



BUZZ POINTS

Gold Set for Second Weekly Loss as Strong Dollar, High Yields Weigh



BUZZ POINTS

DGP Presents ABCD Awards to Police Officers for Excellence in Crime Detection



PAGE 02

Justice Lisa Gill Sworn In as AP High Court Judge



PAGE 03

250 kg Single-Use Plastic Collected in Special Drive in Vijayawada

PAGE 04

Foundation Laid for Development Works Worth ₹4.10 Crore in K. Gangavaram

PAGE 05

₹6,000 Released to Farmers Under Annadata Sukhibhava 3.0

Amaravati/Surampalli, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Stating that the prosperity of the state depends on the happiness of farmers, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu said the coalition government is committed to farmer welfare and agricultural development.

The minister made these remarks while participating in the fund release programme held at Surampalli village in Gannavaram constituency of Krishna district on Friday.

He said around 46.85 lakh farmers have benefited from the latest installment, with the Centre and the state government jointly spending ₹2,676 crore for the distribution.

The minister explained that the government had already released the first installment of ₹7,000 to farmers on August 2, 2025, benefiting lakhs of cultivators across the state.



With the release of ₹6,000 in the third phase, the government has completed the promised annual financial assistance of ₹20,000 to farmers.

Atchannaaidu stated that the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme has become a strong support system for farmers by helping them meet agricultural investment costs and ensuring financial stability.

The minister also said the government is taking steps to ensure that fertilizers are supplied to farmers on time by co-ordinating with the Centre to avoid shortages.

He further stated that the coalition government is reviving irrigation projects that were ne-

glected in the past. Major projects such as Polavaram Project and Veligonda Project are being expedited to improve irrigation facilities in the state.

The minister highlighted that the government has implemented a system to credit payments to farmers within 24 hours after the procurement of paddy.

He added that ₹588 crore has been spent under the price stabilization fund for crops like onions and cocoa.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Atchannaaidu said farmer welfare remains the top priority and ensuring the prosperity of farmers will ultimately lead to the prosperity of the state.



Lokesh Warns Strict Action Over Midday Meal Issues

Amaravati, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh has warned that strict action will be taken against anyone responsible for lapses in the quality of food served under the government's midday meal programme in schools across the state.

During a review meeting with officials of the Education Department, the minister emphasized that the health and wellbeing of students studying in government schools is a top priority for the government.

Lokesh made it clear that any negligence in the preparation, quality, hygiene, or distribution of meals would not be tolerated.

The minister also reviewed a recent incident reported from a government school in Taraka Ramanagar in Mylavaram of NTR district, where concerns were raised about the quality of the midday meal served to students.

According to officials, the issue had created concern among parents and local residents after information about the incident spread widely. Lokesh stressed that while genuine issues must be addressed immediately, attempts to spread misinformation or create unnecessary panic about the programme would also be dealt with seriously.

He said the midday meal scheme plays an important role in improving school attendance and ensuring that children receive proper nutrition.

Lokesh instructed the education department to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure regular inspections at schools to maintain quality standards.

The minister emphasized that every child studying in a government school deserves safe, healthy, and nutritious food.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Lokesh said the administration will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the scheme and ensure that strict accountability is maintained at every level to protect the interests of students.

Chandrababu Condolences Former DGP H.J. Dora's Demise

Amaravati, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep grief over the demise of former Director General of Police H. J. Dora, stating that the state has lost a distinguished and dedicated police officer.

In a condolence message, the Chief Minister said he was saddened to learn about the passing of Dora and remembered his valuable contributions to the police department during his long and distinguished career.

H. J. Dora was a senior officer of the Indian Police Service and had served as the Director General of Police of the then united Andhra Pradesh.



tions in the police department and earned recognition for his leadership and administrative abilities.

The Chief Minister recalled that Dora had earlier worked as an intelligence officer during the tenure of former Chief Minister N. T. Rama Rao.

Naidu particularly noted Dora's role in maintaining law and order in the state during challenging times.



former DGP had contributed significantly to improving policing standards and enhancing the efficiency of the police force.

The Chief Minister also praised Dora's dedication to public service and said that his work had left a lasting impact on the state's policing system.

fraternity.

Dora had reportedly been facing health issues in recent months and passed away while undergoing treatment in Hyderabad.

Expressing sympathy to the bereaved family, Chandrababu Naidu conveyed his heartfelt condolences and prayed for strength for them to bear the loss.

The passing of H. J. Dora marks the end of an important chapter in the history of the Andhra Pradesh Police, with many remembering him as a disciplined and dedicated officer who served the state with distinction.

Modi Flags Off Amrit Bharat Train Linking Assam with Telugu States

New Delhi, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Amrit Bharat Express train connecting Assam with the Telugu-speaking states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, significantly enhancing long-distance railway connectivity between the Northeast and southern India.

The new train service will operate between Kamakhya Railway Station and Charlapalli Railway Terminal. The Prime Minister flagged off the inaugural service during an official programme in Assam, marking a major step toward improving transport links between the northeastern region and the Telugu states.

Railway officials said the Amrit Bharat train is designed to provide affordable long-distance travel with sleeper class



and general second-class coaches, making it accessible for a large number of passengers.

The train will pass through several key stations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, improving accessibility for passengers traveling between the Northeast and the southern states.



route include Srikakulam Road Railway Station, Vizianagaram Junction Railway Station, Duvvada Railway Station, Samalkot Junction Railway Station, Rajahmundry Railway Station, Vijayawada Junction Railway Station, Guntur Junction Railway Station and Nalgonda Railway Station before reaching its final destination in Hyderabad.

Officials stated that the new rail service will greatly benefit passengers traveling between the Northeast and the

Telugu states by providing a direct and economical transportation option. It is also expected to boost tourism, trade and cultural exchanges between the regions.

The launch of the Amrit Bharat Express reflects the government's focus on expanding railway connectivity, improving passenger facilities and strengthening national integration by linking distant regions of the country through efficient rail networks.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta Expresses Condolences Over the Demise of Former DGP H.J. Dora

Amaravati, March 13 | TPN Bureau



said that Dora had established strong traditions and administrative reforms within the police department that continue to guide the functioning of the force even today.

Describing him as a symbol of discipline and dedication, the DGP said that Dora's passing is an irreparable loss to the police department. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

Harish Kumar Gupta further stated that the Andhra Pradesh Police Department would continue to follow the principles and traditions established by H.J. Dora and remain committed to serving the public with greater dedication.

He also praised Dora's life as an example of values, credibility, honesty, and commitment, noting that his legacy would continue to inspire future generations of police officers.

Recalling his personal association with the late officer, the DGP

He also praised Dora's life as an example of values, credibility, honesty, and commitment, noting that his legacy would continue to inspire future generations of police officers.

Several senior police officials also expressed their grief over the demise of the former DGP. They recalled their association with H.J. Dora and paid rich tributes in honour of his contributions and service to the police department.

The statement was issued by the office of the Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, at Mangalagiri.

BITS Pilani Representatives Meet Minister Narayana Over Amaravati Campus Plans



Amaravathi 13.03 2026 TPN Bureau:

Representatives from Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani met Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana in Amaravati and briefed him about the proposed campus to be established in the state capital region.

During the meeting, the BITS representatives explained the architectural designs and development plans for the buildings that will be constructed in the new campus. They informed the minister that the institute plans to build a modern AI+ campus equipped with advanced infrastructure and research facilities.

According to the proposal, the campus will be developed on about 70 acres of land located along the Seed Axis Road between Mandadam and Venkata-palem villages in Amaravati. The project aims to create a world-class educational and research environment that will focus on emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence and advanced scientific research.

The representatives also in-

formed Minister Narayana that the campus will be developed in three phases. Each phase will include academic blocks, research centers, hostels, and other facilities required for a fully functional international-standard university campus.

Officials stated that once construction begins, the first phase of the project is expected to be completed within two-and-a-half years. They assured the minister that the institution is planning to start the first batch of admissions soon after the completion of the initial phase.

Minister Narayana welcomed the initiative and appreciated BITS Pilani's decision to establish a campus in Amaravati. He said that bringing globally reputed institutions like BITS to the capital region will strengthen higher education, research, and innovation in Andhra Pradesh.

The minister also assured full support from the state government for the project and stated that such educational institutions would play a crucial role in transforming Amaravati into a major knowledge and technology hub in the future.

Foundation Stone Laid for Fire Station in Amaravati Capital Region



Amaravathi 13.03 2026 TPN Bureau:

The Andhra Pradesh government has taken another step towards strengthening emergency infrastructure in the capital region with the foundation stone laying for a new fire station in Amaravati. The fire station will be constructed at Nelapadu within the Amaravati Government Complex (AGC), where several important administrative buildings including the Legislative Assembly and the High Court are being developed.

The foundation stone for the project was laid on Friday morning by P. V. Ramana. The fire station will be built on a 50-cent site and will play a key role in ensuring quick emergency response and fire safety in the capital region.

According to officials, the facility will be constructed by the Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corporation at an estimated cost of ₹1.28 crore. The project forms part of the state government's broader plan to establish fire stations at multiple locations across Amaravati in order to strengthen disaster management and public safety infrastructure.

The proposed fire station is strategically located inside the Amaravati Government Complex, which is emerging as the administrative hub of the state. Major government buildings, including the Legislative Assembly and the High Court, are currently under construction in the area. Officials said the presence of a dedicated fire station within the complex will significantly enhance emergency preparedness and ensure

the safety of government institutions, employees, and visitors.

Senior officials from the Fire Services Department and other agencies attended the foundation stone laying ceremony. Among those present were Guntur District Fire Officer Srinivasa Reddy, DFO (CRDA) T. Srinivas, and engineers from the AP Police Housing Corporation, including the Executive Engineer and Deputy Engineer overseeing the project.

Authorities stated that the construction of the fire station has been planned to meet modern fire safety standards and will be equipped with the necessary fire-fighting equipment and emergency response facilities. Once operational, the station will provide rapid response services not only to the Amaravati Government Complex but also to surrounding areas within the capital region.

Officials further informed that the construction work is expected to progress quickly and the fire station is scheduled to be completed by November 2026.

The establishment of this fire station is part of the government's ongoing efforts to develop Amaravati with essential civic infrastructure alongside administrative buildings. With the capital city witnessing rapid development, such facilities are considered crucial to ensure safety, efficient emergency response, and protection of public and government assets.

The programme concluded with officials expressing confidence that the project will strengthen fire safety mechanisms in the capital region once completed.

DGP Presents ABCD Awards to Police Officers for Excellence in Crime Detection



Amaravathi 13.03 2026 TPN Bureau:

The Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta presented the ABCD (Awards for Best in Crime Detection) awards to police officers who demonstrated exceptional performance in solving complex criminal cases using advanced investigative techniques and innovative methods. The awards ceremony was held at the Andhra Pradesh State Police Headquarters in Amaravati.

These awards are intended to recognize police officers who have successfully solved challenging cases and ensured swift justice by adopting modern technology and effective investigative strategies. For the fourth quarter of 2025, four outstanding cases from across the state were selected for the awards.

The selection process was carried out under the supervision of CID DGP Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, who carefully examined the background of the cases, the investigation process, and the technological methods used to crack them.

First Prize:

The first prize was awarded to the team led by Prakasham District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju, IPS for solving a suspi-

cious death case in the Maddipadu Police Station limits. Initially registered as a suspicious death, the case involved an unidentified woman found dead under mysterious circumstances. Based on post-mortem and forensic reports, investigators discovered that the woman had been sexually assaulted and murdered. The police team used missing persons data from various police stations to identify the victim. By analyzing call data records and other technical evidence, the investigators successfully traced and arrested the accused persons, leading to the successful resolution of the case.

Second Prize:

The second prize was presented to the team led by GRP Guntakal SP Rahul Dev Singh, IPS for solving a major theft case that occurred on Train No. 12760 Charminar Express. A passenger reported that a bag containing gold jewellery, watches, and cash worth ₹48.5 lakh was stolen while he was asleep during the journey. The police team analyzed CCTV footage along the railway route and identified suspicious movements of the accused at Warangal Railway Station. Further investigation revealed that the accused had arrived at the sta-

tion on a bike and boarded the train to commit the theft. Using technical evidence, police traced the bike number and discovered it was registered as a Rapido bike. By questioning the Rapido rider and following leads obtained from him, police identified and arrested the accused, successfully recovering property worth ₹48.10 lakh.

Third Prize:

The third prize was awarded to the CID Cyber Crime team led by SP Adhiraj Singh Rana, IPS, for busting an international cybercrime network. During the investigation conducted with the support of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT), police uncovered a SIM Box racket. The investigation revealed the involvement of two foreign accused, 11 local operators, and seven SIM card aggregators. The accused used SIM boxes to convert international VoIP calls into local calls, enabling fraudsters to cheat victims by making the calls appear as if they originated from Indian mobile numbers. Foreign criminals reportedly communicated instructions to local operators through Telegram and WhatsApp. During the operation, police seized 14 SIM boxes, 1,496 SIM cards, mobile phones, rout-

ers, and other equipment. Authorities estimated that the fraud had caused losses of nearly ₹20 crore in Andhra Pradesh alone.

Consolation Prize:

A consolation prize was awarded to the team led by Tirupati District SP L. Subbarayudu, IPS for solving a murder case in the Gajulamandam Police Station limits. Police registered a case after an unidentified body with hands and legs tied was found in a water sump inside an abandoned building. Using clues team analysis and CCTV footage from surrounding areas, the police identified the victim and arrested the accused within four days.

Speaking on the occasion, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta appreciated the dedication and professionalism of the officers and staff involved in these investigations. He said that solving complex crimes using modern technology and intelligence not only ensures justice for victims but also enhances the credibility and reputation of the police department. He congratulated the award-winning officers and encouraged them to continue serving the public with commitment and integrity.

Opposition Spreading False Propaganda Over Investments in Andhra Pradesh: Ministers



Amaravathi 13.03 2026 TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Ministers Kollu Ravindra and B.C. Janardhan Reddy on Friday accused the opposition of spreading false propaganda against the state government over industrial investments and development projects. They said the opposition was unable to digest the growing investment-friendly environment in the state and the influx of large-scale investments.

Addressing a joint press conference at the Publicity Cell in Block-5 of the Secretariat, the ministers dismissed allegations that the Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour was being privatized. They said the claims made by opposition leaders were completely baseless and intended to mislead the public. The ministers also warned that attempts to obstruct the state's progress would not be tolerated.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy, who holds the Roads & Buildings, Investments and Infrastructure portfolio, clarified that the fishing harbour remains under the control of the government's Fisheries Department. He explained that out of the 114 acres and 13 cents of land allocated for the harbour, only seven acres had been given to Sagar Defence Engineering Limited for technology integration related to maritime activities. He added that the remaining 22 acres allotted to the company are outside the harbour area.

The minister said the project would benefit fishermen by providing modern communication systems and weather information. With the help of satellites, drones and advanced technology, fishermen operating in deep sea would receive

better navigation and safety updates.

Janardhan Reddy further said that the Sagar Defence project is expected to bring investments worth ₹2,500 to ₹3,000 crore to the state. However, he alleged that leaders of the opposition party were spreading misinformation because they did not want industries to enter Andhra Pradesh. According to him, investors are now showing interest in the state due to the leadership and credibility of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh.

He also stated that the government is granting industrial approvals quickly through the single-window system and that several pending port projects in the state would be completed soon.

The minister assured fisher-

men that the harbour project would only strengthen their livelihoods and would not cause any loss to them. He said the government had already held multiple meetings with local fishermen to gather their suggestions before proceeding with the development works.

Later, Excise, Mines and Geology Minister Kollu Ravindra warned that strict action would be taken against those spreading misinformation about the construction of an autonomous maritime shipyard near the Juvvaladinne harbour. He said the coalition government was taking significant steps toward industrial growth since coming to power.

Ravindra said the proposed unit would manufacture AI-based autonomous vessels, including unmanned surface and underwater vehicles, which would have strategic importance in the country's defence sector. The project, he said, would create new opportunities in the shipping and maritime industries.

He alleged that opposition leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was deliberately trying to obstruct investments in the state. Ravindra added that while the opposition is criticizing the project now, it had failed to complete the harbour during its five-year rule.

The minister reiterated that the government remains committed to the welfare of fishermen and has already implemented several measures, including financial assistance during fishing ban periods, pension benefits, insurance coverage, and diesel subsidies. He emphasized that the coalition government would continue to work for the development of the fisheries sector while attracting industries that support coastal economic growth.

Supreme Court Dismisses Petition in Tirumala Laddu Controversy

Amaravathi 13.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

The Supreme Court of India has dismissed a petition related to the controversy surrounding the famous Tirumala laddu prasadam, stating that it would not interfere while investigations into the matter are still ongoing. The decision comes amid continuing debate over allegations regarding the quality of ghee used in preparing the laddus distributed at the temple.

The case relates to claims that adulterated ghee may have been supplied for the preparation of laddus at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams temple complex in Tirumala, which is one of the most visited pilgrimage centres in the world. The controversy had sparked political debate and legal petitions seeking action against individuals accused of spreading allegations or misinformation about the sacred prasadam.

During the hearing, the court declined to entertain the plea seeking action against people making public statements regarding the alleged presence of animal fat or chemicals in the laddu prasadam. The bench observed that a criminal case has already been registered and the matter is currently under investigation by the concerned authorities.

The Supreme Court emphasized that it would be inappropriate for the judiciary to intervene while investigative agencies are examining the issue. The court advised that if anyone has credible evidence regarding the allegations, it



should be submitted to the investigating agency instead of seeking judicial intervention at this stage.

Earlier, the controversy gained attention after accusations were made about possible adulteration in the ghee used to prepare the laddus offered to devotees. In response, authorities initiated probes to verify the claims and identify any irregularities in the supply chain. The matter has since been under investigation by

specialized agencies to determine whether there was any wrongdoing.

Legal experts say the Supreme Court's decision effectively allows the investigation to proceed without interference from the court. By dismissing the petition, the bench signaled that the proper course of action is to allow investigative bodies to complete their inquiry and establish the facts before any further legal action is considered.

The Tirumala laddu is considered a sacred offering associated with the temple of Lord Venkateswara, and millions of devotees receive it as prasadam every year. Due to its religious significance, any allegation regarding its purity has drawn widespread public attention.

Officials have assured devotees that steps are being taken to maintain strict quality control and transparency in the preparation of prasadam while the investigation continues.

Clashes Between Jana Sena and YSRCP Activists in Machilipatnam



Amaravathi 13.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Tension prevailed in Machilipatnam town after activists of the Jana Sena Party and YSR Congress Party clashed during a political programme. The incident created a brief law-and-order situation in the area, prompting police to intervene and bring the situation under control.

According to reports, the clash broke out when Jana Sena activists were reportedly organizing a party-related activity in the town. During the programme, arguments erupted between supporters of the two parties, which soon escalated into a physical confrontation. Activists from both sides allegedly pushed and attacked each other, leading to chaos at the scene.

Eyewitnesses said the situation intensified within minutes as both groups gathered in larger numbers and began shouting slogans against each other. The confrontation led to tension in the surrounding area and disrupted normal activity for some time. Local residents expressed concern as the altercation unfolded in a busy part of the town.

Police personnel rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident. They intervened quickly to disperse the

groups and prevent the clash from escalating further. Authorities brought the situation under control and restored normalcy in the area.

Some activists from both sides reportedly sustained minor injuries during the scuffle. However, no serious injuries were reported. Police officials stated that they were examining the circumstances that led to the confrontation and were identifying those involved in the clash.

Officials also warned political activists against taking the law into their own hands and said strict action would be taken if anyone attempted to disturb public peace. Additional police personnel were deployed in the area as a precautionary measure to prevent further tensions.

Political clashes between party workers are not uncommon in Andhra Pradesh, especially during political programmes or protests where rival supporters gather in close proximity. Authorities have appealed to party leaders to ensure that their supporters maintain discipline during public events.

Police said they are monitoring the situation closely and will take appropriate legal action based on the findings of the investigation.

Justice Lisa Gill Sworn In as AP High Court Judge

Amaravati, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Justice Lisa Gill was sworn in as a judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday in a formal ceremony held at the High Court premises in Amaravati. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur in the presence of fellow judges, senior advocates, and members of the legal fraternity.

Justice Lisa Gill was transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court from the Punjab and Haryana High Court following a recommendation by the Supreme Court collegium. Her appointment is considered significant as she is expected to take over as the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court after the retirement of Chief Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur in the coming weeks.

With this development, Justice Gill is likely to create history by becoming the first woman Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The transfer was reportedly planned in advance to allow her to famil-



iarize herself with the functioning and administration of the court before assuming the top position.

Born in Chandigarh, Justice Gill pursued her legal education at Panjab University. She enrolled as an advocate in 1990 and began her legal career at the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Over the years, she handled a wide range of cases covering civil, criminal, constitu-

tional, and service matters, earning recognition for her legal expertise and commitment to the profession.

Justice Gill was elevated as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2014. During her tenure there, she presided over several important cases and gained extensive judicial experience across different branches of law. Her long career in the legal field has earned her

respect among colleagues and members of the Bar.

The swearing-in ceremony at the Andhra Pradesh High Court was attended by several prominent personalities from the legal community, including senior advocates, representatives of the Bar associations, and court officials. Many members of the legal fraternity welcomed her appointment and expressed confidence in her leadership.

Justice Gill's arrival at the Andhra Pradesh High Court comes at an important time as the institution prepares for a leadership transition. Her experience and administrative capabilities are expected to contribute to the effective functioning of the court and strengthen the delivery of justice in the state.

With her likely elevation as Chief Justice in the near future, the Andhra Pradesh High Court is set to witness a historic milestone, marking a significant step forward in the representation of women in the higher judiciary.

Perni Nani Slams Andhra Pradesh Government Over Financial Mismanagement and False Claims

Amaravathi 13.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

YSRCP leader and former minister Perni Nani today delivered a sharp critique of the Andhra Pradesh government's handling of the state's finances and questioned the accuracy of its claims regarding debt levels and economic management. He raised his concerns during a public meeting, accusing the current administration of misleading the public and misreporting crucial financial data.

Addressing the gathering, Perni Nani took aim at State Finance Minister Payyavula Kesava, referring to him sarcastically as the "minister of debts." He alleged that the government was spreading "pure falsehoods" about the state's financial position and challenged officials to provide proof of their assertions. According to Nani, official government claims that Andhra Pradesh has accumulated ₹3.27 lakh crore in debt are misleading, and he asserted that the true figure is closer to just ₹1 lakh crore. He demanded that the Principal Secretary of the Finance Department clarify the figures within a week.

Nani also threatened to take the matter to the central author-



ities if the government failed to explain the discrepancies in its accounting. "If the government cannot back its figures with evidence, it should not mislead the people," he stated.

In addition to the financial critique, Perni Nani raised concerns over social issues, including the increased harassment of

women in the state. He alleged that despite complaints, authorities have been slow to take action. Referring to remarks made by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Nani questioned whether promises to protect women had been forgotten in practice.

Education and childhood welfare were also part of his criti-

cism. Nani cited the Mylavaram school incident, claiming it demonstrated ongoing problems with the quality of hostel food provided in educational institutions. "If children are not receiving proper meals at school, how can we claim to care for their well-being?" he asked.

Perni Nani also commented on state policies regarding public subsidies and incentives. He argued that the government was giving unwarranted benefits — including discounts on electricity bills and incentives for heritage companies — while neglecting broader economic stability.

Further, he expressed strong opposition to the appointment of B.R. Naidu as Chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), questioning how someone with alleged improper associations could be entrusted with such a sacred position.

The speech sparked debate in political circles, with supporters praising Nani for holding the government accountable, while critics called for calm and urged reliance on verified data before making public accusations.

Roja Criticises Pawan Kalyan for Skipping AP Cabinet Meeting



Amaravathi 13.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Minister and senior YSRCP leader R.K. Roja has sharply criticised Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for his absence at a key Andhra Pradesh cabinet meeting, accusing him of neglecting his responsibilities at a critical time for governance.

Roja, who holds a prominent position in the State Cabinet, stated that every minister has a duty to participate actively in governance proceedings and collective decision-making. The cabinet meeting, which was chaired by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and attended by most senior ministers, discussed a range of development and welfare issues facing the state. Roja expressed dismay that Pawan Kalyan, who serves as Deputy Chief Minister, was not present for the deliberations.

According to Roja, attending cabinet meetings is not merely a formality but an essential part of policymaking and governance. She reiterated that ministers must prioritise their administrative responsibilities over political signalling or absence. Her comments reflect growing political tensions within the state, especially as the ruling coalition seeks to present a unified front on policy decisions.

Although details explaining Pawan Kalyan's absence were not officially disclosed at the press briefing, Roja suggested that such behaviour sends the wrong mes-

sage to the public about the seriousness with which elected leaders treat governance duties. She emphasised that collective responsibility and teamwork are cornerstones of effective governance and that senior leaders should model these values.

Political analysts say that the remarks by Roja came amid broader rivalry between the ruling YSRCP and opposition parties, including the Jana Sena Party led by Pawan Kalyan. In recent years, Roja has been vocal on several occasions, offering pointed critiques of Pawan Kalyan's political choices and actions on issues ranging from social welfare to administrative engagement.

Roja's response to the absence at the cabinet meeting has triggered discussions across political circles, with supporters of both sides debating over social media and news platforms. Proponents of the Deputy Chief Minister have argued that in a busy political schedule, occasional absences are inevitable. In contrast, Roja's supporters claim that her scrutiny reinforces accountability among public officials.

The exchange underlines the tense atmosphere in Andhra Pradesh politics ahead of key developmental and electoral milestones, where political parties continue to use every platform to underline perceived strengths and weaknesses of their rivals.

Ugadi and Vasantha Navaratri Celebrations at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Temple

Amaravathi 13.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

The temple authorities of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam at Indrakeeladri, Vijayawada have announced a series of special religious events in connection with the Ugadi festival and the Vasantha Navaratri celebrations. The festivities will begin on March 19, 2026, marking the Ugadi festival of the Sri Parabhava Nama year, and will continue until March 28, 2026 with various spiritual and cultural programs.

According to the temple administration, the celebrations will include special Pushparchanas (floral offerings), Vedic rituals, and traditional ceremonies conducted as per the recommendations of the temple's Vedic committee. Devotees from across the state are expected to participate in large numbers and seek the blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga and Lord Malleswara Swamy.

On March 19 (Thursday), the Ugadi festival will be celebrated with great devotion. The rituals will begin early in the morning at 3:00 a.m. with Snapana Abhishekam for Goddess Durga and the deities in the temple's sub-shrines. This will be followed by decoration, archana, naivedyam, and harati. Devotees will be allowed to have darshan of the Goddess from 8:00 a.m. onwards.

Later in the morning at 9:15 a.m., Kalasha Sthapana and Special Pushparchana will be performed at the new prayer hall in the temple premises. In the afternoon at 3:00 p.m., the traditional Panchanga Sravanam (reading of the new almanac) will be conducted at the temple's Kalavedika. In the evening, Mandapa Puja, Agni Pratishta, and Rudra Homam will be performed at the Yagasala at 4:00 p.m. The day's celebrations will conclude with the Vendi Rathotsavam (Silver Chariot Procession) at 6:00 p.m., which will begin from the Sri Mallikarjuna Mahamandapam and pass through important streets around the temple area



before returning to the starting point. On March 26, on the occasion of Chaitra Shuddha Ashtami, special Abhishekam and Nagavalli Dalarcana (betel leaf worship) will be performed at 6:00 a.m. for Kshetrapalaka Sri Anjaneya Swamy, Sri Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy, and the Anjaneya Swamy idol located near the temple steps. The temple will celebrate Sri

Rama Navami on March 27, during which the Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam will be performed at 10:00 a.m. at the Kalavedika. This sacred ritual commemorates the divine wedding of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita and is expected to attract a large number of devotees. The Vasantha Navaratri celebrations will conclude on March 28 with Purnahuti at 9:00 a.m., marking the completion of the sacred rituals. This will be followed by the ceremonial Pattabishekam of Lord Rama at 10:00 a.m. As part of the celebrations, special Pushparchanas will be conducted daily at 9:00 a.m. from March 19 to March 27, with different varieties of flowers offered to the Goddess each day. These include jasmine, roses, chrysanthemum, lotus, kanakambaram, sampangi, and other sacred flowers. Devotees can participate in the Special Pushparchana Seva, which is priced at ₹2,500 per couple. Participants will receive prasadam including sacred cloth, blouse piece, Sri Chakra Peetham, one large laddu, and special inner sanctum darshan. Tickets for the seva can be booked through the temple's official website www.kanakadurgamma.org or obtained from the Arjitha Seva counters at the temple. Temple Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi) and Executive Officer V.K. Seena Nayak, Special Grade Deputy Collector, appealed to devotees to participate in the festivities and seek the divine blessings of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy.

Do Not Ignore Dizziness; Vertigo Can Be Controlled with Proper Treatment: Dr. P. S. N. Murthy



Amaravathi 13.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Renowned Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist Dr. P. S. N. Murthy advised people not to ignore dizziness or vertigo by assuming it to be a minor health issue. He stated that with timely diagnosis, proper medical tests, and appropriate treatment, vertigo can be effectively controlled and managed.

Dr. Murthy made these remarks while delivering a talk on the topic "Vertigo (Dizziness)" at the 1358th Weekly Health Seminar held at Vasavya Nursing Home in Vijayawada. The seminar was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Samaram.

Explaining the condition, Dr. Murthy said vertigo is not just a simple feeling of dizziness but a sign that there may be a disturbance in the body's balance system. He noted that when vertigo occurs, a person may experience a spinning sensation, as if their head is rotating or the surroundings are moving around them. Such symptoms can significantly affect a person's daily activities and overall quality of life.

According to Dr. Murthy, vertigo is commonly caused by problems in the inner ear or the nervous system, particularly issues related to the vestibular system that helps maintain body balance. He explained that conditions such as Meniere's disease, ear infections, sudden changes in blood pressure, and migraine can also lead to vertigo. In some cases, disorders affect-

ing the nervous system may also be responsible for the condition.

He pointed out that vertigo is more commonly observed among elderly people, although it can occur in individuals of any age group. Common symptoms include a spinning sensation, difficulty maintaining balance while walking, nausea, vomiting, excessive sweating, and ringing sounds in the ears. If these symptoms appear repeatedly, medical consultation should be sought immediately.

Dr. Murthy said that diagnosing vertigo usually involves detailed ear examinations and neurological evaluations. In some cases, doctors may recommend advanced diagnostic tests such as MRI scans to identify the underlying cause. Once the cause is identified, appropriate treatment can be provided, which may include medication, lifestyle modifications, or specific therapies.

He emphasized that people should not ignore dizziness or delay treatment, as early diagnosis plays a crucial role in effective management. Maintaining healthy lifestyle habits such as controlling blood pressure and blood sugar levels, getting adequate sleep, following a balanced diet, and reducing stress can also help prevent vertigo.

During the seminar, Dr. Murthy interacted with participants and answered several questions related to vertigo, helping them better understand the condition and the importance of timely medical care.

AP Police Honour Personnel with DGP Commendation Discs for Bravery

Amaravathi 13.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

The Andhra Pradesh Police Department on Friday announced the "DGP Commendation Disc - 2026" awards for police personnel who demonstrated exceptional service and outstanding performance in the line of duty. The awards, presented annually, recognize police officers and staff for their bravery, dedication, and commitment to service. The honours are given in three categories — Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

So far this year, three police personnel have been selected in the Bronze category. The awards were presented by Harish Kumar Gupta at a programme held at the DGP headquarters.

The commendation discs were awarded to M. Krishnakumar (PC-2223) of the Vijayawada City Task Force, M.V. Saradhi Naik (HC-2381) of Krishnalanka Police Station, Vijayawada, and P. Manohar (HC-95) from the EAGLE wing for their courageous action during Operation Vajraprahar.

According to officials, the incident occurred on March 7 in the jurisdiction of Krishnalanka



Police Station, under NTR District. Police teams were conducting inspections at a private hotel dormitory near the Pandit Nehru Bus Station when they entered Room No. 9 and noticed suspicious behaviour from a man identified as Kanakam Murali, a resident of Warangal district in Telangana.

When questioned by the police, the suspect allegedly pushed a head constable aside

and attempted to take out a firearm from his bag and open fire. However, the weapon failed to discharge due to a technical malfunction that prevented the trigger mechanism from functioning.

Taking advantage of the moment, the accused tried to escape while threatening to shoot people around him. The police personnel immediately chased him and, displaying remarkable

courage and presence of mind, managed to overpower and apprehend him despite the risk to their own lives.

Commending their bravery, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta said the officers showed exceptional courage and professionalism while performing their duty. He noted that their alertness and determination in apprehending the accused without allowing any harm to the public were highly praiseworthy.

The DGP also stated that such acts of dedication and bravery serve as an inspiration for other members of the police force and strengthen the department's commitment to ensuring public safety.

Several senior police officials attended the award ceremony, including Rajeev Kumar Meena, Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, Additional Director General of Police for Law and Order N. Madhusudana Reddy, EAGLE Chief A. K. Ravi Krishna, and S. V. Rajasekhara Babu, along with other senior officers.

The statement was issued by the office of the Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, at Mangalagiri.

250 kg Single-Use Plastic Collected in Special Drive in Vijayawada



Amaravathi 13.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

A special collection drive to gather discarded single-use plastic was conducted near the Kanaka Durga Temple in Vijayawada on Friday morning. The initiative was organized by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) in association with Coca-Cola Beverages as part of efforts to create awareness about the ban on single-use plastics.

The program was carried out under the instructions of VMC Commissioner Dhyana Chandra and supervised by Zonal Commissioner K. Shammie. Officials and volunteers participated in the drive and collected plastic waste, particularly single-use beverage bottles that are often discarded after consumption.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Commissioner K. Shammie said the municipal corporation has been actively conducting awareness programs to educate the public about the harmful effects of single-use plastics and the need to reduce their usage. She explained that the special collection drive was aimed at encouraging people to dispose of plastic waste responsibly and to promote environmental protection.

As part of the drive, officials and volunteers collected plastic bottles

and other single-use plastic items discarded by visitors near the temple premises. According to the officials, around 250 kilograms of single-use plastic was collected during the program.

K. Shammie said the corporation is organizing such activities regularly across the city to strengthen public awareness about the plastic ban and encourage citizens to adopt eco-friendly alternatives. She urged residents and visitors to cooperate with the municipal corporation by avoiding single-use plastics and supporting cleanliness initiatives.

The drive was conducted in collaboration with Coca-Cola Beverages, which partnered with the municipal corporation to support waste collection and environmental awareness activities.

Tusharanjan Pattnaik, National Head of Coca-Cola Beverages, representatives of the organization's foundation, NGO members, and Sanitary Supervisor Somiraju participated in the program along with municipal staff.

Officials said similar awareness and collection drives will be conducted in other parts of the city in the coming days to reduce plastic pollution and maintain a cleaner environment in Vijayawada.

Molla Mamba's Life an Inspiration to All: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Amaravathi 13.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said the life and literary contributions of the first Telugu poetess Molla Mamba serve as an inspiration to everyone. He noted that with her immense knowledge and literary talent, she rendered the Ramayana in simple and easy Telugu, making it accessible even to common people and introducing them to the beauty of literature.

The Collector made these remarks while participating in the birth anniversary celebrations of poetess Molla Mamba, organized on Friday at the Sri Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall in the District Collectorate. The program was conducted under the auspices of the Backward Classes Welfare Department.

On the occasion, Dr. Lakshmisha, along with officials, paid rich tributes to Molla Mamba by garlanding her portrait and recalling her remarkable contributions to Telugu literature. He said Molla Mamba holds a special place in the history of



Telugu literature for her unique style of writing and her ability to present complex epic narratives in a language that was simple and understandable to the common people. The Collector explained that

Molla Ramayanam, written by Molla Mamba, continues to remain one of the most popular and widely respected works in Telugu literature. He noted that the work stands as a fine example of classical Telugu poetry

and reflects the cultural richness and literary heritage of the language.

He further said that Molla Mamba's dedication, knowledge, and literary brilliance have made her one of the most respected poetesses in Telugu history. Her efforts to bring sacred epics like the Ramayana closer to ordinary people have earned her lasting recognition and admiration among literary scholars and readers alike.

During the program, officials remembered the lasting impact of Molla Mamba's writings and emphasized the need to introduce her works and legacy to younger generations. They said her life story continues to inspire aspiring writers and literature lovers across the state.

District Revenue Officer M. Lakshmi Narasimham, officials from the Backward Classes Welfare Department, representatives from various government departments, and Collectorate staff participated in the event and paid their respects to the legendary poetess.

Financial Assistance Credited to Farmers' Accounts in Nidadavole under PM Kisan-Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme

Nidadavole, March 13: TPN Bureau:
State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh participated in the "PM Kisan-Annadata Sukhibhava" programme held in Nidadavole town on Friday and announced that financial assistance has been credited to the accounts of farmers in the constituency.

Speaking at a meeting organized at the Taluka Rice Millers Association Function Hall near the railway station, the minister stated that a total of ₹10.75 crore has been deposited into the bank accounts of 19,368 farmers as the third installment, with each farmer receiving ₹6,000 for the year 2025-26. The amount includes ₹2,000 from the Central Government and ₹4,000 from the State Government.



The minister explained that under the scheme, farmers have been receiving financial support in three installments. So far, each farmer has received ₹20,000 in total, which includes ₹14,000 from the State Government and ₹6,000 from the Central Government. He added that in the Nidadavole constituency alone, the government has provided ₹37.83 crore to farmers through three installments.

Providing further details, the minister said 7,748 farmers in Nidadavole mandal received ₹4.38 crore, 7,039 farmers in Peravali mandal received ₹3.75 crore, and 4,581 farmers in Undrajavaram mandal received ₹2.62 crore under the scheme.

Minister Kandula Durgesh stated that the coalition government is committed to the welfare of farmers and is working with sincerity to strengthen the agricultural sector. He alleged that the previous government had promised ₹12,500 annually but provided only ₹7,500 in installments, while the present government is ensuring that farmers receive a total of ₹20,000 with the support of the Centre.

He also said the government is supporting farmers through various initiatives such as subsidized fertilizers, agricultural equipment, drone technology, and training in natural farming methods. He noted that the state is encouraging farmers to adopt natural farming practices to improve soil health and crop productivity.

The minister further assured farmers not to worry about the remunerative price for cocoa crops, stating that the government will stand by them and take necessary steps to safeguard their interests.

Durgesh also reiterated that the Polavaram project will be completed by June 2027, which

will provide irrigation benefits to farmers across the region.

Earlier in the day, the minister visited a gosala (cow shelter) and a natural farming field in Korumamidi village, where he interacted with farmers and examined organic farming practices.

Local farmers expressed happiness over the financial support provided through the scheme. The programme was attended by local public representatives, officials from agriculture and horticulture departments, coalition leaders, and farmers.

Foundation Laid for Development Works Worth ₹4.10 Crore in K. Gangavaram



K. Gangavaram, March 13 TPN Bureau:
Development works are progressing rapidly in the Ramachandrapuram constituency of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, said coalition party senior leader Vasamshetty Satyam on Friday.

He laid the foundation stone for the construction of two BT roads in K. Gangavaram mandal, which will be taken up at a total cost of ₹4.10 crore. The programme was attended by AMC Chairman Akkala Rishwanth Ray, Jana Sena in-charge Polishetti Chandrasekhar, and other coalition party leaders.

According to officials, the road development works include the Kotipalli-Pillanka road, which will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹3 crore, and the Pamaru-Utrumilli road, which will be taken up with an expenditure of ₹1.10 crore. With the laying of the foundation stones, the construction works have been formally initiated.

Speaking on the occasion, Vasamshetty Satyam said that several development programmes are being implemented in the Ramachandrapuram constituency keeping in view the needs of the people. He stated that the efforts of State Labour Minister Vasam-

shetty Subhash have played a key role in securing substantial funds for the constituency.

Satyam said that in the last 20 months, nearly ₹220 crore has been brought to the constituency for various development works. He added that the government is focusing on strengthening infrastructure in rural areas by improving roads, drinking water facilities, and other basic amenities, which will help improve the living standards of the people.

He also noted that road connectivity plays an important role in rural development and will benefit farmers, students, and local residents by ensuring better transportation and access to essential services.

Local leaders expressed confidence that the new road projects would significantly improve connectivity between villages and make travel easier for residents in the region.

The programme was attended by MPP Pampana Nagamani, Swachh Andhra Director Saladi Ramesh, Amalapuram Parliament Secretary Sirra Suresh, Revu Srinu, coalition party leaders, party workers, and local residents.

Digital Media Policy Needed to Promote Welfare Schemes: IMAI Representatives

Velagapudi, March 13:
Representatives of the Internet and Mobile Association of India met Andhra Pradesh Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Kolu Parthasarathy at the State Secretariat in Velagapudi and emphasized the need for a digital media policy to effectively promote government welfare schemes and development programmes across the state.

During the meeting, the IMAI delegation explained that digital platforms have become an essential medium for communication in the modern era. With the increasing use of smartphones and internet-based services, digital media offers a powerful and cost-effective way to reach people, including those in remote rural areas. The representatives said that government initiatives and development activities could be communicated more efficiently through websites, mobile applications, and other digital platforms.

They pointed out that several states such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand have already implemented digital media policies to promote government



programmes. According to them, these policies have helped governments spread awareness about welfare schemes and development initiatives more effectively among citizens.

The IMAI representatives stated that the Andhra Pradesh government has been implementing several welfare programmes and development projects for the benefit of the

public. They suggested that a structured digital media policy would help present these initiatives clearly and consistently to people across the state. They also expressed their willingness to work with the government in strengthening digital outreach once such a policy is introduced.

The delegation further requested the state government to recognize digital media plat-

forms on par with print and electronic media. They said such recognition would enable digital media organizations to contribute more effectively in disseminating information about government schemes and public initiatives.

Responding to their request, Minister Kolu Parthasarathy said he would discuss the matter with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and explore the possibility of introducing a digital media policy in the state. He assured the delegation that he would make efforts to ensure a positive response from the government in the near future.

The IMAI representatives thanked the minister for hearing their suggestions and expressed hope that the government would soon take a favourable decision.

Those who met the minister included Mukesh Singh from Indian Express Group, K.L.N. Raghu from Way2News, Sumit Sethi from Times Internet, Ashwani Saini from Inshorts, Naresh Gaulikar from Network18, along with Subhajit Dasgupta and Nadir Kantwala representing the Internet and Mobile Association of India.

CPM Continues 16th Day of Public Awareness March in Narasapuram, Raises People's Issues



Narasapuram Town, March 13, 2026 TPN Bureau:
The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) continued its 16th day of the public awareness march in Narasapuram town and mandal, highlighting the government's failure to provide basic amenities, particularly safe drinking water, to citizens.

D. Ramadevi, a member of the CPM Central Committee, criticized the state government, saying, "The government should be ashamed of not providing safe drinking water to the public. While our agenda is people-centric, Chandrababu's agenda is corporate-centric. We will unite public resentment and launch a mass movement if needed."

The march, led by CPM West Godavari District Secretary J.N.V. Gopalan, is organized under the district committee and has been receiving enthusiastic support from citizens. Locals, including women, senior citizens, workers, and lecturers, approached the marchers with petitions highlighting their problems. Requests ranged from college preservation, handloom workers' protection, salary increments for RWSS employees, to basic amenities in Rustumbad government colony.

The marchers also inspected a drinking water tank in Lakshmaneswaram, after receiving complaints about water scarcity in the area. Authorities assured them of positive action.

Speaking at the event, D. Ramadevi stated that the 26-day march across West Godavari district will conclude on March 23, marking a significant step in the public movement. She lamented that even basic facilities like safe drinking water are not ensured by the government. Ramadevi pointed out that several water sources are contaminated, and the government has failed to maintain them. She also questioned the delays in completing projects such as Polavaram and Visweshwaram.

J.N.V. Gopalan highlighted the disparity in government initiatives, saying, "While the wealthy are allotted land systematically, the poor are still waiting for house patts. Even houses without titles are being served notices by authorities."

The march saw participation from CPM district committee members including Kauru Peddiraju, Jakkam Shetty Satyanarayana, Gorl Ramakrishna, P. Poorna, E. Ajay Kumari, Surnidu Venkateswara Rao, K. Kranti Babu, Mamidi Shetty Ramanjaneyulu, along with local leaders, ward and mandal secretaries, and grassroots workers.

The CPM leadership reiterated that the march is aimed at uniting citizens to demand basic rights and accountability from the government, particularly in areas such as water, sanitation, housing, pensions, and livelihood protection.

Lokesh Initiative Brings Promotions to APSP Personnel

Amaravati, March 13 | TPN Bureau
In a move that brought relief and joy to several police families, the initiative taken by Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh has led to long-awaited promotions for personnel serving in the Andhra Pradesh Special Police (APSP).

According to officials, the issue of pending promotions for APSP staff had been awaiting resolution for a considerable period. Many personnel had been serving in the force for years without receiving promotions despite fulfilling eligibility requirements. The delay had created frustration among employees who had been hoping for career advancement and better service conditions.

Taking note of the matter, Lokesh reportedly intervened and pushed for a swift resolution to the long-standing issue. Following his initiative, the concerned authorities processed the pending cases and cleared the promotions of eligible personnel.

The decision has reportedly benefited around 300 APSP personnel, bringing happiness to their families and boosting morale within the force. Many of the staff members expressed



gratitude to the minister for addressing the issue and ensuring that their long-pending demands were fulfilled.

Police personnel stated that promotions play a crucial role not only in career growth but also in improving motivation and efficiency within the department. They noted that delays in promotions can affect morale and reduce enthusiasm among employees who dedicate

their lives to maintaining law and order.

Officials said the government recognizes the sacrifices made by police personnel and is committed to addressing their service-related concerns. By clearing the promotions, the administration has taken a step toward strengthening the welfare of police staff and improving the functioning of the department.

Sources indicated that Lokesh had directed officials to review the matter carefully and ensure that eligible APSP personnel receive their due promotions without unnecessary delay. The initiative was aimed at ensuring fairness and maintaining transparency in the promotion process.

The move has been welcomed by members of the police community, who said it reflects the government's willingness to respond to genuine concerns raised by employees. Several APSP personnel and their families conveyed their appreciation to the minister for taking personal interest in resolving the issue.

Observers believe that such decisions not only improve staff morale but also enhance efficiency in the police force. When personnel feel that their service is recognized and rewarded, it strengthens their commitment to duty.

With the promotions now approved, the affected personnel are expected to assume their new roles soon, marking an important step forward in their careers while reinforcing confidence in the government's approach toward employee welfare.

Trump, Netanyahu and the Iran War: A Strategic Gamble Turning Risky

The ongoing confrontation involving Iran, Israel, and the United States has sparked a crucial debate in global politics: is former U.S. President Donald Trump beginning to question the wisdom of supporting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's aggressive strategy against Iran? What initially appeared to be a swift and decisive military campaign is increasingly turning into a complicated and potentially costly conflict with uncertain consequences.

A War Born from Strategic Calculations

The roots of the conflict lie in a series of political and strategic calculations made by leaders in Washington and Tel Aviv. In recent months, internal protests and political unrest within Iran created an impression among some international observers that the Iranian government was vulnerable. Israeli leadership believed that this moment provided a rare opportunity to significantly weaken Iran's political and military establishment.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has long regarded Iran as Israel's most serious security threat. Concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions, missile capabilities, and its support for militant groups across the Middle East have shaped Israel's security doctrine for decades. From Israel's perspective, confronting Iran directly could potentially eliminate or significantly weaken this long-standing threat.

Donald Trump, who has often favored bold and direct approaches in foreign policy, appeared willing to support Israel's position. The belief among supporters of the strategy was that strong military pressure could weaken Iran's leadership, encourage internal unrest, and possibly trigger political change within the country.

With these assumptions in mind, the United States and Israel launched a series of coordinated military strikes targeting Iran's military installations, missile systems,

and strategic infrastructure. The campaign was presented as a limited but powerful operation intended to dismantle Iran's military capabilities and force its leadership into submission.

Iran's Unexpected Resilience

However, the conflict did not unfold exactly as expected. Instead of collapsing under the pressure of military strikes, Iran responded with force. Iranian missile and drone attacks targeted various strategic locations in the region, including military installations and shipping routes. These retaliatory strikes demonstrated that Iran still possessed significant military capabilities despite the initial attacks.

More importantly, the expectation that Iranian society would quickly turn against its leadership has not materialized in the way some strategists predicted. While many Iranians have expressed dissatisfaction with their government over economic and political issues, foreign military attacks often produce a different reaction. External threats can create a sense of national unity, strengthening support for the country's leadership rather than weakening it.

As a result, the Iranian government has managed to maintain its authority and project defiance in the face of military pressure. Instead of showing signs of immediate collapse, the leadership has vowed to continue resisting external intervention and defend the country's sovereignty.

Different Political Incentives

The war also reflects different political calculations in Israel and the United States. For Netanyahu, confrontation with Iran aligns with long-standing national security priorities. Israeli leaders have consistently warned about Iran's growing regional influence and potential nuclear capabilities. A conflict with Iran reinforces Israel's

argument that it faces a major existential threat that requires decisive action.

Domestic politics may also play a role in shaping Israel's approach. During times of war or national security crises, political leaders often gain greater public support as the country rallies behind its government. In such circumstances, internal political disputes can temporarily fade into the background.

The situation is somewhat different for the United States. While Washington initially presented the operation as swift and decisive, the financial and strategic costs of the conflict are becoming increasingly evident. Military campaigns involving advanced weapons systems, logistics, and regional deployments are extremely expensive. If the conflict continues for an extended period, the financial burden on the United States could grow significantly.

The Problem of an Unclear Endgame

One of the most significant challenges facing the U.S.-Israel strategy is the lack of a clearly defined long-term objective. Military strikes can damage infrastructure and weaken an opponent's capabilities, but they do not automatically produce political change.

If the ultimate goal of the campaign is to force regime change in Iran, that objective raises difficult questions. Removing or weakening a government is only the first step in a much larger and more complicated process. Without a detailed plan for what comes afterward, such strategies can create instability rather than lasting solutions.

History has shown that military victories do not always translate into political success. Even if Iran's military infrastructure suffers heavy damage, the country's leadership could survive and eventually rebuild its capabilities. In that case, the conflict might achieve only temporary gains while creating



long-term tensions.

Economic and Global Consequences

The conflict also has broader implications for the global economy. The Middle East remains one of the world's most important energy-producing regions, and any large-scale military confrontation there can disrupt global oil markets. Even the possibility of escalation can cause sharp fluctuations in energy prices.

Higher oil prices affect economies across the world, increasing transportation costs, raising inflation, and slowing economic growth. For the United States and its allies, these economic consequences could become a major concern if the conflict drags on.

Additionally, prolonged instability in the region can affect international trade routes and create uncertainty in global financial markets.

Trump's Public Confidence

Despite these growing complications, Donald Trump has publicly maintained a tone of confidence regarding the military cam-

paign. He has suggested that the operation has significantly weakened Iran's strategic capabilities and that the conflict may not last long.

Trump has also emphasized the close coordination between the United States and Israel, highlighting the strong relationship between his administration and Netanyahu's government. Public statements from both sides stress unity and determination to achieve their objectives.

However, political observers note that leaders often express confidence during military conflicts even when uncertainties remain behind the scenes. Governments typically seek to project strength and stability in order to maintain domestic and international support.

The Risk of Regional Escalation

Another major concern is the possibility that the conflict could expand beyond the immediate confrontation between Iran and Israel. Iran maintains relationships with various political groups and militias across the Middle East. These net-

works could potentially become involved in the conflict, widening the scope of the war.

If additional actors enter the conflict, the situation could become far more complex and difficult to control. Regional escalation might draw in other countries, disrupt shipping lanes, and create long-term instability throughout the Middle East.

Such a scenario would significantly increase the strategic and economic costs of the war for all parties involved.

A Strategic Gamble

Ultimately, the confrontation between Iran, Israel, and the United States represents a high-stakes strategic gamble. Supporters of the military campaign argue that decisive action is necessary to prevent Iran from expanding its influence and developing stronger military capabilities.

Critics, however, warn that military solutions alone rarely resolve deep political conflicts. Without a clear diplomatic pathway or long-term strategy, the war could evolve into a prolonged struggle with unpredictable

consequences.

For Netanyahu, maintaining pressure on Iran may reinforce Israel's security priorities and political narrative. For Trump, however, the calculation may be more complicated. American leaders must consider not only military outcomes but also economic costs, public opinion, and global stability.

Conclusion

The unfolding conflict demonstrates how quickly strategic assumptions can be tested in real-world situations. What began as a military campaign intended to weaken Iran rapidly has instead developed into a complex geopolitical struggle with uncertain outcomes.

While both Trump and Netanyahu continue to project confidence in their strategy, the long-term consequences of the conflict remain unclear. If the war continues or expands, the initial decision to pursue aggressive military action could ultimately be judged either as a bold strategic move—or as a risky miscalculation with far-reaching consequences.

LPG Crisis Amid the Iran War: Will Your Piped Gas Supply Be Affected?

The ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran has triggered a global energy shock that is being felt far beyond the battlefield. One of the most immediate consequences has been disruptions in the supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a fuel used by millions of households and businesses for cooking and heating. In India, the emerging LPG shortage has raised an important question for consumers: will the crisis also affect piped natural gas (PNG) supplies used in many urban homes?

How the War Disrupted Energy Supplies

The root of the current LPG crisis lies in disruptions to global energy trade routes in the Middle East. One of the most critical routes is the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway through which a large share of the world's oil and gas shipments pass. When tensions rise in this region, shipping becomes risky and energy supplies can slow down.

The conflict has created uncertainty for shipping companies transporting fuel across the Gulf. Some vessels have avoided the area due to security risks, while others have faced delays. This disruption has reduced the flow of LPG shipments and pushed global energy prices higher.

Countries that depend heavily on imported fuel, including India, are particularly sensitive to such changes. When global shipments slow down, the effects quickly spread through domestic markets, leading to shortages and higher prices.

The Growing LPG Shortage India relies heavily on LPG

cylinders for household cooking. Hundreds of millions of homes use LPG as their primary cooking fuel, making it one of the most important energy sources for daily life.

As global supplies tighten due to the conflict, the availability of LPG cylinders has started to decline in several regions. Commercial users such as restaurants, hotels, and catering services have reported difficulty obtaining enough cylinders to run their operations.

In some cities, eateries have even been forced to return temporarily to traditional cooking fuels like firewood or coal in order to keep their kitchens running. Such developments highlight how quickly international geopolitical tensions can affect everyday life in distant countries.

To manage the situation, authorities have begun prioritizing household LPG consumption over commercial demand. The aim is to ensure that families continue to have access to cooking fuel even if supplies remain limited.

Why Piped Gas Is Less Vulnerable

Despite the pressure on LPG supplies, piped natural gas (PNG) networks in many Indian cities have remained relatively stable so far. The reason lies in the fundamental differences between how LPG and PNG are delivered to consumers.

LPG is typically supplied through cylinders that must be transported through a long distribution chain involving international imports, shipping routes, storage facilities, and road transport. If any part of this chain is disrupted, deliveries can be delayed or reduced.



PNG works differently. It is delivered directly to homes through underground pipeline networks that distribute gas continuously from supply points to households. Once the pipeline infrastructure is established, gas flows steadily without the need for cylinder deliveries.

This makes piped gas systems less vulnerable to short-term disruptions in international shipping or transportation.

India's Natural Gas Supply System

India meets its natural gas demand through a combination of domestic production and imports. A portion of the gas used in the country is produced within India, while the rest is imported from international suppliers.

The imported gas typically

arrives as liquefied natural gas (LNG) at specialized terminals, where it is converted back into gas and distributed through pipelines. These pipelines connect to city gas networks that supply homes, industries, and businesses.

Because the gas already flows through established infrastructure within the country, consumers using PNG may not immediately feel the effects of international shipping disruptions.

Potential Risks to Piped Gas

Although piped gas supplies are currently more stable than LPG cylinders, they are not completely immune to global events. If the conflict continues for a long time or escalates further, broader disruptions in the natural gas market could eventually occur.

One possible risk is damage

or disruption to energy infrastructure in the Middle East. If gas production facilities or export terminals are affected by the conflict, global supply could decline.

Another concern involves shipping routes used to transport liquefied natural gas to importing countries. If tanker movement becomes unsafe or heavily restricted, imports could be delayed.

Finally, even if supplies remain stable, global price increases may eventually raise the cost of natural gas for consumers.

A Possible Shift Toward Piped Gas

Ironically, the current LPG shortage could encourage more households to shift toward piped natural gas where it is available. Many energy experts have long argued that

PNG is a cleaner, safer, and more reliable alternative to cylinder-based cooking fuel.

One major advantage is convenience. With piped gas, households no longer need to wait for cylinder deliveries or worry about running out of fuel unexpectedly. The gas flows continuously through pipelines, ensuring a steady supply.

PNG is also considered environmentally friendlier compared to traditional fuels. It produces fewer emissions and burns more efficiently, making it an attractive option in cities trying to reduce pollution.

As the LPG crisis highlights the vulnerability of cylinder-based supply chains, urban households may increasingly consider switching to piped gas connections.

Government Response and Long-Term Planning

The Indian government has been taking steps to manage the current situation and reduce future risks. Authorities are encouraging energy companies to increase domestic production and ensure that household LPG demand is met.

At the same time, long-term plans are focusing on expanding the city gas distribution network to more cities and towns across the country. By increasing the reach of pipeline infrastructure, policymakers aim to create a more reliable and resilient energy system.

Expanding PNG networks can also reduce dependence on imported LPG, which is more vulnerable to geopolitical tensions and global market disruptions.

Lessons From the Crisis

The current LPG shortage

demonstrates how closely connected global energy systems have become. A conflict taking place thousands of kilometers away can quickly influence fuel supplies and prices in countries across the world.

It also shows the importance of energy diversification. Countries that rely on a single type of fuel or a limited number of supply routes are more exposed to international crises.

By investing in multiple energy sources and expanding domestic infrastructure, governments can reduce the risk of similar disruptions in the future.

Conclusion

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has created a ripple effect across global energy markets, leading to disruptions in LPG supplies in several countries, including India. While the availability of LPG cylinders has tightened due to shipping disruptions and rising prices, piped natural gas systems have remained relatively stable for now.

However, the situation is still evolving. If the conflict continues or expands, even natural gas markets could eventually feel the impact. For the moment, households connected to piped gas networks appear better protected from the immediate effects of the LPG shortage.

In the long run, the crisis may strengthen the case for expanding piped gas infrastructure and reducing dependence on cylinder-based fuel systems. Such changes could make India's energy supply more secure and resilient in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

PM Modi Unveils ₹19,680 Crore Projects, Distributes Land Rights to Assam Tea Workers

Narendra Modi on Friday launched and inaugurated development projects worth about ₹19,680 crore in Assam, with a strong focus on infrastructure, energy, connectivity, and social welfare.

Land Pattas for Tea Garden Workers

A major highlight of the visit was the distribution of land pattas (ownership documents) to tea garden workers living in plantation housing areas. The initiative aims to provide secure homestead rights to thousands of families who have lived on tea estates for generations without formal ownership.

Officials said legal land titles will improve housing security, allow access to bank loans, and enable beneficiaries to take advantage of government welfare schemes, thereby strengthening long-term economic stability for the tea community.

Financial Support for Farmers

During the event, the Prime Minister also released a fresh instalment under the PM-



KISAN scheme, transferring financial assistance directly to millions of farmers across the country. The scheme provides income support to eligible farmers to help meet agricultural expenses.

Major Energy Projects

Several important energy initiatives were dedicated to the nation, including a hydroelectric project expected to boost clean power generation and strengthen electricity supply across the region. Capacity expansion of a key petroleum pipeline was also inaugurated

to improve fuel transportation and refinery operations.

In addition, a phase of the North East Gas Grid project was launched, aimed at expanding access to natural gas and improving energy connectivity in the region.

Rail, Road and Waterway Development

The package included railway electrification works, new rail infrastructure projects, and plans for line doubling to increase train capacity. Road connectivity improvements and inland waterway infra-

structure were also part of the development push, supporting trade, tourism, and regional mobility.

New terminals and transport links are expected to enhance logistics efficiency and integrate remote areas more closely with national networks.

Commercial and Regional Growth

The Prime Minister also inaugurated a large commercial facility intended to promote local products, handicrafts, and tourism, creating new economic opportunities for businesses and artisans.

Strengthening the Northeast

Overall, the projects aim to accelerate development across Assam and the wider Northeast by improving connectivity, energy security, employment prospects, and quality of life.

In essence, the visit combined major infrastructure investment with targeted social measures, particularly the historic step of granting land ownership rights to tea garden workers.

No Fertiliser Shortage, Adequate Supplies Ensured: Nirmala Sitharaman



Nirmala Sitharaman has assured Parliament that there will be no shortage of fertilisers for farmers, stating that the government has made sufficient financial and logistical provisions to maintain supplies despite global uncertainties.

Assurance to Farmers

Replying to a debate on supplementary demands for grants in the Lok Sabha, the Finance Minister said adequate stocks and funding have been arranged to ensure uninterrupted availability of fertilisers for agricultural needs. The assurance comes amid concerns over supply disruptions linked to geopolitical tensions and rising import costs.

She emphasized that farmers should not worry about shortages during upcoming crop seasons, as the government is closely monitoring supply chains and demand patterns.

Additional Subsidy Support

To maintain affordability and supply stability, the government has allocated extra funds toward ferti-

liser subsidies in the current financial year. This additional support aims to offset higher global prices of raw materials and transportation, which have increased due to international conflicts and trade disruptions.

The subsidy framework is designed to ensure that fertilisers remain accessible to farmers at controlled prices, preventing cost pressures from affecting agricultural production.

Economic Stabilisation Measures

Sitharaman also highlighted the creation of a large Economic Stabilisation Fund intended to help India respond to unexpected global shocks. The fund will provide fiscal flexibility to address crises such as supply chain disruptions, commodity price spikes, or regional conflicts that could impact essential sectors like agriculture.

Officials say this buffer mechanism will help the government act quickly without disturbing overall budget targets.

Fiscal Discipline Maintained

Despite additional spending on subsidies and stabilisation measures, the Finance Minister stated that the government remains committed to keeping the fiscal deficit within the projected limits for the financial year. Extra expenditures are being managed through savings in other areas and higher revenues.

Focus on Food Security

Ensuring fertiliser availability is critical for maintaining crop yields and national food security. Authorities indicated that arrangements are in place not only for the current agricultural cycle but also for future seasons.

Overall Outlook

In essence, the government has sought to reassure farmers and markets that India's agricultural supply chain remains secure. With adequate stocks, subsidies, and contingency planning, officials believe fertiliser availability will remain stable even amid global economic and geopolitical challenges.

193 Opposition MPs Seek Removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

A total of 193 opposition Members of Parliament have signed notices seeking the removal of Gyanesh Kumar, escalating a major political confrontation over the functioning of the Election Commission of India.

Notice Backed by Large Opposition Bloc

The move has been supported by lawmakers from multiple opposition parties, including members of the INDIA alliance. Reports indicate that 130 MPs from the Lok Sabha and 63 from the Rajya Sabha have endorsed the notice, comfortably exceeding the minimum requirement needed to initiate such a process.

The notice is expected to be formally submitted to the presiding officer of one of the Houses of Parliament for consideration.

Allegations Against the CEC

Opposition leaders have accused the Chief Election Commissioner of partisan con-



duct and irregularities in handling revisions of electoral rolls, particularly in states heading toward elections. They claim these actions could have affected voter inclusion and raised concerns about the fairness of the process.

The document reportedly lists several charges, including alleged bias in decision-making and steps that critics say undermined confidence in electoral institutions.

Rare Constitutional Step

Seeking the removal of a Chief Election Commissioner is an extremely rare and complex constitutional procedure. Parliamentary rules require a minimum number of MPs to sign a notice before it can be considered — thresholds that the opposition has already surpassed.

If admitted, the motion would trigger a formal inquiry process similar to proceedings used for removing

judges of higher courts.

Political Tensions Rise

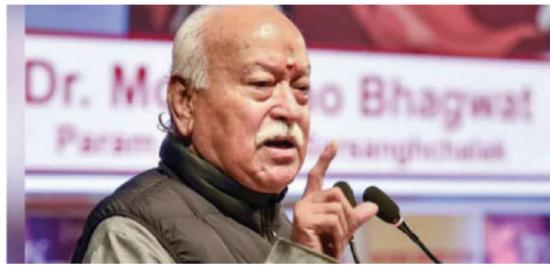
The development highlights intensifying tensions between opposition parties and the government over the neutrality and functioning of key democratic institutions. While the ruling side has dismissed the move as politically motivated, opposition leaders argue it is necessary to safeguard the integrity of elections.

What Happens Next

The presiding officer of the concerned House will decide whether to admit the motion. Only after acceptance can a detailed investigation or parliamentary debate take place.

In essence, the signatures of 193 MPs represent one of the most significant challenges to India's top election official in recent years, setting the stage for a potentially major constitutional and political showdown.

RSS Begins 3-Day Meet With Tributes to Ideological Opponents



The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has begun its three-day annual meeting by paying tributes to several prominent personalities, including some who were known critics of the organisation.

Top Decision-Making Body Convenes

The gathering, known as the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, is being held in Samalkha in Haryana from March 13 to 15. It brings together senior leaders and representatives from across the Sangh network to review progress, set future priorities, and discuss key national issues. Mohan Bhagwat and other top functionaries are attending the meeting.

Tributes to Critics

Proceedings began with condolence resolutions for public figures who passed away over the past year. Notably, tributes were offered to Shivraj Patil and veteran Communist leader R. Nallakannu, both of whom had been vocal critics of the RSS and its ideology.

Patil was a senior Congress figure who had held key ministerial positions, while Nallakannu was a long-time leader from Tamil Nadu known for his opposition to Hindutva politics

and advocacy for social justice.

Other Personalities Remembered

In addition to political figures, the organisation also paid homage to several notable individuals from diverse fields who died recently. These included environmentalists, social activists, cultural personalities, and public servants, reflecting acknowledgment of contributions across society.

Agenda for the Meeting

During the three-day session, leaders are expected to deliberate on organisational expansion, outreach initiatives, and contemporary national challenges. Discussions will also focus on future goals and the role of affiliated groups in public life.

Symbolic Opening

Observers note that beginning the meeting with tributes to ideological opponents reflects a customary practice of acknowledging public service irrespective of political differences.

Overall, the annual conclave is seen as a key event shaping the organisation's strategy and priorities for the coming year, with participation from leaders across the country.

Jai Anmol Ambani Questioned by CBI in ₹228 Crore Bank Fraud Case



Jai Anmol Ambani, son of industrialist Anil Ambani, was questioned for several hours by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with an alleged ₹228 crore bank fraud involving Reliance Home Finance Limited.

Hours of Interrogation

Jai Anmol appeared at the agency's headquarters in New Delhi, where investigators examined him for more than six hours. Officials indicated that he may be summoned again for further questioning as the probe continues.

Case Registered After Bank Complaint

The case originated from a complaint by Union Bank of India, which alleged that Reliance Home Finance caused a wrongful loss of about ₹228 crore through irregularities in loan transactions. Investigators have invoked charges such as criminal conspiracy, cheating, and misconduct.

Loans Turned Non-Performing

According to investigators, the company had borrowed thousands of crores from multiple banks and financial institutions. These loan accounts were later classified as non-performing assets and eventually tagged as fraudulent.

Searches and Seizure of Documents

After registering the case, authorities conducted searches at company offices and premises linked to key individuals, including Jai Anmol Ambani and former executives. Officials reported that documents considered important to the investigation were seized during these operations.

Multiple Accused Named

Apart from the company itself, the case names several former senior officials and unidentified individuals, including public servants, as accused. Investigators are examining whether there was a coordinated effort to misuse bank funds and conceal financial stress.

Probe Ongoing

No arrests have been announced so far, and the questioning is part of the evidence-gathering phase. Authorities say the investigation aims to determine the roles of all individuals connected to the alleged financial irregularities.

In essence, the interrogation marks a significant development in a high-profile banking fraud probe involving a major corporate group, with further scrutiny expected as the inquiry progresses.

President Murmu Declines TMC Meeting Request Amid Siliguri Protocol Row



Droupadi Murmu has declined a request from the All India Trinamool Congress for a meeting, citing lack of time, amid an ongoing controversy involving a tribal welfare event in Siliguri.

Attempt to Ease Tensions

A senior party leader had sought an appointment for a delegation to brief the President on welfare initiatives undertaken by the West Bengal government for tribal communities. The request was widely seen as an effort by the party led by Mamata Banerjee to ease tensions following a public disagreement during the President's recent visit.

However, the President's office reportedly declined both the initial request and a subsequent proposal for a later date.

Dispute Originated at Tribal Event

The friction stems from a conference on tribal welfare held in Siliguri, where Presi-

dent Murmu expressed dissatisfaction with the arrangements. She questioned why the venue had been shifted to a location that many members of the tribal community found difficult to reach.

The President also raised concerns over the absence of the Chief Minister and senior state ministers during her arrival, a departure from usual protocol for receiving the country's head of state.

Sharp Exchange of Remarks

During her address, Murmu suggested that development benefits meant for tribal communities might not be reaching them effectively. These remarks drew a strong response from the state leadership.

Mamata Banerjee dismissed the comments as political in nature and argued that they came at a sensitive time ahead of elections, escalating the confrontation

between the state government and the Centre.

Political Context

The episode has intensified political tensions in West Bengal, where rivalry between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the opposition led by Narendra Modi remains high. Observers say the dispute reflects broader disagreements over governance, protocol, and the treatment of tribal communities.

Situation Remains Unresolved

With the meeting request declined, the standoff shows no immediate signs of resolution. Both sides appear firm in their positions, and the issue continues to draw national attention.

In essence, what began as a disagreement over event arrangements has evolved into a significant political controversy involving the President, the state government, and the central leadership.

Iran-Linked Hackers Claim Massive Cyberattack on US Medtech Firm

An Iranian-linked hacktivist group known as Handala has claimed responsibility for a large-scale cyberattack on a major United States medical technology company, describing it as retaliation amid the ongoing regional conflict.

According to the group, the operation targeted the company's global digital infrastructure, disrupting operations across multiple countries. The hackers alleged they wiped more than 200,000 computers, servers, and mobile devices and stole about 50 terabytes of sensitive data, though the full extent of the damage has not been independently verified.

Global Operations Disrupted

The attack reportedly caused severe network outages, locking employees out of critical systems and halting many business functions. Tens of thousands of devices connected to the company's network were disabled, affecting offices worldwide and temporarily disrupting manufacturing, logistics, and internal communications.

Despite the scale of the disruption, reports indicate that medical devices used by patients were not directly targeted. Instead,



the attackers focused on corporate systems, employee laptops, mobile phones, and internal servers.

Retaliation Motive

Handala described the cyberattack as revenge for military strikes in Iran, particularly a deadly attack on a school in the city of Minab. The group framed the operation as part of a broader response to actions against Iran and its allies.

Cybersecurity analysts note that politically motivated attacks of this kind aim to cause

economic damage, create disruption, and demonstrate technological capability rather than extract ransom payments.

How the Attack May Have Worked

Experts believe the hackers gained high-level administrative access to the company's network management systems. This allowed them to remotely issue commands that erased data and reset devices on a massive scale, effectively turning the organisation's own IT infrastructure against itself.

The group is believed to use "wiper" malware, which permanently destroys data instead of encrypting it. Such attacks maximize disruption and make recovery extremely difficult.

Who Is the Handala Group?

Handala is considered a pro-Iranian cyber actor that has been active for several years. Security researchers suspect links to Iranian state interests, although the group portrays itself as an independent hacktivist movement. It has previously targeted government bodies, infrastructure, and private companies across multiple regions.

Cyber Warfare Expands the Conflict

The incident highlights how modern conflicts increasingly extend into cyberspace. Digital attacks are now being used to target economic assets and critical infrastructure far from traditional battlefields.

Overall, the attack demonstrates the growing importance of cyber operations as a tool of retaliation and strategic pressure, with businesses and civilian systems becoming key targets in geopolitical confrontations.

What Mojtaba Khamenei's First "Revenge" Signal Reveals About His Strategy



Mojtaba Khamenei's first public message after assuming leadership suggests that Iran is preparing for a prolonged and calculated confrontation rather than a quick peace or surrender.

His rise is widely seen as strengthening hardline elements within Iran, particularly the influential Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Mojtaba is believed to have close ties with the Guard, which has traditionally favored resistance against external pressure over negotiation or compromise.

Long Conflict, Not Immediate Resolution

His statement indicates that Iran expects the confrontation to continue for an extended period. The leadership transition itself reflects a readiness to endure sustained military, economic, and political pressure. Analysts interpret this as a signal that Tehran is not seeking a rapid ceasefire but is preparing for a drawn-out struggle.

Such a stance also aims to maintain domestic stability by projecting strength, as conceding

under pressure could be seen internally as a sign of weakness.

Calibrated Retaliation

Rather than launching an all-out conventional war, Iran is expected to pursue measured and strategic retaliation. This approach involves actions designed to impose costs on adversaries without triggering full-scale escalation.

Possible tactics include indirect attacks, cyber operations, and asymmetric warfare, allowing Iran to maintain continuous pressure while avoiding catastrophic consequences.

Strategic Use of Geography

One of the strongest signals in the message was the emphasis on the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes. Highlighting this chokepoint serves as a reminder that Iran has the ability to disrupt global energy supplies, thereby increasing the economic stakes of the conflict far beyond the region.

By leveraging this geographic advantage, Iran

seeks to influence not only military opponents but also the broader international community.

Role of Regional Allies

Mojtaba's strategy is also expected to rely heavily on Iran's network of allied groups across the Middle East. These partners allow Tehran to project power indirectly, open multiple fronts, and complicate the strategic calculations of its adversaries without deploying all of its own forces.

Hardline Approach Ahead

Overall, the message signals a tougher and more uncompromising phase in Iran's posture. The emphasis on revenge appears intended to deter further attacks, reassure domestic audiences, and demonstrate resilience.

In essence, Mojtaba Khamenei's first statement points to a strategy based on endurance — sustained pressure through indirect means, strategic leverage over global energy routes, and readiness for a long conflict rather than a swift resolution.

Mohammad Ali Jafari — Architect of Iran's "Mosaic Defence"

Mohammad Ali Jafari is a former Iranian military commander widely regarded as the chief architect of Iran's "Mosaic Defence" strategy, a decentralised military doctrine designed to make the country extremely difficult to defeat in war.

He served as commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from 2007 to 2019, one of the most powerful positions in Iran's military establishment. The IRGC plays a central role not only in national defence but also in internal security and regional operations.

Military Background

Born in 1957 in Yazd, Jafari joined revolutionary forces after Iran's Islamic Revolution and later fought in the long Iran-Iraq War. His combat experience during this conflict significantly shaped his views on military strategy and national security. Over time, he rose through the ranks, holding several key operational and leadership roles within the IRGC.

Before becoming the IRGC chief, he commanded ground forces and led units responsible



for defending the capital, Tehran. He also headed the organisation's strategic research centre, where he focused on studying modern warfare and potential threats to Iran.

Creator of the "Mosaic Defence" Doctrine

Jafari's most important contribution is the development of the Mosaic Defence concept. Unlike traditional armies that rely on centralised command, this strategy divides the country's

military into numerous regional units capable of operating independently.

Each unit receives pre-planned instructions and can continue fighting even if national leadership, communication networks, or major military bases are destroyed. This decentralised approach aims to ensure continuity of resistance under extreme conditions.

Why It Is Considered "Impenetrable"

The Mosaic Defence system disperses authority across provinces, making it difficult for an adversary to cripple Iran's military through targeted strikes. Destroying one command centre does not disable the entire network, allowing operations to continue.

Analysts believe the strategy enables Iran to sustain prolonged warfare and mount coordinated resistance even under heavy bombardment or leadership losses.

Lasting Influence

Although no longer the IRGC chief, Jafari remains a significant figure in Iran's defence thinking. His blueprint continues to shape the country's military posture and preparedness for potential large-scale conflicts.

In essence, Mohammad Ali Jafari is seen as the strategist who transformed Iran's defence structure into a resilient, decentralised system designed not necessarily to secure quick victories, but to prevent decisive defeat and ensure long-term resistance.

Trump Says Iran Near Surrender, New Leader Rejects Claim and Vows Revenge



United States President Donald Trump reportedly told leaders of major industrial nations that Iran was close to surrender amid the ongoing conflict involving the United States and Israel. He expressed confidence that military operations had significantly weakened Iran and suggested the war might be approaching a decisive phase.

During a virtual meeting, Trump stated that Iran was unable to formally announce surrender due to uncertainty surrounding its leadership. He also indicated that conditions near the strategically important Strait of Hormuz were improving and that commercial shipping could soon resume in the region.

However, events on the ground suggested continued instability. Around the same time as Trump's remarks, explosive attacks involving boats set fuel tankers on fire in Iraqi waters, underscoring the ongoing volatility and risks in the region.

Within 24 hours of these statements, Iran's newly appointed Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, issued his first public message. He strongly rejected any suggestion of surrender and instead pledged retaliation for the attacks that had killed Iranian citizens and senior officials.

In his statement, Khamenei declared that Iran would not abandon revenge and that those responsible for the deaths would be held accountable. He also announced that the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial global oil shipping route, would remain closed as a strategic measure against the United States and its allies.

He further warned that strikes on regional targets would continue, indicating that Iran was preparing for a prolonged confrontation rather than seeking an immediate end to hostilities. The message suggested a firm stance and a readiness to escalate if necessary.

International concern has grown as tensions threaten global energy supplies and maritime security. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important oil transit routes, and any disruption could have far-reaching economic consequences worldwide.

Overall, Trump's claim that Iran was on the verge of surrender contrasts sharply with Iran's official position. The country's leadership has signalled determination to continue resisting and retaliating, indicating that the conflict remains far from resolution and could intensify in the coming days.

4 Dead After US Refuelling Aircraft Crashes in Iraq



A United States Air Force refuelling aircraft crashed in western Iraq, killing four of the six crew members on board, while search operations continued for the remaining two. The aircraft involved was a KC-135 Stratotanker, a military plane used to refuel other aircraft mid-air during operations.

The crash occurred during a military mission in what officials described as friendly airspace. Two aircraft were reportedly involved in the incident. One tank crashed, while the second aircraft managed to land safely despite sustaining damage.

Authorities stated that the crash was not caused by hostile or friendly fire, and an investigation has been launched to determine the exact cause. Preliminary information suggests the incident may have resulted from a mid-air collision or an operational mishap during refuelling procedures, which are among the most complex tasks in aviation.

The KC-135 Stratotanker plays a vital role in military operations by extending the range and endurance of fighter jets and other aircraft. Such tankers enable long-distance missions and continuous air presence, especially in regions experiencing

military tensions.

The incident occurred amid heightened instability in the Middle East. Some armed groups in Iraq claimed responsibility for shooting down the aircraft, but US officials denied these claims, saying there was no evidence to support them.

The aircraft was carrying six crew members at the time of the crash. Four deaths have been confirmed, while search and rescue teams continue efforts to locate the missing personnel. Officials have not yet released the identities of the victims, pending notification of their families.

Military officials emphasized that aerial refuelling missions require precise coordination between aircraft flying at high speeds and close proximity, leaving very little room for error. Even minor technical issues or miscalculations can lead to serious accidents.

This crash represents a significant loss for the US military presence in the region and highlights the risks faced by personnel even during non-combat operations. Investigators are expected to examine flight data, communication records, and wreckage to determine what led to the tragedy.

Inside Pakistan's Dilemma Over Backing Saudi Arabia Against Iran



Pakistan faces a complex strategic dilemma as tensions rise between Iran and Saudi Arabia amid the wider regional conflict. While Islamabad has deep military, political, and financial ties with Riyadh, joining any confrontation against Iran would carry serious risks.

Defence Pact Creates Pressure

A key factor is the long-standing security cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, which creates expectations that Islamabad would support the kingdom if it faces threats. However, such agreements are primarily defensive in nature and do not necessarily require participation in offensive military operations against another country.

Risks of Confronting a Neighbour

Iran is not a distant rival but a direct neighbour sharing a long border with Pakistan. Any military involvement against Tehran could provoke retaliation, destabilise

border regions, and further strain relations. Additionally, Pakistan has a sizeable Shia population, making involvement in a conflict with sectarian overtones politically sensitive domestically.

Domestic Challenges Limit Options

Pakistan is already dealing with multiple internal challenges, including economic difficulties, security concerns in border provinces, political instability, and militant activity. Entering a major external conflict could overstretch its military and financial resources while worsening internal vulnerabilities.

Reliance on Saudi Arabia

At the same time, Saudi Arabia remains one of Pakistan's closest allies and a crucial economic partner. The kingdom provides financial assistance, oil supplies, and employment opportunities for millions of Pakistani workers. Ignoring Saudi security concerns could strain this rela-

tionship and have economic repercussions.

Likely Middle Path

Analysts believe Pakistan is unlikely to deploy combat troops directly against Iran. Instead, it may choose a limited role such as intelligence cooperation, defensive support, or protecting Saudi territory while avoiding direct confrontation with Tehran.

A Delicate Balancing Act

Ultimately, Pakistan's leadership is attempting to balance competing priorities — honouring commitments to a key ally, avoiding conflict with a neighbouring state, and preserving domestic stability. Any decision could have far-reaching consequences for the country's security, economy, and regional standing.

In essence, Pakistan's dilemma reflects a difficult geopolitical choice between loyalty to an important partner and the risks of antagonising a powerful neighbour, leaving little room for a clear or risk-free path forward.

Bears Hammer Dalal Street: Sensex Plunges 1,470 Points, Nifty Slides to 23,150

Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp sell-off on March 13, with benchmark indices tumbling for the third consecutive session as negative global cues and sustained selling pressure dampened investor confidence.

By the closing bell, the Sensex had plunged 1,470.50 points (1.93%) to settle at 74,563.92, while the Nifty 50 dropped 488.05 points (2.06%) to end at 23,151.10, slipping below the key 23,200 level. The decline was broad-based, with most sectoral indices finishing deep in the red.

Broader markets mirrored the weakness seen in frontline stocks. Mid-cap and small-cap indices fell around 2.5% each, reflecting widespread risk aversion among investors. The sharp downturn erased nearly 10 lakh crore in investor wealth, highlighting the scale of the sell-off across the market.

Sectorally, auto, metal, media, and public-sector bank stocks were among the worst hit, declining between 3% and 4%. Companies linked to infrastructure, construction, and heavy industries also faced strong selling pressure due to concerns about rising input costs and slowing global demand. Only a few defensive stocks managed to resist the fall.

Multiple factors contributed



to the market rout. Rising crude oil prices, triggered by escalating geopolitical tensions, raised fears of higher inflation and pressure on corporate profit margins. At the same time, the Indian rupee weakened to a record low against the US dollar, adding to concerns about capital outflows and economic stability. Continued selling by foreign institutional investors further intensified the downward momentum.

Market participants also

turned cautious ahead of the weekend, avoiding fresh positions amid heightened volatility. The absence of strong domestic buying support allowed bears to dominate trading throughout the session.

From a technical standpoint, the outlook remains fragile. The Nifty has broken below important support levels, indicating persistent weakness in the market structure. Analysts warn that if selling continues, the index could slide further

toward the 22,700–22,800 zone in the near term. On the upside, resistance is expected around the 23,600–23,700 range.

For the week, both the Sensex and Nifty have recorded losses exceeding 5%, marking one of their steepest weekly declines in recent times. With global uncertainties still unresolved and domestic triggers lacking, investors are likely to remain cautious until clearer signs of stability emerge.

Sensex Suffers Worst Week Since May 2020 Amid Middle East Conflict



Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp decline during the week, with the benchmark Sensex recording its steepest fall since May 2020 as escalating conflict in the Middle East rattled global financial markets. The crisis pushed crude oil prices above 100 dollars per barrel, raising concerns about inflation, slower economic growth, and increased pressure on India's import-dependent economy.

Over the week, the Sensex dropped about 5.5 percent, while the Nifty 50 fell roughly 5.3 percent, marking one of the most severe declines in recent years. The sell-off was broad-based, with all major sectoral indices closing in the red. Broader markets also weakened significantly as mid-cap and small-cap stocks declined, reflecting widespread risk aversion among investors.

The automobile sector emerged as the worst performer, registering losses of more than 10 percent, its sharpest weekly drop in six years. Investors feared that the ongoing

conflict could disrupt global supply chains, increase fuel costs, and weaken export demand, all of which could hurt profitability for automobile companies.

Banking and financial stocks also faced heavy selling pressure. The Bank Nifty index declined about 7 percent during the week due to continued foreign institutional investor outflows and concerns over economic growth. Rising oil prices and a weakening rupee intensified fears of higher inflation and interest rates, further dampening sentiment toward financial companies.

The downturn affected nearly all parts of the market. Every major sector recorded losses, highlighting the depth of the sell-off. Mid-cap stocks fell around 4.6 percent, while small-caps dropped nearly 3.7 percent, indicating that investors were pulling money out of riskier assets across the board.

A large number of stocks delivered negative returns, with many major companies declining between 5 percent and 12

percent. Infrastructure, cement, and industrial firms were among the hardest hit as higher input costs and uncertain demand prospects weighed on outlook.

Despite the widespread decline, coal stocks were among the few gainers during the week. Shares of Coal India rose on expectations of increased electricity demand during the approaching summer season, which could boost coal consumption.

Markets extended losses into the final trading sessions due to weak global cues, elevated oil prices, and sustained foreign fund selling. Analysts warn that rising energy costs pose a significant challenge to India's economy, potentially affecting growth, inflation, and corporate earnings.

Overall, the Middle East conflict has triggered a broad market sell-off, making this one of the most turbulent periods for Indian equities in recent years. Investors are expected to remain cautious until geopolitical tensions ease and commodity prices stabilize.

Markets Oversold, But Reversal Still Uncertain, Say Analysts

Indian stock markets have slipped into oversold territory after a sharp weekly decline, sparking hopes of a possible short-term rebound. However, market experts warn that a sustained recovery remains uncertain due to persistent negative factors affecting investor sentiment.

During the week, benchmark indices witnessed heavy selling pressure amid rising geopolitical tensions, surging crude oil prices, weak global cues, continued foreign investor outflows, and a weakening rupee. The Nifty fell more than 5%, recording its steepest weekly drop in over a year, while the Sensex posted a similarly sharp decline.

Deeply Oversold Conditions

Technical indicators suggest that the market has fallen rapidly and may be due for a pause. The Relative Strength Index (RSI), a key momentum indicator, has dropped below the 30 mark, typically considered oversold territory. Such readings often indicate that selling has been excessive and that a relief rally could occur in the near term.

However, analysts emphasize



that oversold conditions alone do not guarantee a trend reversal. For a meaningful recovery, markets need to show signs of sustained buying interest, including the formation of higher highs and higher lows. Without these signals, any bounce may remain temporary.

Downtrend Still Dominant

Despite the possibility of a short-term pullback, the broader trend continues to remain weak across short- and medium-term timeframes. The indices are still forming a pattern of lower highs and lower lows, indicating that sellers retain control.

Key support levels for the Nifty are seen in the 22,700–22,400 range. A break below these levels

could trigger further downside. On the upside, resistance is expected around 23,500, where selling pressure may re-emerge.

Pullback Possible Next Week

Some experts believe markets could attempt a rebound if they stabilize near current levels. Yet, if the recovery lacks strength, the index could slip further toward the 22,500–22,000 zone. The inability of markets to hold support despite being oversold highlights the intensity of recent selling.

Outlook: Volatility Ahead

The weakness has been broad-based, with most sectoral indices ending the week in the red and broader markets also declining. Analysts expect volatility to remain high until global uncertainties ease and investor confidence improves.

In conclusion, while a short-term bounce cannot be ruled out due to oversold conditions, a clear and sustained trend reversal appears unlikely without strong positive triggers. Investors are advised to remain cautious as markets navigate a fragile phase.

Gold Set for Second Weekly Loss as Strong Dollar, High Yields Weigh

Gold prices are heading for a second consecutive weekly decline as reduced expectations of U.S. interest rate cuts, a stronger dollar, and rising bond yields dampen the appeal of the precious metal.

Although gold saw a modest uptick on Friday, it remained on track for a weekly drop of about 1–1.5%. U.S. gold futures also slipped slightly, reflecting cautious investor sentiment. The primary pressure on bullion came from fading hopes that the U.S. Federal Reserve will cut interest rates soon.

Strong Dollar Hurts Gold Demand

A strengthening U.S. dollar has made gold more expensive for holders of other currencies, reducing global demand. The dollar recently climbed to multi-month highs, adding significant downward pressure on prices. At the same time, benchmark U.S. Treasury yields rose to their highest levels in several weeks, further eroding gold's attractiveness since the metal does not pay interest.

Higher yields typically draw investors toward income-generating assets such as bonds, away from non-yielding assets like



gold. **Reduced Rate-Cut Bets Add Pressure**

Expectations of imminent rate cuts have cooled as inflation concerns persist, partly due to surging oil prices. When interest rates remain high, gold tends to struggle because the opportunity cost of holding it increases.

Analysts note that traders have

been reassessing earlier assumptions about aggressive monetary easing, which had previously supported bullion prices. With policymakers expected to keep rates steady for now, gold has lost a key driver of recent gains.

Oil Prices and Inflation Fears

Crude oil prices hovering near or above \$100 per barrel have raised fears of renewed inflation.

This reduces the likelihood of quick rate cuts and strengthens the case for tighter monetary policy — another negative factor for gold.

Rising energy costs also create uncertainty across financial markets, influencing investor behavior and asset allocation.

Gold Used as Liquidity Source

In the face of weak equity markets and heightened volatility, some investors have reportedly sold gold holdings to cover losses elsewhere. This liquidation has added to downward pressure on prices despite geopolitical tensions that would normally support safe-haven demand.

Outlook

While gold remains under pressure in the short term, analysts believe the metal still has long-term support from geopolitical risks, inflation concerns, and ongoing uncertainty in global markets.

In summary, gold's second weekly decline reflects a combination of macroeconomic forces — a stronger dollar, higher bond yields, and fading hopes for near-term rate cuts — overshadowing its traditional safe-haven appeal.

L&T Shares Slide Sharply as Middle East War Triggers Market Sell-Off



Shares of Larsen & Toubro witnessed a steep fall, dropping about 7.5 percent amid heightened global uncertainty caused by the escalating conflict in the Middle East. The sharp decline dragged the company's market capitalisation below the 5 lakh crore rupees mark, reflecting significant investor concern.

The engineering and construction giant, which has substantial exposure to international projects, particularly in the Gulf region, was hit hard as investors feared potential disruptions to infrastructure activity, project execution, and new order inflows. Rising geopolitical tensions typically lead to delays in capital expenditure and large-scale construction initiatives, directly affecting companies like L&T.

Higher crude oil prices have further intensified worries. As oil prices surge, governments in oil-importing countries face fiscal pressure, while project funding in energy-de-

pendent economies becomes uncertain. This can slow infrastructure spending and reduce demand for engineering services, creating a challenging outlook for firms operating across global markets.

The stock's sharp fall also mirrored the broader weakness in Indian equities, where most sectors declined amid foreign institutional investor outflows, a weakening rupee, and risk-averse sentiment. Capital goods and infrastructure stocks were particularly vulnerable due to their sensitivity to economic cycles and investment trends.

Despite the immediate pressure, analysts note that L&T's long-term fundamentals remain relatively strong. The company has a robust order book across infrastructure, energy, defence, and technology segments, which provides revenue visibility. Domestic government spending on infrastructure and defence projects may continue to support

business growth over time.

However, in the short term, volatility is expected to persist. Investors are likely to monitor developments in the Middle East closely, as any escalation could affect global energy markets, currency movements, and investment flows. Continued foreign fund selling could also weigh on large-cap stocks, including L&T.

Technical indicators suggest the stock may remain under pressure unless it stabilizes above key support levels. A recovery would depend on easing geopolitical tensions, stabilisation in crude oil prices, and improved overall market sentiment.

In summary, the sharp fall in L&T shares reflects heightened global uncertainty rather than company-specific weakness. While near-term risks remain elevated, the company's diversified business model and strong project pipeline could help it recover once external conditions improve.

“Soggy Paper Straw” Memes Go Viral as Global Tensions Dominate Social Media



As global tensions and war-related headlines dominate conversations online, social media users have turned to humour to express their frustration and disbelief. In a surprising trend, the humble paper straw has become the internet's latest symbol of irony, with memes about “soggy paper straws” spreading rapidly across platforms like X, Instagram and Reddit.

The viral meme trend highlights what many users see as a contrast between individual environmental efforts and large-scale geopolitical conflicts happening around the world. In many of these memes, people joke about being encouraged to adopt eco-friendly habits—such as using paper straws instead of plastic—while world leaders simultaneously escalate political and military tensions.

One widely shared meme shows a person struggling to drink through a soft, collapsing paper straw while news headlines about global conflicts appear in the background. The humour lies in the apparent contradiction: individuals are asked to make small lifestyle changes to protect the planet, while major powers appear to engage in actions that could cause far greater damage on a global scale.

Another popular meme jokes that while global leaders talk about serious geopolitical confrontations, ordinary people are trying to “save the planet” with paper straws that quickly become soggy and difficult to use. The relatable frustration has struck a chord with

many internet users, leading to thousands of shares and reposts.

The trend also taps into a long-running complaint about paper straws themselves. Introduced by many restaurants and cafes as an alternative to plastic in order to reduce environmental pollution, paper straws have often been criticised by customers for becoming soft and unusable after only a few minutes. Some social media users humorously claim that the straws start dissolving before they can even finish their drinks.

While the jokes may seem lighthearted, they also reflect how people use humour to deal with serious world events. During periods of political tension, economic uncertainty or conflict, the internet often becomes a place where satire and memes help people process overwhelming news.

Memes have long served as a form of social commentary, allowing users to express opinions and frustrations in a humorous way. In this case, the soggy paper straw has become an unexpected symbol representing the gap many people feel between small individual actions and much larger global issues.

Ultimately, the viral trend shows how quickly everyday objects can turn into powerful internet symbols. What began as a simple joke about paper straws has evolved into a broader reflection on modern life, responsibility and the way people react to major events in the digital age.

Indian Woman Celebrates Holi With Japanese Landlord In US, Viral Video Warms Hearts



A heartwarming video of an Indian woman celebrating Holi with her Japanese landlord in the United States has gone viral on social media, drawing praise for its message of friendship and cultural connection. The clip captures a joyful moment between the two women as they celebrate the festival of colours together, despite being far away from home.

The video was shared on Instagram by the Indian woman, who revealed that she currently lives alone in the US. With no friends or family nearby to celebrate the festival, she expected to spend Holi quietly. However, her elderly Japanese landlord stepped in to make the day special by joining her in the celebration.

In the short clip, the two women can be seen smiling and laughing as they gently apply organic yellow colour to each other's cheeks. The simple yet meaningful celebration reflects a warm bond between the tenant and her landlord. At one point in the video, the Indian woman affectionately refers to her landlord as “pookie,” highlighting the close and friendly relationship they share.

While sharing the video online, the woman explained that her landlord joined her for the festival because she knew she was living alone in the country. She also described the elderly woman as “the sweetest,” expressing gratitude for the thoughtful gesture that made her Holi celebration memorable.

The video quickly gained attention online, with thousands of viewers praising the landlord's kindness and willingness to embrace another culture. Many social media users said the clip was a beautiful reminder that festivals have the power to bring people together regardless of nationality, language or background.

Several commenters admired the warm relationship between the two women. Many described the moment as wholesome and heartwarming, saying it perfectly reflected the true spirit of Holi—a festival that celebrates joy, togetherness and friendship.

Others said the video highlighted how small acts of kindness can have a big impact, especially for people living far away from their families. Some viewers even joked that the landlord should one day visit India to experience a grand Holi celebration in its full spirit.

Holi, often known as the festival of colours, is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in India. It marks the arrival of spring and symbolises the triumph of good over evil. Traditionally, people celebrate by throwing coloured powders, sharing sweets and spending time with loved ones.

For those living abroad, festivals can sometimes feel lonely. However, this touching moment between an Indian tenant and her Japanese landlord shows how compassion and companionship can turn even a simple celebration into a truly special memory.

“Activa Uncle” Helps Stranded Biker in Bengaluru Traffic, Wins Hearts Online

In a heartwarming incident that has captured the attention of social media users, a stranger in Bengaluru came to the rescue of a biker whose motorcycle broke down in the middle of heavy traffic. The simple yet thoughtful gesture has been widely praised online, with many calling it a “true Bengaluru moment.”

The story was shared by a Reddit user who described the stressful experience he faced while returning from a site visit. The man, an architecture student, said his motorcycle suddenly displayed an “Engine Temp High” warning before shutting down completely on a busy road between KR Puram and Kasturinar. With traffic building up around him, he had no choice but to push the bike along the crowded street.

The situation quickly turned exhausting. Surrounded by impatient vehicles and constant honking, the biker struggled to move the heavy motorcycle through the congested road. The challenge became even tougher when he had to push the bike uphill on a bridge while trying to navigate through slow-moving traffic.

Just when the situation seemed overwhelming,



help arrived unexpectedly. An elderly man riding a Honda Activa scooter noticed the struggling biker and stopped to check on him. After learning about the problem, the stranger immediately offered to help push the motorcycle to the nearest service centre.

The two then worked together to move the stalled bike through the busy Kasturinar-Ramamurthy Nagar stretch. The older man carefully assist-

ed the rider as they made their way through the traffic, helping guide the bike around obstacles and vehicles on the road. At one point, they even had to maneuver around a stalled bus blocking part of the route.

During the journey, the pair also had a brief conversation about modern motorcycles and how their sensors can sometimes cause the engine to shut down when certain issues are detected. Despite the

difficulty of the situation, the unexpected help made the experience much less stressful for the stranded rider.

After some effort, they eventually reached a service centre in Banaswadi. However, before the biker could properly thank the man or offer him something in appreciation, the stranger quietly left the spot without waiting for recognition.

Reflecting on the moment later, the rider said

the act of kindness left a strong impression on him. In the midst of chaotic city traffic, the stranger's willingness to stop and help reminded him that compassion still exists in everyday life.

The story has since resonated with many people online, who praised the anonymous “Activa uncle” for his generosity and shared similar experiences of strangers stepping forward to help when it mattered most.

Google Techie's Rs 1.43 Lakh Monthly Expense Breakdown In Bengaluru Sparks Online Discussion

A young professional working at Google has gone viral on social media after sharing a detailed breakdown of her monthly expenses while living in Bengaluru. The video, posted by 24-year-old techie Pooja Narula, revealed that she spent about Rs 1.43 lakh in February, sparking discussions about the rising cost of living in India's technology hub.

In the video, Narula explained that her spending included both regular living costs and several one-time expenses that pushed the total higher than usual. She began by listing her fixed monthly costs, which make up the basic portion of her budget while staying in the city.

According to her breakdown, her rent for a room in Bengaluru came to Rs 22,400 per month. She also spends about Rs 2,800 on services such as hiring a maid and a cook. Utility bills, including electricity and other basic services, add another Rs 2,000 to her monthly expenses.



Apart from essential costs, Narula also shared details about her lifestyle spending. She revealed that she usually spends around Rs 2,000 every weekend on social activities, which totals about Rs 8,000 a month. These outings include meeting friends, dining out and other leisure activities.

However, she clarified that February was not a

typical month for her financially because it included several additional expenses. During the month, she travelled home, which resulted in Rs 16,000 spent on flight tickets and another Rs 2,000 on airport cab rides.

The tech professional also had to move to a new house during the same period. The relocation process cost Rs 3,000 for mov-

ers and packers, and she paid a security deposit of Rs 66,600, which significantly increased her total spending for the month.

In addition to these costs, Narula mentioned that she spent around Rs 20,000 on dining plans and gifts for friends, further adding to the overall amount. After calculating all these expenses, she concluded that her total

spending for February reached approximately Rs 1.43 lakh.

While acknowledging that the figure may appear high, she explained that many of the expenses were temporary and not part of her regular monthly budget. Once those one-time payments are cleared, she expects her future monthly spending to be much lower.

The video quickly attracted attention online, with many viewers sharing their thoughts about the high cost of living in Bengaluru. Some people were surprised by the total amount, while others pointed out that relocation costs and housing deposits can significantly increase expenses in a single month.

The post has since sparked wider conversations on social media about budgeting, lifestyle spending and the financial realities faced by young professionals living in major metropolitan cities.

Man Rescued After Getting Trapped in Manchester Phone Box While Trying to Order Kebab



him tried to help by pulling on the door and attempting to force it open from outside, but their efforts were unsuccessful. The door appeared to be locked with a mechanism that could only be opened using special keys typically held by maintenance workers or telecom engi-

neers. As a result, the man remained trapped while his friends continued trying to free him.

The incident reportedly lasted for more than an hour. During that time, passersby began to notice the strange situation, and some gathered nearby to watch. A few even record-

ed videos of the unusual scene on their phones as the man waited inside the phone box.

At one point, the trapped man attempted to remove a glass panel from the lower part of the booth in an effort to escape. Although he managed to loosen the panel, it

still did not provide enough space for him to climb out safely.

With no other option left, his friends eventually called the fire brigade for assistance. Firefighters soon arrived at the scene and assessed the situation before working to open the stuck door. After a brief effort, they successfully forced the door open and freed the man from the booth.

Once he stepped out, the man appeared both relieved and slightly embarrassed by the ordeal. He reportedly thanked the firefighters who had come to help him and shook hands with them before leaving the area.

The unusual incident has since amused many people online. Social media users have joked about the situation, with some wondering whether the man ever managed to get the kebab he had originally tried to order. Others simply found the story a humorous reminder that even simple plans can sometimes lead to unexpected situations.

Fans Criticise Sunrisers Over Pakistan Player Signing

The Sunrisers franchise has come under sharp criticism from cricket fans after its sister team signed Pakistani spinner Abrar Ahmed during the player auction for England's franchise tournament The Hundred.

The controversy began after Sunrisers Leeds, a team linked to the Sunrisers Hyderabad franchise in the Indian Premier League, secured the services of Abrar Ahmed for £190,000 during the auction held in London. The franchise reportedly outbid Trent Rockets to sign the mystery spinner, who has gained recognition for his impressive performances in international and franchise cricket.

However, the move sparked strong reactions on social media, particularly among Indian cricket fans. Many supporters expressed disappointment over the decision, questioning why a franchise associated with an Indian Premier League team would sign a Pakistani player. Several users voiced their anger online and said the move hurt the sentiments of Indian supporters.

Some fans also threatened to unfollow the franchise's social media accounts and boycott its matches, claiming the decision ignored the sensitivities of Indian cricket followers. The backlash intensified after some users



pointed to alleged past social media activity by Abrar Ahmed, which critics claimed was insensitive toward India. These claims further fueled the online debate.

Despite the criticism, cricket observers pointed out that the signing took place in an overseas tournament and not in the Indian Premier League, where Pakistani players have not partici-

pated since the early seasons due to political tensions between India and Pakistan.

Franchise representatives indicated that the decision to sign Abrar Ahmed was purely based on cricketing considerations. Team management reportedly believed that the Pakistani spinner would strengthen the side's bowling attack and provide valuable spin options during the tournament.

Abrar Ahmed is widely regarded as a talented mystery spinner and has earned praise for his ability to trouble batsmen with variations and sharp turn. His performances in international matches and T20 leagues have made him a sought-after player in franchise cricket.

The episode highlights how cricket decisions can sometimes intersect with national sentiments and public opinion. While franchise leagues around the world often include players from multiple countries, political tensions and historic rivalries between India and Pakistan continue to influence fan reactions.

As the tournament approaches, it remains to be seen whether the controversy will affect the franchise's popularity among Indian supporters or whether fans will eventually move past the issue and focus on the on-field performances.

Rising Interest in Cricket Among Indian Women

Women's participation in cricket across India has witnessed a significant surge in recent years, according to a new study that highlights the growing popularity of the sport among women and young girls.

The survey, conducted by the BBC in collaboration with the Collective Newsroom, covered more than 10,000 women across 14 states in the country. The findings revealed that the proportion of women who say they play cricket has doubled over the past few years, reflecting a steady rise in interest and participation.

According to the study, around 10 percent of women now say they play cricket, compared with about 5 percent in 2020. Researchers say the growth reflects changing attitudes toward women in sports as well as increasing visibility of women's cricket in India.

The increase has been particularly noticeable among younger women. Nearly 16 percent of women aged between 15 and 24 reported that they play cricket, a sharp rise from around 6 percent a few years ago. Experts believe that improved access to sports facilities, school-level tournaments and media coverage of women's cricket have contributed to the growing enthusiasm among young players.

The study also indicates that many young women are beginning to view sports as a potential career option. Nearly one in four women in the 15-24 age group



said they had considered pursuing a professional career in sports. This shift highlights the impact of successful female athletes who are inspiring the next generation to take up competitive sports.

The growing popularity of cricket among women also reflects the increasing prominence of the India women's national cricket team on the international stage. Strong performances by the national side and greater media attention have played a key role in encouraging more girls to participate in the sport.

Researchers noted that cricket

has now overtaken several traditional sports in popularity among women in many regions. In earlier years, sports like kabaddi were more widely played among women in rural areas, but cricket has now emerged as the preferred choice in many states.

Another key finding of the report is the narrowing gender gap in cricket participation. A few years ago, the ratio of women to men playing cricket was roughly one woman for every five men. The latest figures suggest that the gap has reduced to around one woman for every three men,

indicating greater inclusivity in the sport.

Despite the encouraging trends, the study also highlighted challenges that still prevent some women from taking up sports. Safety concerns and limited access to facilities remain important issues in certain regions.

Experts believe that continued investment in infrastructure, training opportunities and safety measures will further strengthen the growth of women's cricket in India and help more young girls pursue the sport in the coming years.

KKR Sign Muzarabani as Mustafizur's Replacement



Kolkata Knight Riders have signed Zimbabwe fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani as a replacement for Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman ahead of the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League.

The franchise announced the decision as part of its preparations for the 2026 IPL season. Muzarabani joins the squad after opting out of the Pakistan Super League, where he was

scheduled to represent Islamabad United. His withdrawal from the PSL allowed him to accept the opportunity to play in the IPL with the Kolkata-based franchise.

Standing over two metres tall, Muzarabani is regarded as one of Zimbabwe's leading fast bowlers in international cricket. Known for his pace and ability to generate steep bounce, the tall pacer has been

an important figure in Zimbabwe's bowling attack across formats. His height and bowling style are expected to add variety and strength to KKR's pace department.

KKR management believes the Zimbabwean pacer will provide additional depth to their bowling unit. The team is looking to strengthen its fast-bowling options ahead of the new season, especially with the tour-

nament known for high-scoring matches and intense competition among top franchises.

Mustafizur Rahman was initially part of the KKR squad but had to pull out before the start of the season. The franchise subsequently moved quickly to find a suitable replacement from the international player pool and finalised Muzarabani as the best available option.

Cricket experts say Muzarabani's ability to bowl hard lengths and extract bounce could prove useful on certain IPL pitches. His experience in international cricket and franchise tournaments around the world is expected to help him adapt quickly to the high-pressure environment of the IPL.

The Kolkata franchise, one of the most successful teams in IPL history, is aiming for a strong campaign in the upcoming season. With a balanced mix of experienced international players and promising domestic talent, KKR hopes to put together a competitive squad capable of challenging for the title.

Fans will now be eager to see how Muzarabani performs in the IPL and whether the Zimbabwean pacer can make an immediate impact for the team during the highly anticipated tournament.

RCB Concerned Over Hazlewood's Fitness Ahead of IPL 2026



Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) are facing a major concern ahead of the upcoming IPL 2026 season as uncertainty surrounds the fitness of their key overseas fast bowler Josh Hazlewood. The Australian pacer, who was bought for ₹12.5 crore, is still recovering from an injury, raising doubts about his availability for the start of the tournament.

Hazlewood has been out of competitive cricket for some time due to recurring injury issues. His participation in the IPL will depend on whether he regains full fitness and receives medical clearance before the tournament begins. The development has put the RCB team management on alert as they prepare for another challenging IPL season.

The tall right-arm pacer has been a crucial part of RCB's bowling unit whenever he has featured for the franchise. Known for his accuracy, consistent line and length, and ability to generate bounce, Hazlewood has often delivered important breakthroughs for the team, particularly during the powerplay overs. His experience in international cricket also adds stability and leadership to the pace attack.

However, persistent injury concerns have created uncertainty over his immediate future. Reports suggest that

Hazlewood has been undergoing rehabilitation after struggling with fitness issues that kept him away from regular cricket. Until he is fully fit and match-ready, RCB cannot be certain about including him in their playing XI.

If the Australian fast bowler fails to recover in time, it could disrupt the franchise's bowling plans for the early phase of the tournament. RCB may have to rely on other overseas options or emerging Indian pacers to fill the gap in the pace department. Such adjustments could affect the balance of the team, especially in the crucial powerplay and death overs where Hazlewood's control and discipline are highly valued.

Despite the concerns, the RCB camp remains hopeful that the experienced pacer will regain fitness before the IPL season begins. His presence would significantly strengthen the team's bowling attack and improve their chances of competing strongly in the tournament.

With IPL 2026 approaching, fans and team management will be closely monitoring updates on Hazlewood's recovery. His availability could play a key role in determining how well RCB performs in the highly competitive T20 league this season.

Run-Out Drama Sparks Controversy in Pakistan-Bangladesh ODI



A major controversy erupted during the second ODI between Pakistan national cricket team and Bangladesh national cricket team after a bizarre run-out dismissal of Salman Ali Agha triggered heated reactions on the field.

The incident occurred in the 39th over of Pakistan's innings when Agha was batting alongside Mohammad Rizwan. Rizwan played a defensive shot back towards the bowler, where Bangladesh captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz moved to collect the ball.

During the follow-through, Miraz collided with Agha near the non-striker's end, causing the ball to drop close to them. At that moment, Agha stepped out of his crease and bent down in an attempt to pick up the ball and return it to the bowler. However, Miraz quickly grabbed the ball and threw it at the stumps at the non-striker's end while Agha was still outside his crease.

The Bangladesh players appealed immediately, and the decision was referred to the third umpire. After reviewing the replay, the umpire ruled Agha run out, sparking visible frustration from the Pakistani batter. Agha, who had scored 64 runs and was involved in a strong partnership with Rizwan, appeared unhappy with the manner of the dismissal before leaving the field.

The incident quickly became a talking point among players, commentators, and fans, as many debated whether the run-out was within the "spirit of cricket." While the dismissal was technically legal under the rules, some felt the situation was unusual because Agha seemed to be attempting to return the ball rather than gain an advantage.

Following the decision, there were tense moments on the field, with Agha exchanging words with Miraz before walking back to the pavilion. The dismissal also disrupted Pakistan's momentum at a crucial stage of the innings.

Despite the controversy, the umpire's ruling stood, and play continued as Bangladesh celebrated a crucial breakthrough. The dramatic moment added extra intensity to an already competitive ODI encounter and sparked widespread discussion across the cricketing world about sportsmanship and match awareness.

The episode is likely to remain one of the most debated incidents from the Pakistan-Bangladesh series, highlighting how split-second decisions and unusual situations can ignite controversy in international cricket.

Supreme Court Relief Clears Ticket Price Hike for Ustaad Bhagat Singh

The makers of Ustaad Bhagat Singh, starring Pawan Kalyan, have received major legal relief as the Supreme Court allowed the possibility of increasing ticket prices ahead of the film's release.

High Court Rule Put on Hold

Earlier, the Telangana High Court had introduced a strict condition stating that any approval for a ticket price hike must be issued at least 90 days before a film's release. This rule created uncertainty for several big-budget movies scheduled for near-term release.

Challenging this requirement, production house Mythri Movie Makers approached the Supreme Court of India. The apex court has now stayed the High Court's directive, allowing authorities to follow the earlier system for approving ticket price increases.

Path Cleared for Price Hike

With the 90-day condition suspended, the film's producers can seek enhanced ticket prices in Telangana as well. Industry observers say this decision



Impact Beyond One Film

effectively removes a major obstacle for the film's commercial rollout.

Reports indicate that higher prices could apply to premium shows and initial screening days, a common practice for major star-driven releases.

Release Amid Massive Expectations

Directed by Harish Shankar, the film is set for a worldwide release on March 19. The project has generated enormous buzz among fans, particularly because it marks another high-profile collaboration involving Pawan Kalyan.

The legal development has further boosted expectations for strong opening-day collections, especially if special shows and higher ticket slabs are approved.

Legal experts note that the Supreme Court's interim decision may influence other upcoming releases as well, since the High Court's rule would otherwise have applied to all films in the state.

Fans Welcome the Decision

Supporters of the star and trade analysts believe the ruling will help the film maximize its box-office potential during its initial run, traditionally the most lucrative period for big releases.

In essence, the court's intervention has removed a key regulatory hurdle, setting the stage for a high-profile and potentially record-breaking theatrical launch.

Telugu Directors' Association Meets Chiranjeevi, Outlines Future Plans

The newly elected executive committee of the Telugu Film Directors' Association met veteran actor Chiranjeevi in a courtesy visit at his residence, marking their first formal interaction after the recent internal elections.

New Leadership Introduced
The association recently conducted elections in which the panel led by V. N. Aditya and Neelam Sai Rajesh secured a decisive victory. Following their win, the newly formed committee visited the Megastar to introduce themselves and seek his guidance.

Discussion on Activities and Future Initiatives

During the meeting, the directors briefed Chiranjeevi on the welfare programs currently being undertaken by the association. They also presented their roadmap for initiatives planned over the next two years, focusing on professional development, industry support, and community



service activities.

Chiranjeevi reportedly showed keen interest in the plans and asked detailed questions about the association's past achievements as well as its upcoming projects.

Felicitation of the Actor

The committee members also

felicitated Chiranjeevi on receiving a prestigious national-level honour recently announced by the Telangana government. The interaction was described as warm and encouraging, with the actor expressing appreciation for the directors' efforts.

As a gesture of goodwill, he

presented pens to the committee members and wished them success in their tenure.

Role of Industry Leaders

Prominent director Meher Ramesh, who serves as treasurer of the association's trust, coordinated the meeting. Members thanked him for facilitating the interaction with one of the most influential figures in Telugu cinema.

Strengthening Industry Ties

Such meetings are seen as important for maintaining unity within the film industry, as senior stars often play a guiding role for professional bodies representing technicians and filmmakers.

Overall, the visit highlighted the association's intent to work closely with industry veterans while pursuing initiatives aimed at supporting directors and strengthening the Telugu film ecosystem.

Allu Aravind Introduces India's Biggest Dolby Vision Screen at Allu Cinemas

Veteran producer Allu Aravind has unveiled what is being described as India's largest Dolby Vision screen at Allu Cinemas, marking a major leap in theatrical movie-watching technology.

Massive Premium Cinema Experience

The new multiplex, located in Kokapet near Hyderabad, features four screens, with the main auditorium housing the giant Dolby Cinema screen. Measuring around 75 feet wide, it is designed to deliver an immersive viewing experience with exceptional brightness, contrast, and clarity.

The flagship hall can seat more than 600 viewers and features stadium-style seating along with interiors engineered to eliminate light interference, ensuring optimal projection quality.



Advanced Dolby Vision and Atmos Technology

The theatre's highlight is its dual 4K laser projection system powered by Dolby Vision technology, capable of producing ultra-vivid colours and deep blacks for lifelike visuals. Complementing the visuals is a studio-grade Dolby Atmos sound system that surrounds the audience with multidimensional audio from all directions.

The auditorium reportedly in-

cludes dozens of speakers strategically placed throughout the hall, creating a fully immersive cinematic environment.

Part of a High-End Multiplex

While Screen 1 offers the flagship Dolby Cinema experience, the remaining screens are also equipped with premium features such as laser projection and advanced sound systems. The complex aims to match international standards for large-

format cinema exhibition.

Inspired by Demand for Giant Screens

Allu Aravind indicated that the project was driven by growing demand for high-quality large-screen experiences, especially for big-budget films. The initiative reflects a broader shift toward premium theatrical formats that offer something beyond standard multiplex viewing.

A Landmark for Hyderabad Moviegoers

Industry observers view the launch as a major milestone for the city's exhibition sector, positioning Hyderabad as a key destination in India for cutting-edge cinema technology.

In essence, the new Dolby Vision auditorium seeks to transform movie-watching into a larger-than-life experience, combining giant visuals, powerful sound, and luxury seating under one roof.

Shah Rukh Khan to Launch Allu Arjun Atlee Movie AA26 Glimpse

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is set to unveil the first glimpse from the much anticipated Tollywood film AA26, starring Allu Arjun and directed by Atlee.

Special Event Planned

A special event has been announced where Shah Rukh Khan will launch the first look or glimpse of AA26. The occasion is expected to be a grand celebration featuring both stars and industry personalities. This collaboration between leading figures from Telugu and Hindi cinema is generating excitement among fans across languages.

AA26: High Expectations

AA26 marks the third collaboration between Allu Arjun and Atlee, following their successful past projects. With a strong production team backing the venture, the film has been one of the most talked about releases



in Tollywood.

Releasing the glimpse through Shah Rukh Khan adds a cross industry promotional boost and is likely aimed at amplifying the film's reach among pan India audiences.

Fans Eager for First Look

Social media buzz around the announcement is intense, with fans eagerly awaiting the glimpse reveal. The involvement of Shah Rukh Khan — one of Indian cinema's biggest stars — is expected to attract even more attention to the film ahead of

its promotional run.

Significance for AA26

Launching the glimpse with Shah Rukh Khan highlights the growing trend of films using high impact promotional tactics to create early buzz. It also underscores the pan Indian appeal that movies like AA26 are aiming for, breaking regional boundaries.

In essence, the event promises to be a major promotional moment for AA26, combining star power, cross industry collaboration, and fan excitement ahead of the film's wider release.

Dhurandhar Re Releases on 500 Screens Ahead of Dhurandhar: The Revenge



The classic Bollywood action thriller Dhurandhar has been re-released on around 500 screens nationwide in anticipation of its upcoming sequel, Dhurandhar: The Revenge.

Classic Returns to Theatres

The re-release brings one of the most iconic films of its era back to cinema halls, allowing both longtime fans and new audiences to experience it on the big screen once again. The expanded release across hundreds of screens highlights the enduring popularity of the original and builds momentum for the sequel's launch.

Sequel Building Anticipation

Titled Dhurandhar: The Revenge, the new chapter is one of the most talked about Bollywood releases this year. Producers and distributors are using the re-release of the original movie strategically to reignite audience interest and set the stage for the sequel's box office performance.

Nostalgia Meets New Audiences

Re-releasing classic films ahead of sequels is increasingly becoming a trend in Indian cinema, allowing fans to revisit memorable scenes and storylines before watching the next instalment. For many, the theatrical return of Dhurandhar is a rare chance to watch it in its original cinematic format.

Box Office Impact

Industry analysts expect that showing the original on a large scale will help reinforce Dhurandhar's cultural impact and boost advance bookings for The Revenge. Early reactions from audiences suggest strong nostalgia and excitement, especially among viewers who remember the film from its first run.

Fan Reactions

Fans have taken to social media to share their excitement, with many planning to attend screenings in large groups. Some have expressed hope that Dhurandhar: The Revenge will match or even surpass the original in terms of action, music, and storytelling.

Strategic Marketing Push

Film trade experts say this re-release acts as a strategic marketing push, serving both as a tribute to a classic and as a promotional tool for the upcoming sequel. The simultaneous buzz around both films is expected to intensify as the release date of The Revenge approaches.

In summary, the re-release of Dhurandhar on 500 screens is setting the stage for a major cinematic moment, blending nostalgia with anticipation for what promises to be one of Bollywood's standout releases of the year.

Actor Rajendra Prasad Apologises for Remarks on MGR



Veteran Telugu actor Rajendra Prasad has issued a public apology after his controversial remarks about legendary Tamil actor-politician M. G. Ramachandran triggered strong backlash.

Controversy Began at Award Function

The incident occurred during an award ceremony in Hyderabad where Rajendra Prasad was honouring veteran Telugu star Kantha Rao. While praising Kantha Rao's popularity and acting prowess, he made a comparison involving MGR that many in the Tamil film industry found disrespectful.

The comments quickly went viral on social media and sparked outrage among fans and artists, particularly in Tamil Nadu, where MGR remains a deeply revered figure both in cinema and politics.

Strong Reaction From Film Fraternity

Several prominent members of the Tamil film industry condemned the remarks and called for an apology. Critics argued that while praising one legend is appropriate, diminishing another iconic personality hurts public sentiment.

Industry bodies and senior actors emphasized MGR's stature not only as a film star but also as a former Chief Minister who continues to command immense respect

Actor Issues Video Apology

Responding to the controversy, Rajendra Prasad released a video message expressing regret. He said his words were spoken casually during his speech and that he never intended to offend anyone.

He stressed that he has long admired MGR and questioned why he would deliberately disrespect such a towering personality. The actor added that if his remarks hurt anyone's feelings, he sincerely apologises and assured that he would be more careful in the future.

Respect for MGR Reaffirmed

Rajendra Prasad also recalled his admiration for MGR dating back to his student days, noting that the late leader had visited film institutes and inspired aspiring actors.

Controversy Gradually Eases

Following the apology, the situation appears to be calming, though the incident highlighted how sensitive discussions involving cultural icons can be.

In essence, what began as an attempt to praise one veteran actor turned into a major cross-industry controversy, prompting Rajendra Prasad to publicly express regret and reaffirm his respect for one of South India's most celebrated figures.

Ram Charan's Peddi to Release in New Dolby Cinema Format

Tollywood star Ram Charan's upcoming movie Peddi is set to hit screens in an upgraded viewing format, incorporating Dolby Cinema technology for a more immersive theatrical experience.

Enhanced Theatre Experience

The film will be shown in Dolby Cinema, a premium format that combines advanced Dolby Vision imaging with Dolby Atmos sound. This pairing delivers brighter colours, deeper contrast, and multidimensional audio — offering audiences a richer, more engaging way to watch big screen entertainment.

This release strategy reflects a growing trend in Indian cinema where filmmakers are choosing premium formats to make their films stand out and attract audiences back to theatres.

Peddi Poised for Big Release

Directed by a noted filmmaker and featuring



a strong ensemble cast alongside Ram Charan, Peddi has been one of the most anticipated Telugu films of the year. The decision to release it in Dolby Cinema underscores confidence in the film's visual scale and storytelling.

The premium format is expected to particularly appeal to fans and cinephiles who prefer enhanced picture quality and top tier sound during their theatre experience.

Significance for Tollywood

Tollywood has increasingly embraced modern cinema technologies to compete with global standards, and Peddi's Dolby Cinema rollout represents another step in that direction. Earlier re-

leases in this format have contributed to strong audience interest, especially for visually rich action and drama films.

Fans Excited for Cinema Upgrade

Social media reaction has reflected excitement among fans, who see the Dolby Cinema release as a value addition to their movie going experience. Many anticipate that the premium format will elevate emotional and action sequences, making Peddi a must watch on the big screen.

In essence, the Dolby Cinema release is expected to both enhance the film's presentation and drive footfall, reinforcing the film's commercial prospects at the box office.