadow the importance of on-field performance.

Interestingly, both Hussain and Atherton appeared to take the comment in good spirit, laughing it off during the discussion. This reflected the camaraderie often seen among former players, even when opinions clash.

Pakistan's exit, meanwhile, has sparked criticism back home, with questions being raised about team selection, consistency, and strategy. Despite having talented players and seemingly favorable conditions, the team could not deliver when it mattered most.

Karthik's remarks have added an extra layer of intrigue to the ongoing tournament, especially with India set to face England in a high-stakes semi-final. The timing of his comments has only intensified interest in the contest, given the involvement of the same English voices he addressed.

Beyond the humor, the incident serves as a reminder of how narratives in cricket can quickly shift. What may be considered an “advantage” in one context can lose relevance if results do not follow. Ultimately, tournaments are decided by performance on the field, not by external conditions alone.

As the T20 World Cup heads into its decisive phase, moments like these continue to add color to the competition—blending on-field action with off-field banter, and keeping fans engaged both in play and in conversation.

T20 World Cup Sets New Viewership Record, ICC Chair Jay Shah Says “Humbled” by Global Response



The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 has achieved a historic milestone by recording the highest-ever global viewership in the tournament's history, underlining the growing popularity of cricket's shortest format across the world.

According to ICC Chair Jay Shah, the tournament has surpassed all previous editions in terms of audience reach, marking a significant moment for international cricket. Expressing his reaction, Shah said he was “humbled” by the overwhelming response from fans worldwide, acknowledging their role in making the event a global success.

The record-breaking numbers highlight the

expanding appeal of T20 cricket, which continues to attract viewers across diverse regions. The format's fast-paced nature, shorter duration, and entertainment value have made it particularly popular among younger audiences and new cricket-following markets.

The surge in viewership also reflects cricket's strengthening presence beyond its traditional strongholds. While countries like India remain key contributors to the sport's global audience, growing interest in regions such as the United States, the Middle East, and parts of Europe has significantly boosted overall numbers.

Broadcast and digital platforms have played a crucial role in driving en-

agement. With matches being widely accessible across television and streaming services, fans have been able to follow the tournament more easily than ever before. The integration of digital media, real-time highlights, and interactive content has further enhanced the viewing experience.

This achievement carries major commercial implications as well. Higher viewership translates into increased value for broadcasters, advertisers, and sponsors, reinforcing the T20 World Cup's position as one of the most lucrative events in international cricket. It also strengthens the ICC's ability to invest in the development and

global expansion of the game.

The success of the 2026 edition builds on the momentum created by previous tournaments, which have consistently seen rising audience numbers. However, this year's record indicates a new level of global engagement, suggesting that the sport is entering a phase of rapid growth and wider acceptance.

Industry experts believe that such milestones will encourage further innovation in how cricket is packaged and delivered to audiences. From improved broadcast technologies to fan-centric initiatives, the focus is likely to remain on making the sport more accessible and engaging.

For the ICC, the record viewership serves as both a validation of its strategies and a motivation to continue expanding the game's global footprint. With more countries showing interest in cricket and international tournaments drawing increasing attention, the future of the sport appears promising.

As the T20 World Cup continues to captivate fans worldwide, this achievement stands as a testament to cricket's evolving appeal and its ability to connect with audiences across cultures and continents.

India's T20 World Cup Semi-Final Record: A Mixed Tale of Triumphs and Heartbreaks

India's journey in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-finals has been a story of brilliance, missed opportunities, and unforgettable moments. Over the years, the team has frequently reached the knockout stage, showcasing consistency in the shortest format, but their record in semi-finals reflects a mixed performance.

India first made a major impact in the inaugural 2007 T20 World Cup. Under the leadership of a young side, they defeated Australia in the semi-final and went on to lift the title. That victory remains one of the most iconic moments in Indian cricket history, setting the tone for the country's dominance in T20 cricket.

However, the years that followed saw fluctuating fortunes. In the 2010 and 2012 editions, India failed to reach the semi-finals, struggling to maintain consistency in crucial matches. Their next significant semi-final appearance came in 2014, where they delivered a strong performance against South Africa to reach the final. Although they eventually lost the title clash, the semi-final win highlighted India's ability to handle pressure on big occasions.

The 2016 T20 World Cup, held in India, brought both hope and disappointment.



The team entered the semi-final as one of the favorites but suffered a defeat against the West Indies. Despite strong performances throughout the tournament, India could not cross the final hurdle, leaving fans disappointed.

A similar pattern continued in the 2022 edition when India once again reached the semi-finals, only to be comprehensively beaten by England. The loss exposed gaps in both batting and bowling, raising questions about the team's approach in knockout matches.

India's fortunes changed in the 2024 T20 World Cup, where they not only reached the semi-finals but went on to win the tournament. Their ability to handle high-pressure situa-

tions and deliver as a unit played a crucial role in ending their long wait for another T20 World Cup title.

Overall, India has had a strong presence in T20 World Cup semi-finals, reaching this stage multiple times across different editions. However, their conversion rate—turning semi-final appearances into titles—has not always matched expectations. While they have produced memorable wins, crucial losses have also defined their journey.

In the ongoing 2026 T20 World Cup, India has once again reached the semi-finals after a dramatic campaign, including a crucial win over West Indies powered by a match-winning knock from Sanju Samson. Their upcoming clash

against England is particularly significant, as history suggests that the winner of such encounters often goes on to lift the trophy.

As India prepares for yet another semi-final challenge, the focus will be on maintaining composure, executing plans effectively, and overcoming the psychological barrier that has troubled them in the past. With a balanced squad and recent momentum, they have a strong chance to add another successful chapter to their semi-final legacy.

India's semi-final record in T20 World Cups ultimately reflects both their strength as a cricketing powerhouse and the unpredictable nature of the format—where a single game can define the fate of even the best teams.

Manchu Manoj Set to Turn Villain for Balakrishna in Gopichand Malineni's Next Big Film



In an exciting development for Telugu cinema, actor Manchu Manoj is reportedly gearing up to take on a negative role in an upcoming film starring Nandamuri Balakrishna, to be directed by Gopichand Malineni. The project, tentatively referred to as NBK111, has already generated significant buzz among fans, and this casting choice is expected to elevate expectations even further.

The film marks another collaboration between Balakrishna and director Gopichand Malineni, who previously delivered a mass entertainer with Veera Simha Reddy. That film showcased Balakrishna in a powerful dual role and was well received by his fan base for its action-packed narrative and strong screen presence. With this new venture, the duo is said to be aiming for an even bigger cinematic experience, possibly set against a historical or larger-than-life backdrop.

Manchu Manoj's inclusion as the antagonist is particularly noteworthy because it signals a significant shift in his career trajectory. Known primarily for his roles as a hero, Manoj has in recent times shown a willingness to experiment with diverse characters.

Taking on a villain role in a high-profile film alongside Balakrishna could mark a turning point, allowing him to showcase a darker and more intense side of his acting abilities.

Industry insiders suggest that Manoj's character will not be a conventional antagonist but one with depth and strong motivations, making the face-off between him and Balakrishna more compelling. Such layered antagonists have increasingly become a trend in mainstream cinema, offering audiences more nuanced storytelling rather than a simple good-versus-evil narrative.

The film is expected to be mounted on a grand scale, with high production values and a strong supporting cast. Reports have also hinted at the involvement of a leading actress, further adding to the film's appeal. Director Gopichand Malineni, known for blending commercial elements with engaging storytelling, is likely to craft a script that balances action, emotion, and drama.

For Balakrishna, this project continues a successful phase in his career, where he has consistently delivered films that resonate with mass audiences. His collabora-

tion with Malineni has already proven to be fruitful, and expectations are high that their next outing will build on that momentum.

Meanwhile, for Manchu Manoj, this role could redefine his on-screen image. Playing a villain opposite a star like Balakrishna presents both a challenge and an opportunity. If executed well, it could open doors for more versatile roles in the future and position him as a formidable performer capable of handling complex characters.

The announcement has sparked excitement among fans of both actors, who are eager to see how this fresh pairing unfolds on screen. The prospect of a powerful hero-versus-villain dynamic, backed by a strong director and large-scale production, makes this film one of the most anticipated projects in the Telugu film industry.

As more details about the cast, storyline, and release timeline emerge, the film is expected to remain in the spotlight. With a combination of star power, intriguing casting, and a proven director at the helm, this upcoming project promises to deliver a gripping cinematic experience.

South Indian Actresses Call Out Inappropriate Media Camera Angles

A group of prominent South Indian actresses, including Sapthami Gowda, Rukmini Vasanth, and Ashika Ranganath, have voiced their strong displeasure over what they describe as "inappropriate and disrespectful" camera angles used by sections of the media during public events.

The issue reportedly came to light during recent film-related events and promotional gatherings, where photographers and videographers were accused of deliberately capturing angles that made the actresses uncomfortable. The actors expressed concern that such practices not only invade personal boundaries but also shift focus away from their professional work.

Sapthami Gowda emphasized that while public appearances are part of an actor's career, there should be mutual respect between celebrities and media professionals. She pointed out that such intrusive coverage can create an unsafe and awkward environment, especially during crowded events where artists already have limited control over their surroundings.

Rukmini Vasanth echoed similar sentiments, stating that it contributes to the objectification of women in the industry. She called for stricter guidelines and ethical standards in media coverage, particularly at film events where multiple cameras are present.

The actresses collectively



highlighted that this is not an isolated issue but something many female artists face regularly. They urged industry bodies and event organizers to take proactive measures to ensure safer and more respectful working conditions.

Their statements have sparked a wider conversation within the film fraternity and among fans, with many supporting the actresses for speaking up. Social media users have also criticized unethical media practices and called for accountability.

As discussions continue, this incident has once again brought attention to the need for professionalism, consent, and dignity in entertainment journalism. The actresses hope their voices will lead to meaningful change, encouraging a more respectful interaction between media and artists in the future.

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Newlyweds Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna Share Heartwarming Lunch with Fans in Hyderabad

Fresh from their much-celebrated wedding, popular Telugu film stars Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna delighted fans by hosting a special lunch gathering in Hyderabad, creating memorable moments and strengthening their bond with admirers.

The couple, who recently tied the knot in a private yet widely talked-about ceremony, chose to celebrate their new phase of life by engaging directly with fans. The event, held in Hyderabad, turned into an emotional and joyous occasion as the actors personally interacted with attendees, greeting them warmly and spending quality time.

Unlike typical celebrity appearances that often maintain a certain distance, Vijay and Rashmika broke barriers by mingling freely with fans. They were seen smiling, chatting, and even posing for photographs, making each guest feel valued. The atmosphere was relaxed and cheerful, reflecting the couple's genuine affection for their supporters.

Fans who attended the lunch described the experience as un-



forgettable. Many expressed happiness at being able to meet their favourite stars up close, especially during such a significant moment in their lives. The couple's humility and friendliness stood out, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.

The gathering was not just about food but about connection. Vijay and Rashmika ensured that they interacted with as many people as possible, moving across tables and engaging in conversations. Their efforts to make the event inclusive and personal highlighted their ap-

preciation for the love they have received over the years.

This gesture comes shortly after their wedding, which had already captured public attention across the country. Their relationship, which had long been the subject of speculation, officially culminated in marriage, drawing excitement from fans and the film industry alike. By hosting this lunch, the couple extended their celebrations beyond family and close friends to include their admirers.

Both actors have enjoyed significant success in Telugu cine-

ma and beyond. Their on-screen chemistry in films like Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade has been widely appreciated, contributing to their popularity as a pair. Their real-life union has only amplified the affection fans feel for them.

The Hyderabad event also showcased a different side of celebrity culture, where stars actively engage with their audience in meaningful ways. In an era where interactions are often limited to social media, such in-person gestures stand out and create deeper emotional connections.

For Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna, the lunch was more than a celebratory event—it was a way to acknowledge the role their fans have played in their journey. By sharing this special moment with them, the couple reinforced their image as grounded and approachable personalities in the industry.

As they step into married life, this heartfelt interaction has set a positive tone, with fans eagerly looking forward to both their personal and professional milestones ahead.

Innovative Ticket Offer Announced for 'Sampradayini Suppini Suddapooani' Ahead of Release



The makers of the upcoming Telugu film Sampradayini Suppini Suddapooani have unveiled a special and attractive ticket pricing strategy aimed at drawing audiences back to theatres. The initiative is being seen as a fresh attempt to boost footfall and make cinema more affordable for families.

The film, starring actor Sivaji in the lead role, is gearing up for its theatrical release on March 6. As part of its promotions, the production team has introduced a unique family ticket package designed to encourage group viewing experiences.

Under this offer, a group of four people can watch the film for a combined ticket price of approximately Rs 499. The package also includes complimentary refreshments such as popcorn, making it a value-for-money deal for moviegoers. This bundled pricing model is expected to appeal particularly to mid-

dle-class families looking for affordable entertainment options.

The move comes at a time when the film industry has been experimenting with various strategies to revive theatre attendance following fluctuations in audience turnout. Rising ticket prices and the growing popularity of OTT platforms have made it increasingly challenging for filmmakers to ensure strong box office openings. By offering discounted group tickets, the makers are attempting to make the theatrical experience more accessible and attractive.

"Sampradayini Suppini Suddapooani" is described as a dark comedy with elements of crime and family drama. The story revolves around a traditional middle-class family that unexpectedly finds itself entangled in unusual and chaotic situations. With a mix of humor and suspense, the film aims to present a relatable yet entertaining

narrative.

The cast also includes well-known actors such as Laya, Ali, and several popular comedians, adding to the film's appeal among a wide audience base. The combination of a familiar family-centric storyline and comedic elements is expected to resonate strongly with viewers.

Industry observers believe that such innovative pricing strategies could play a crucial role in reviving theatre culture, especially for small and medium-budget films. If successful, this model may inspire other filmmakers to adopt similar approaches in the future.

As anticipation builds, all eyes are on how audiences respond not just to the film's content, but also to this experimental ticketing approach. The success of this initiative could signal a shift in how movies are marketed and consumed in the evolving entertainment landscape.

Toxic Delay Gives Dhurandhar 2 a Clear Run, Boosting Box Office Prospects

The postponement of Yash's much-anticipated film Toxic has significantly reshaped the box office landscape, offering a major advantage to Dhurandhar 2, starring Ranveer Singh. Originally set for a high-stakes clash in March 2026, the two big-ticket films were expected to compete fiercely for audience attention and revenue. However, with Toxic now pushed to June, Dhurandhar 2 finds itself in a far more favorable position.

The decision to delay Toxic comes amid global uncertainties, particularly tensions in the Middle East, which have had ripple effects across industries, including entertainment. The makers opted to avoid potential disruptions and ensure a smoother release window. While this move may benefit Toxic in the long run by allowing more time for promotions and market expansion, it has, in the short term, handed Dhurandhar 2 a strategic upper hand.

Initially, the simultaneous release of both films was seen as a potential box office showdown. Industry experts had predicted that the clash could divide audiences and impact overall earnings, even though both films carried strong hype. With that competition now removed, Dhurandhar 2 is poised



to enjoy a solo release, which is often considered ideal for maximizing theatrical performance.

The impact of this shift is already visible, especially in overseas markets. Advance bookings for Dhurandhar 2 have shown a sharp increase, particularly in North America. Reports indicate a significant surge in ticket sales within a short span, reflecting growing audience interest. The film has crossed notable pre-sale milestones well ahead of its release, suggesting strong opening prospects.

This surge can largely be attributed to the absence of a competing blockbuster. With no direct rival, Dhurandhar 2 is likely to benefit from wider screen availability and increased showtimes. This not only enhances visibility but also boosts revenue potential during the crucial opening weekend.

The film's timing further

strengthens its position. Scheduled for release during a festive period, it stands to gain from holiday footfall, which traditionally drives higher cinema attendance. A clear release window combined with festive momentum creates an ideal environment for box office success.

Meanwhile, the delay of Toxic allows its makers to recalibrate their strategy. The new release date in June provides additional time for post-production work, marketing campaigns, and international outreach. While the postponement may have disappointed some fans, many have viewed it as a practical and well-considered decision given the circumstances.

From a broader industry perspective, this development highlights how external factors can influence film releases and box office dynamics. Unforeseen

global events, logistical challenges, and market conditions often force filmmakers to rethink schedules. In this case, the ripple effect of one film's delay has directly benefited another.

For Dhurandhar 2, the opportunity is significant. The film already carries strong expectations as a sequel to a highly successful predecessor. With heightened buzz, expanding pre-sales, and no immediate competition, it is well-positioned to deliver a strong performance both domestically and internationally.

At the same time, the postponement underscores the unpredictable nature of the film business. While strategic planning plays a crucial role, external variables can quickly alter the landscape. Producers and distributors must remain flexible, adapting to changing conditions to optimize outcomes.

As things stand, Dhurandhar 2 appears set for a powerful box office run, benefiting from a rare combination of factors—solo release, strong demand, and favorable timing. Whether it can fully capitalize on this advantage will depend on audience reception and word of mouth after release.

For now, however, the delay of Toxic has cleared the path, giving Dhurandhar 2 a golden opportunity to dominate the box office and set new benchmarks.