



BUZZ POINTS

AIADMK MP's "I Want Nayanthara" Remark Triggers Political Storm In Tamil Nadu



Predicted Impact on Society

Researchers say this could transform the global economy and social systems.

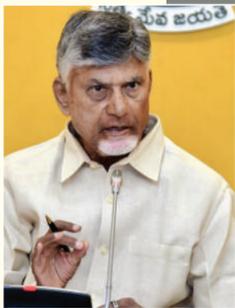
Possible effects include: Aging populations (more elderly than children) Labor shortages in many countries Pressure on pension and health-care systems Competition between countries for immigrants Greater reliance on automation and AI in the industry.

Population Projection Table (approximate values)

Table with 5 columns: Country, Current Population (2025), Projected Population (2100), Population Change, % Change. Rows include India, China, United States, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Brazil, Russia, Japan, and Bangladesh.

Population Panic or Population Vision?

Rethinking Chandrababu Naidu's Call for Larger Families



"In the past, I used to worry about the consequences of a growing population. However, in light of the changed circumstances, we have revised our policies. The Total Fertility Rate in the state has plummeted to a dangerously low level of 1.5. If this trend continues, the southern states may experience negative population growth. If delimitation takes place in the future, southern states could face severe political disadvantages."

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar, 17th March 2026 | TPN Bureau

The recent remarks by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu encouraging families to have at least three children have triggered an intense public debate. At a time when governments across India have spent decades promoting family planning and population control, the idea of actively encouraging larger families appears striking and unusual. Yet the Chief Minister insists that the declining birth rate in southern states could become a serious demographic challenge in the coming decades.



Rate (TFR) in Andhra Pradesh is around 1.5, far below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman required to maintain a stable population (The concept was popularised by demographers such as Phillip Longman in his book The Empty

Cradle). If this trend continues, the population could gradually shrink and age, potentially affecting the state's economy, workforce, and political representation in the future.

The concern raised by the Chief Minister reflects a dramatic shift in demographic thinking. For decades, policymakers were influenced by the ideas of the British economist and demographer Thomas Robert Malthus, whose famous book An Essay on the Principle of Population warned that unchecked population growth could outpace food production and lead to poverty, famine, and social instability. Malthus argued that while popula-

tion tends to grow in geometric progression, food production increases only in arithmetic progression. The imbalance, he believed, would eventually produce crises unless population growth was restrained.

For much of the twentieth century, these fears shaped global population policies. Countries such as India introduced family planning programs to slow population growth and reduce pressure on resources. However, the demographic reality of the twenty-first century is turning out to be quite different from what Malthus predicted.

Modern demographic research now warns that declining fertility rates,

rather than population explosions, may become the bigger challenge for many societies. A widely cited global study published in the international medical journal The Lancet suggests that the world's population could peak around the middle of this century and begin to decline thereafter. The research, led by demographer Stein Emil Vollset and supported by scholars including Christopher J L Murray, projects that global population may reach around 9.7 billion by the 2060s before gradually falling to about 8.8 billion by 2100.

The reason behind this shift lies in major social transformations taking place across the world. Urbanisation,

Andhra Pradesh Announces Kalaratna and Ugadi Awardees for 2026

Amaravathi, 17th March 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has officially announced the prestigious Kalaratna (Hamsa) and Ugadi Puraskar awardees for the year 2026, recognizing outstanding contributions across a wide range of fields including literature, music, dance, social service, journalism, and arts. The awards are presented as part of the Sri Parabhava Nama Samvatsaram celebrations.

A total of 40 eminent personalities have been selected for the Kalaratna (Hamsa) awards, while 124 individuals have been chosen for the Ugadi Puraskar honors. The selection was made by a specially constituted committee, which evaluated the contributions and achievements of individuals in their respective domains. Among the Kalaratna awardees are distinguished figures from literature such as Mannava Satyanarayana, Dr. R.A. Padmanabha Rao, and Dr. Nagabhairava Adinarayana. In the field of mu-



sic, notable names include Dr. Tadepally Lokanadha Sharma and the Satyavada Sisters. Classical dance forms are also well represented, with artists like Harirama Murthy in Kuchipudi and Denduluri Padma Mohan in Andhra Natyam being honored.

The awards also recognize excellence in visual arts, drama, and folk traditions. Artists such as A.V.B.S. Anand in painting and illustration, and Tondavani Purushothamaiah in sculpture, have been acknowledged for their contributions. In addition, individuals working in social service, journalism, and cultural preservation have been included, highlighting the

government's commitment to honoring diverse talents.

The Ugadi Puraskar list features a larger group of achievers from various disciplines. These include writers, dancers, musicians, journalists, and folk artists from across the state. The awards aim to encourage and celebrate grassroots talent as well as established figures who have significantly contributed to cultural and social development.

As part of the recognition, Kalaratna awardees will receive a cash prize of Rs. 50,000, along with a Hamsa statue, shawl, and certificate. Ugadi awardees will be presented with Rs. 10,000, a memento, shawl, and certificate. The Andhra Pradesh State Creativity and Culture Commission will oversee the further proceedings and ensure that the awards are presented in a grand manner. The initiative reflects the state government's continued focus on promoting arts, culture, and social contributions while honoring individuals who have made a lasting impact in their fields.

No LPG Shortage in Andhra Pradesh, Public Need Not Worry: Chandrababu



Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu assured that there is no shortage of LPG gas in the state and urged the public not to panic. He stated that the government has sufficient reserves and is closely monitoring the supply situation to ensure uninterrupted distribution.

During a review meeting, the Chief Minister said that around 14,000 metric tonnes of LPG stock is currently available, which is adequate to meet the state's requirements for the next 15 days. He added that additional supplies are expected to arrive soon, further strengthening availability across all regions.

Naidu directed officials to ensure that essential institutions such as hospitals, hostels, and temples receive uninterrupted gas supply. He emphasized that priority must be given to these sectors while maintaining smooth distribution for domestic consumers.

To prevent misuse and diversion of LPG cylinders, the Chief Minister instructed officials to strictly implement e-KYC and OTP-based verification systems. He stressed that

these measures would help ensure transparency and prevent black marketing, ensuring that genuine beneficiaries receive their supply without any issues.

He also appealed to the public not to believe rumors regarding gas shortages and to avoid panic booking of cylinders. The Chief Minister reassured that the government has a well-planned supply system in place and that there is no need for concern.

In addition, Naidu directed officials to explore alternative cooking solutions such as increasing the availability of induction stoves. He highlighted the need to reduce dependency on LPG during peak demand periods and ensure sustainable energy usage.

The Chief Minister also emphasized expanding the city gas distribution network and promoting the use of piped natural gas. He suggested increasing the adoption of CNG and PNG as cleaner and more efficient fuel alternatives.

Senior officials and representatives from petroleum companies participated in the review meeting. The government reiterated its commitment to maintaining a stable LPG supply system and ensuring that people across the state do not face any inconvenience.

Chandrababu Naidu Hails Progress on Mulapeta Port

Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed satisfaction over the progress of the Mulapeta Port project, calling it a significant step forward in strengthening the state's infrastructure.

The Chief Minister welcomed the approval for the transfer of over 385 acres of salt land to the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board, stating that it would help accelerate the pace of development. He noted that resolving land-related issues is crucial for the timely execution of large-scale infrastructure projects.

Naidu highlighted that the progress reflects strong coordination between the state and central governments. He described it as a positive outcome of cooperative governance and expressed gratitude to the Union government for extending support to Andhra Pradesh in facilitating key projects.

Emphasizing the importance of the port, the Chief Minister said that Mulapeta



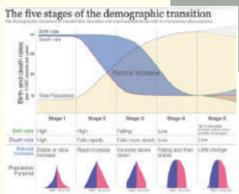
Port will play a vital role in enhancing trade and logistics capabilities in the region. He added that improved road and rail connectivity linked to the port would further boost cargo movement and attract industrial investments.

The Chief Minister also pointed out that port-led development is a major focus of the state government. He said projects like Mulapeta Port are expected to generate employment opportunities, promote industrial growth, and contribute significantly to the economic development of north coastal Andhra Pradesh. Naidu expressed confidence

that once completed, the port would emerge as a key hub for maritime activities and strengthen the state's position in national and international trade. He reiterated the government's commitment to fast-tracking infrastructure projects and creating a favorable environment for investments.

The development of Mulapeta Port is seen as a major milestone in Andhra Pradesh's long-term vision of becoming a leading industrial and logistics hub, with enhanced connectivity and robust infrastructure supporting sustainable growth.

Nara Lokesh Inaugurates New APEDB Office in Mangalagiri



Why the population may decline Scientists point to several major social changes:

- 1. Higher education levels Especially among women. 2. Urban lifestyles Cities make large families more expensive. 3. Economic development As countries become richer, families tend to have fewer children. 4. Access to contraception and family planning 5. Late marriages in society

Population Panic or Population Vision? Rethinking Chandrababu Naidu's Call for Larger Families

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rising living costs, higher education levels, particularly among women and increased workforce participation have significantly reduced family sizes. Access to contraception and changing lifestyle aspirations have also contributed to declining birth rates in many countries.

Demographers describe this process through the Demographic Transition Theory, developed by scholars such as Warren Thompson and later refined by Frank W. Notestein. According to this theory, societies move through stages of development, from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates. In the final stage, fertility falls below replacement levels, leading to population decline and ageing societies.

Some researchers have gone further and described this phenomenon as "Demographic Winter." The concept, popularised by American analyst Philip Longman in his book *The Empty Cradle*, warns that prolonged low fertility could lead to shrinking populations, economic stagnation, and profound social changes.

Several developed countries

are already experiencing these demographic realities. Nations such as Japan, Italy, Spain, and South Korea have fertility rates far below replacement level. Projections suggest that some of these countries could lose nearly half their population by the end of the century. In Japan, for example, the population may fall from around 125 million to nearly 60 million by 2100 if current trends continue.

The social consequences of such demographic shifts can be far-reaching. Ageing populations mean a larger proportion of elderly citizens and a shrinking workforce. This imbalance can create severe pressure on pension systems, healthcare infrastructure, and public finances. Labour shortages may slow economic growth and force countries to rely more heavily on automation, artificial intelligence, or immigration.

Against this global backdrop, the concerns expressed by Chandrababu Naidu begin to appear less unusual and perhaps more strategic. Southern Indian states, including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala have achieved remarkable success

in reducing fertility rates through education, healthcare, and social development. However, this success has also led to demographic patterns similar to those now seen in many developed countries.

Another dimension of the debate relates to India's future political landscape. If population growth continues to slow significantly in the southern states while northern states maintain higher birth rates, the balance of political representation could shift in future constituency delimitation exercises. This possibility has raised concerns among leaders in the south that their states might lose parliamentary representation despite having contributed significantly to economic development and population stabilisation.

In this context, the Chief Minister's call for larger families can be interpreted as a warning that demographic trends today could shape political and economic realities tomorrow. He has argued that policies once designed to control population may need to evolve into strategies that manage population balance and ensure long-term stability.

The issue, therefore, raises a fundamental question for policymakers and the public alike: Should governments continue focusing solely on population control, or should they begin preparing for an era of population decline?

For Andhra Pradesh, the challenge lies in balancing economic growth, social welfare, and demographic sustainability. Encouraging larger families alone may not be enough. Comprehensive policies addressing childcare support, women's employment, healthcare, and education will also play a crucial role in shaping the state's demographic future.

Ultimately, the debate sparked by Chandrababu Naidu's remarks highlights a deeper global reality, the population question of the twenty-first century may no longer be about too many people, but about too few young people to sustain ageing societies. Whether his call proves visionary or controversial, it has undoubtedly brought an important demographic issue into the public conversation, one that India, and particularly its southern states, cannot afford to ignore.

AP EAPCET 2026 Application Deadline Extended



Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education has extended the last date for submitting applications for the AP EAPCET 2026, offering relief to thousands of students across the state.

According to officials, candidates can now apply without a late fee until March 17, 2026. The decision was taken to help students who faced difficulties during the application process, including technical issues and delays in obtaining required documents.

The entrance test is conducted by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada on behalf of APSICHE. It serves as a gateway for admissions into undergraduate courses in engineering, agriculture, and pharmacy across colleges in Andhra Pradesh.

Authorities stated that the application process has seen a strong response this year, with a large number of students already registering for the exam. The extension is expected to benefit those who could not complete the process within the initial deadline.

For candidates who may still miss the revised deadline, an option to apply with a late fee will be

available for a limited period. Officials advised students to complete their applications as early as possible to avoid additional charges and last-minute technical issues.

Students are required to fill out the online application form, upload necessary documents, and pay the prescribed fee to complete the registration process. They are also advised to carefully verify all details before submission to avoid complications later.

The AP EAPCET is one of the most important entrance examinations in the state, determining admissions into various professional courses. The exam is scheduled to be held in May 2026, with separate dates for engineering and agriculture and pharmacy streams.

Officials emphasized that timely application submission will ensure a smooth process for candidates and help them secure admission opportunities in their preferred courses.

With the deadline now extended, students have been given a final opportunity to complete their registration and take a crucial step toward their higher education goals.

Chandrababu Naidu Praises Akshaya Patra for 500 Crore Meals Milestone

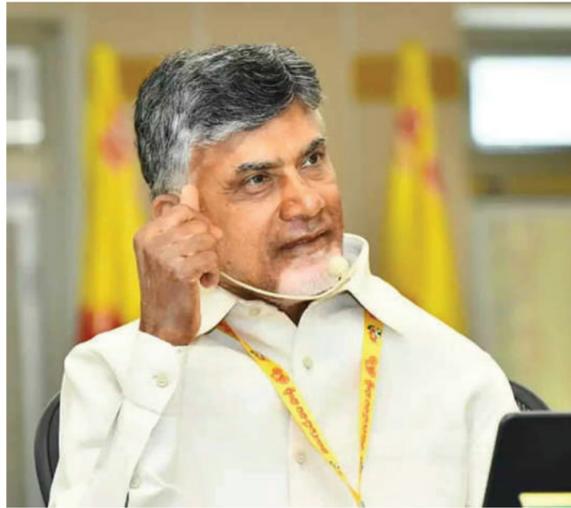
Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu lauded the achievements of the Akshaya Patra Foundation for successfully serving 500 crore meals and completing 25 years of service.

He appreciated the organization's commitment to feeding the underprivileged and strengthening social welfare through large-scale food distribution programs. The Chief Minister said such initiatives play a vital role in building a compassionate and inclusive society.

Speaking on the occasion, Naidu described the milestone as a proud moment and highlighted the significance of reaching such a scale in service. He noted that the foundation's work, especially in providing meals to school children, contributes immensely to their health, education, and overall development.

He also underlined the importance of partnerships between governments and non-



profit organizations for economically weaker sections. He added that such sustained efforts are essential for building a stronger and healthier nation.

Praising the organization's dedication, he said the Akshaya Patra Foundation has set an example in service delivery through efficiency, transparency, and scale. He expressed confidence that the foundation would continue to expand its reach and impact in the coming years.

The Chief Minister reiterated that addressing hunger is a shared responsibility and called for more organizations to come forward and contribute towards social welfare. He emphasized that collective efforts can bring meaningful change and improve the quality of life for millions.

The Akshaya Patra Foundation is widely recognized for its large-scale meal programs, particularly in supporting school children, and continues to play a key role in strengthening food security initiatives across the country.

profit organizations in addressing critical issues like hunger and malnutrition. The Chief Minister pointed out that initiatives such as mid-day meal programs have a direct impact on improving

school attendance and reducing dropout rates among children.

Naidu further stated that the foundation has been actively supporting key welfare initiatives by ensuring access to nu-

Nara Lokesh Inaugurates New APEDB Office in Mangalagiri

Mangalagiri, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT, Electronics and Education Nara Lokesh inaugurated the new office of the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board at Mayuri Tech Park in Chinakakani near Mangalagiri.

Addressing officials and stakeholders on the occasion, Lokesh emphasized that job creation must be the primary goal of the state government. He stated that the focus should not merely be on signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), but on ensuring that investments are grounded and translated into real employment opportunities.

The Minister set an ambitious target of creating 20 lakh jobs across both government and private sectors. He urged officials to prioritize actionable investments and ensure that proposals are effectively implemented on the ground. According to him, tangible outcomes in terms of employment and industrial growth should be the key measure of success.

Recalling his interactions during the Yuvagalam Padayatra, Lokesh shared that people are more interested in sustainable employment opportunities than welfare assistance. He stressed that empowering youth through jobs is essential for long-term economic development and social stability.

He further highlighted that Andhra Pradesh is emerging as



a preferred destination for investments, with a significant share of national investments flowing into the state. He credited the government's proactive policies and industry-friendly approach for attracting major companies and projects.

Lokesh directed officials to ensure better coordination between departments and streamline processes to facilitate faster approvals and exe-

cution of projects. He said that the newly inaugurated APEDB office will act as a central hub for driving investments, supporting industries, and accelerating economic growth in the state.

The Minister also noted that the state government is committed to building a strong ecosystem for industries by improving infrastructure, promoting innovation, and en-

suring ease of doing business. He expressed confidence that with focused efforts, Andhra Pradesh can achieve its goal of becoming a leading investment destination in the country.

Senior officials and representatives from various sectors attended the inauguration event, marking a significant step towards strengthening the state's economic development framework.

AP Govt Announces Relief for Property Taxpayers



Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major relief to urban residents, the Andhra Pradesh government has announced a special concession for property taxpayers by offering a 50 percent waiver on interest for pending property tax dues.

According to official orders issued by the Municipal Administration Department, taxpayers who clear their outstanding property tax arrears in a single payment before March 31, 2026, will be eligible for the 50 percent interest waiver. The decision aims to reduce the financial burden on citizens and encourage timely payment of dues.

The scheme applies to all municipalities and municipal corporations across the state. Officials stated that the benefit will be available only if taxpayers pay the full principal amount along with the remaining 50 percent interest in one go. Authorities clarified that this is a one-time opportunity and will not be extended beyond the deadline.

The government introduced this initiative considering that many taxpayers had accumulated dues over time due to various reasons, leading to increased interest burdens. By offering this concession, the administration hopes to help citizens clear long-pending dues

while also improving revenue collection for urban local bodies.

In another important clarification, officials said that those who have already paid their dues, including full interest, need not feel disadvantaged. The excess interest paid by such taxpayers will be adjusted in future property tax bills as per existing norms.

Authorities have urged citizens to make use of this limited-time opportunity and clear their dues before the deadline to avoid penalties. Payments can be made through online platforms, municipal offices, and designated service centers.

The move is expected to significantly boost revenue for municipalities while providing financial relief to middle-class and small property owners. It will also help local bodies strengthen civic infrastructure, including sanitation, roads, and drainage systems.

Officials emphasized that strict enforcement measures will follow after the deadline, and taxpayers are advised to comply within the stipulated time.

The announcement has been widely welcomed by residents, who see it as a timely step to ease financial stress and settle outstanding liabilities without excessive interest burden.

TTD Turning Haven for Anti-Social Elements: Bhumana

Tirupati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Bhumana Karunakar Reddy has leveled serious allegations against the functioning of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, claiming that the sacred Tirumala shrine is gradually turning into a haven for anti-social elements.

Addressing the media, Bhumana expressed deep concern over what he described as a decline in the sanctity and discipline of Tirumala. He alleged that individuals with questionable backgrounds were being allowed to operate freely within the temple premises, which, according to him, is affecting the spiritual environment and sentiments of devotees visiting the shrine.

He also criticized the administration under the current TTD leadership, questioning its ability to maintain transparency and uphold the traditions associated with one of the most revered pilgrimage centers in the country. Bhumana alleged that certain practices, including the



allocation of special darshan tickets, were being misused. He claimed that tickets meant for common devotees were being diverted to influential individuals and associates, thereby denying genuine pilgrims a fair opportunity.

Raising further concerns, he stated that those who questioned these alleged irregularities were being targeted. He pointed to incidents where party workers, includ-

ing women, were reportedly booked for staging protests, calling it an attempt to suppress dissent rather than address public grievances.

Bhumana emphasized that Tirumala holds immense religious and cultural significance, and any compromise in its administration could hurt the faith of millions of devotees. He urged authorities to take immediate corrective steps to restore transparency and ensure that

the temple is managed in accordance with established norms and traditions.

He also demanded a thorough review of the current system and called for strict action against those found responsible for any wrongdoing. According to him, accountability is essential to maintain the credibility of TTD and protect its longstanding reputation.

The allegations have sparked a fresh political debate over the administration of temple affairs, with leaders from various parties likely to respond in the coming days. The issue is expected to gain further traction as devotees and stakeholders seek clarity on the claims made.

Meanwhile, officials from TTD have not issued an immediate response to the allegations. The situation continues to draw attention, highlighting concerns over governance, transparency, and the preservation of sanctity in one of India's most important religious institutions.

People Questioning Chandrababu's Inability to Deliver: Jagan



Tadepalli, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a strong criticism against N. Chandrababu Naidu, stating that people across the state are increasingly questioning his inability to deliver on key promises.

Addressing party leaders and cadre at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, Jagan said there is growing public debate over why the current government is struggling to implement welfare and development programs effectively. He claimed that during his tenure, despite facing challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and financial limitations, his administration ensured the delivery of schemes without interruption.

Jagan highlighted that his government focused on direct benefit transfers and welfare initiatives, particularly aimed at supporting women and economically weaker sections. He asserted that these measures were implemented with transparency and accountability, benefiting a large section of the population.

In contrast, he alleged that the present government has failed to meet public expectations and has not fulfilled several of its electoral promises. He accused the administration of lacking clarity and consistency in governance, leading to dissatisfaction among citizens.

The YSRCP chief also raised

concerns over the state's financial management, claiming that debt levels have increased significantly in a short span. According to him, the economic situation has weakened, and the government has not effectively utilized available resources for public welfare.

Further criticizing the ruling dispensation, Jagan alleged irregularities in key development projects and questioned the priorities of the government. He remarked that instead of focusing on people-centric governance, the administration is being driven by other interests, which he said is affecting the overall progress of the state.

Emphasizing accountability, Jagan stated that leaders must be judged based on their ability to deliver tangible results. He said the growing dissatisfaction among the public reflects the gap between promises made during elections and actual implementation on the ground.

The remarks have intensified the ongoing political battle between the ruling party and the opposition, with both sides continuing to trade allegations over governance and development.

Political observers believe the issue is likely to gain further momentum in the coming days as debates over performance and accountability continue to dominate the state's political landscape.

MP Urges Centre to Resolve RDT Issues Swiftly

Anantapur, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Ambica Lakshminarayana has urged the Central government to resolve issues concerning the Rural Development Trust at the earliest, stressing the importance of the organization's continued services in Andhra Pradesh.

Acting on the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the MP met Union Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu in New Delhi to discuss the challenges being faced by the trust. The discussions mainly revolved around delays in approvals and administrative clearances that have reportedly impacted RDT's functioning.

During the meeting, the MP highlighted that RDT has been playing a vital role in the development of rural areas, particularly in districts like Anantapur. He explained that the organization has been actively involved in key sectors such as healthcare, education, women



empowerment, and livelihood support. Any disruption in its operations, he noted, could affect thousands of beneficiaries who rely on its services.

Payyavula Keshav and Rajya Sabha member Sana Satish Babu also participated in the meeting, extending their support to the request and empha-

sizing the need for timely intervention by the Centre.

Ambica Lakshminarayana requested the Union Minister to take immediate steps to address the pending issues and facilitate smooth functioning of the organization. He stressed that expediting the process would help ensure continuity of welfare

programs and avoid any setbacks in ongoing development initiatives.

Responding positively, the Union Minister assured that the matter would be taken up with the concerned departments. He stated that necessary steps would be initiated to resolve the issues at the earliest and ensure that the organization can continue its work without further obstacles.

The development has brought hope for a quick resolution, with expectations that coordination between the Centre and the state will lead to a favorable outcome. Officials believe that timely intervention will not only benefit the organization but also safeguard the interests of the communities' dependent on its services.

The meeting highlights the need for efficient administrative processes and better coordination to support institutions engaged in public welfare and rural development.

Ships Carrying LPG to Dock at Vizag on March 20: Manohar



Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Nadendra Manohar has announced that ships carrying domestic LPG will dock at Visakhapatnam port on March 20, assuring that there will be no shortage of cooking gas in the state.

The minister stated that the government has taken proactive measures to ensure uninterrupted LPG supply amid concerns over availability. He clarified that adequate stocks are already maintained across Andhra Pradesh and additional shipments are being arranged to further strengthen reserves.

According to officials, the arrival of LPG vessels at Visakhapatnam will significantly boost supply and help meet both domestic and commercial demand without disruption. The state government is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with petroleum companies to streamline distribution across districts.

Manohar emphasized that there is no need for the public to panic, as the supply chain remains stable. He also warned against the spread of misinformation regarding LPG shortages and directed authorities

to take strict action against black marketing and hoarding.

The minister instructed district officials to ensure timely delivery of LPG cylinders to consumers and maintain transparency in distribution. Special focus has been placed on essential sectors such as hospitals, hostels, and temples to ensure they do not face any inconvenience.

Officials further stated that continuous monitoring systems have been put in place to address any potential supply gaps immediately. The government is also prepared with contingency plans to handle unexpected disruptions, if any.

The announcement comes at a time when concerns over fuel supply have been raised in some regions. However, authorities have reassured that sufficient arrangements are in place to meet the demand for the coming weeks.

With additional LPG shipments set to arrive and adequate reserves already available, the government has reiterated its commitment to ensuring smooth and uninterrupted gas supply across the state, easing concerns among the public.

YSRCP Trying to Conceal Truth in Viveka Case: Anagani



Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Anagani Satya Prasad has alleged that the YSR Congress Party is making desperate attempts to conceal the truth in the murder case of Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.

Addressing the media, the minister made strong remarks against the opposition party, accusing it of misleading the public and trying to divert attention from key developments in the high-profile case. He claimed that instead of allowing the truth to come out, YSRCP leaders were resorting to false narratives and political statements to protect those allegedly involved.

Anagani stated that the investigation into the Viveka murder case has reached a crucial stage and emphasized that facts are gradually coming to light. He alleged that certain individuals were attempting to create confusion and influence public opinion to weaken the case.

The minister further criticized YSRCP leadership for what he described as inconsistent statements regarding the case. He said such contradictions raise serious doubts and indicate an attempt to suppress crucial information. Ac-

ording to him, the people of Andhra Pradesh are closely watching the developments and expect complete transparency.

He also stressed that justice must be delivered without any political interference. The minister asserted that the government is committed to ensuring a fair investigation and that those responsible for the crime will be brought to justice, irrespective of their political background.

Anagani added that the Viveka murder case is not just a political issue but a matter of justice for the victim and his family. He said any attempt to manipulate facts or delay the process would ultimately fail, as the truth cannot be hidden for long.

The remarks have intensified the political war of words between the ruling party and the opposition, with both sides trading allegations over the case. The issue continues to remain a major point of political contention in the state.

Meanwhile, leaders from YSRCP are expected to respond to the allegations, further escalating the ongoing debate surrounding one of the most sensitive cases in Andhra Pradesh politics.

Sharmila Challenges Jagan to Support Impeachment Motion



Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Y. S. Sharmila has thrown a direct challenge to Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, asking him to prove his integrity by supporting an impeachment motion.

Addressing the media, Sharmila made strong remarks against Jagan, questioning his stance on key national and constitutional issues. She stated that if Jagan truly believes in accountability and justice, he should openly extend support to the impeachment motion instead of maintaining silence.

The AP Congress chief alleged that Jagan has been avoiding taking a clear stand on important matters, especially those involving democratic values and institutional integrity. She said such silence raises doubts about his commitment to transparency and responsibility in public life.

Sharmila further accused Jagan of engaging in selective criticism while failing to act when it matters most. She emphasized that leaders must demonstrate courage not just in speeches but through decisive actions, particularly on issues that concern governance and constitutional principles.

In her remarks, she also highlighted the need for political leaders to uphold democratic institutions and ensure that any

wrongdoing is addressed through proper legal and constitutional mechanisms. She said supporting the impeachment motion would reflect a genuine commitment to these values.

The Congress leader's comments are seen as part of the ongoing political confrontation between her and Jagan, which has intensified in recent months. Both leaders have been engaging in sharp exchanges over governance, credibility, and public accountability.

Sharmila's challenge has sparked fresh political debate in Andhra Pradesh, with leaders from various parties expected to respond. The remarks have also drawn attention to the broader issue of how political parties approach sensitive constitutional matters.

Meanwhile, there has been no immediate response from Jagan or the YSR Congress Party regarding Sharmila's statements. Political observers believe the issue may gain further traction in the coming days as the debate unfolds.

The development once again highlights the growing intensity of political rivalry in the state, with leaders increasingly taking strong public positions on matters of governance and accountability.

Water Bottle Price Hike!

Decision taken due to rise in raw material costs

Vijayawada, March 17 | TPN Bureau:

Amid the backdrop of ongoing global tensions, the prices of packaged drinking water bottles are set to increase once again. Manufacturers stated that the cost of producing water bottles has risen significantly due to a sharp increase in the prices of raw materials and packaging materials. In this context, manufacturers from Guntur, Prakasam, and Krishna districts held a meeting and decided to hike the prices of water bottles.

According to the manufacturers' association, the price of plastic preforms has increased from ₹110 per kg to ₹190 per kg. The cost of bottle caps has risen from ₹0.22 to ₹0.40 per unit. Similarly, PVC sleeve prices have gone up from ₹0.20 to ₹0.30, while label prices have increased from ₹300 to ₹430 per kg. Corrugated box prices have risen from ₹11 to



₹14 per unit, and shrink film prices have surged from ₹115 to ₹250 per kg. Additionally, adhesive tape prices have increased from ₹280 to ₹400.

Due to this surge in raw material costs, the overall production cost of packaged drinking

water has increased considerably, manufacturers said. Taking market conditions into account, the association has advised its members to increase prices by around ₹25 per case (box).

The packaged drinking water market in the state is estimated

to be over ₹140 crore. These water bottles play a crucial role in daily consumption, especially during the summer season when demand rises significantly. Business sources noted that usage is higher in urban areas compared to rural regions.

Industry estimates suggest that during summer, the consumption of water bottles may increase by 15-20% compared to normal levels. As a result, the price hike is likely to impact consumers. Manufacturers also indicated that further price revisions may occur depending on market conditions.

Association President Pinna-maneni Dhanaprakash and General Secretary A. Srinivas stated that the price hike has become unavoidable due to rising production costs. They urged distributors and consumers to take note of the changes and extend their cooperation.

Lokesh Conducts Surprise Inspection at Mylavaram School



Mylavaram, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Nara Lokesh conducted a surprise inspection at a government school in Mylavaram following allegations regarding the poor quality of mid-day meals served to students.

The minister visited the Mandal Parishad Primary School at Tarakaramnagar in NTR district after reports and videos surfaced claiming that students were being served substandard food. The unexpected visit caught local officials off guard, as even senior education department authorities and public representatives were not informed in advance.

During the inspection, Lokesh directly interacted with students to understand the situation. He questioned them about the quality of food being served regularly and whether the issue was a one-time occurrence or a recurring problem. Students reportedly informed him that the food was generally satisfactory, easing some of the concerns raised earlier.

To personally verify the quality, the minister sat along with the students and shared the mid-day meal. He also visited the nearby Anganwadi centre, where he interacted with young children and reviewed the food and hygiene conditions.

Later, Lokesh held discussions with school authorities, including

the headmaster and Mandal Educational Officer, to assess the overall functioning of the institution. He reviewed reports related to school administration, infrastructure, and implementation of welfare schemes.

Expressing seriousness over the issue, Lokesh emphasized that there should be no compromise when it comes to the health and nutrition of children. He warned that strict action would be taken against those found negligent in maintaining food quality standards.

The minister also stressed the need for regular monitoring of mid-day meals and suggested stronger accountability mechanisms. He indicated that feedback from students and parents would be taken into consideration to ensure transparency and improvement in the system.

In addition to food quality, Lokesh reviewed teaching standards, infrastructure, and enrollment levels at the school. He urged officials to focus on improving learning outcomes and maintaining proper facilities for students.

The surprise inspection has sent a strong message to the education department about the government's commitment to student welfare. Officials are expected to intensify monitoring and ensure that quality standards are maintained across schools in the state.

Government Releases Rs 45 Crore for Imams and Muezzins Ahead of Ramzan

Vijayawada, March 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has released Rs 45 crore to clear pending honorarium payments for Imams and Muezzins across the state ahead of the holy month of Ramzan. The decision was taken to provide financial support to religious functionaries and ensure timely assistance before the commencement of the festive period.

Officials stated that the amount will benefit thousands of Imams and Muezzins working in mosques in different districts. The funds will be directly transferred into the beneficiaries' bank accounts to maintain transparency and avoid delays. The release covers several months of pending dues, bringing relief to those who were awaiting payments.

The government explained that the monthly honorarium scheme is part of its ongoing welfare initiatives aimed at supporting minority communities. Under the scheme, Imams receive a fixed monthly payment, while Muezzins are also provided



ed financial assistance for their services. The latest release ensures that arrears are cleared in one installment, helping beneficiaries manage their expenses during Ramzan.

Authorities emphasized that the step reflects the administration's commitment to welfare measures and inclusive development. They added that regular monitoring mechanisms are

in place to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme and timely disbursement of funds in the future.

Community representatives welcomed the announcement and expressed gratitude for the government's timely intervention. They noted that the release of funds before Ramzan would help religious functionaries focus on their duties during the important month without financial concerns.

Officials further confirmed that the payments will be processed immediately through banking channels. Departments concerned have been instructed to complete the verification and transfer process without delay.

With the festival approaching, the government's decision is expected to provide financial stability and support to beneficiaries, reinforcing its commitment to minority welfare programs in the state. The announcement marks a significant step in addressing pending obligations and ensuring continued assistance under the existing scheme.

TTD Announces June 2026 Srivari Darshan Ticket Schedule



Tirupati, March 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has released the detailed online schedule for the June 2026 Srivari darshan tickets, sevas, and accommodation quota, providing important information for devotees planning their pilgrimage. The temple administration urged devotees to carefully note the release dates and complete bookings through the official TTD website.

According to the announcement, the online quota for Arjitha Seva tickets, including Suprabhatam, Thomala Seva, Archana, and Ashtadala Pada Padmaradhana, will be released on specified dates as part of the June booking cycle. Devotees can register through the electronic lucky dip system within the announced time window. Those selected in the lottery must complete the payment process within the given deadline to confirm their tickets.

The schedule also includes the release of tickets for other important sevas such as Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, Arjitha Brahmotsavam, Sahasra Deepalankara Seva, and virtual sevas. Separate dates have been

allocated for the release of Angapradakshinam tokens and SRIVANI Trust darshan tickets. Special entry darshan tickets, including the popular 300 quota, will also be made available as per the timetable.

In addition, TTD has announced the accommodation quota for Tirumala and Tirupati for the month of June. Devotees seeking rooms are advised to book early, as demand is expected to be high. Officials emphasized that all reservations should be made only through the official online portal to avoid fraud and inconvenience.

The temple administration stated that the phased release system ensures transparency, fairness, and equal opportunity for all devotees. It also helps manage crowd control and maintain smooth operations during peak pilgrimage periods.

TTD has appealed to devotees to plan their visit in advance, follow the guidelines carefully, and rely only on authorized booking channels. The organization reiterated its commitment to providing a convenient and spiritually fulfilling experi-

Lokesh Meets Roman Catholic Bishops, Assures Support



Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Nara Lokesh held a meeting with Roman Catholic bishops and church representatives to discuss several long-pending issues faced by their institutions.

The meeting was attended by bishops and chancellors from mission centers in Kadapa, Kurnool, Nellore, Guntur, Vijayawada, Khammam, and Eluru. During the interaction, the representatives explained various problems they have been facing for nearly 30 years, particularly related to the functioning and management of their educational institutions.

The bishops requested the minister to visit their institutions to understand the ground realities and challenges. They highlighted that their organizations have been providing quality education and engaging in social service activities for decades. They also expressed their willingness to work closely with the govern-

ment in implementing welfare and development programs.

Responding to their concerns, Lokesh assured that the government would look into the issues and take necessary steps to resolve them. He acknowledged the significant role played by these institutions in the education sector and in serving society.

The minister also promised that he would soon visit the educational institutions run by the Roman Catholic Church to gain a better understanding of their requirements. He emphasized the importance of cooperation between the government and such organizations in achieving inclusive growth and development.

The meeting is considered an important step towards addressing the concerns of faith-based educational institutions and strengthening collaboration with the government.

Officials stated that further action will be taken after reviewing the issues raised during the discussion.

VIT-AP Surpasses 10,000 Placement Offers for 2026 Batch



Amaravati, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

VIT-AP University has achieved a significant milestone in campus placements by crossing 10,000 job offers for the 2026 graduating batch, reflecting its growing reputation among top recruiters.

According to university officials, the placement season has witnessed strong participation from leading companies across sectors such as information technology, core engineering, consulting, and emerging technologies. The achievement highlights the institution's consistent efforts in building industry connections and enhancing student employability.

Students from various disciplines have secured offers from reputed national and multinational companies. Many candidates have received multiple job offers, providing them with a wide range of career opportunities to choose from based on their interests and goals.

The university also reported a notable number of "dream" and "super dream" offers, typically associated with higher salary packages and premium job roles. This indicates the increasing confidence of recruiters in the quality of talent being produced by the institution.

Officials attributed the success to a strong focus on skill development, industry-oriented curriculum, in-

ternships, and continuous training programs. They emphasized that students are being equipped not only with academic knowledge but also with practical skills required to meet industry demands.

The placement drive saw the participation of hundreds of companies, including major global technology firms and well-established corporations. The competitive salary packages offered during the recruitment process have further strengthened the university's placement record.

Being a relatively young institution, this achievement is considered a remarkable milestone and a testament to its rapid growth in the field of higher education. It also reflects the increasing demand for skilled graduates in today's competitive job market.

University authorities expressed confidence that the placement numbers will continue to rise as the recruitment process is still ongoing. They reiterated their commitment to maintaining high standards in education and career support for students.

The milestone has been widely appreciated by students, parents, and academic circles, reinforcing the university's position as an emerging hub for quality education and career opportunities in Andhra Pradesh.

Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour Will Always Belong to Fishermen

Nellore, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau
State Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, clarified that the Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour will never be privatized and will always remain for the benefit of fishermen. He dismissed allegations made by YSR Congress Party leaders regarding privatization as baseless.

The Minister stated that only about 20 acres have been allocated within the designated harbour land for setting up an autonomous maritime shipbuilding company, ensuring that fishermen's livelihoods will not be affected. He emphasized that the government is committed to improving the living standards of fishing communities.

A coordination meeting was held at the Nellore Collectorate with district officials and leaders of fishermen associations. During the meeting, fisheries department officials presented details of the harbour through a PowerPoint presentation.

Addressing the media, Kollu Ravindra said that while many coastal states across India are competing to attract shipbuilding industries, the credit for bringing such opportunities to Andhra Pradesh goes to the current coalition government. He highlighted that the proposed shipbuilding initiative by Sagar Defence Engineering



Private Limited, with an investment of around Rs. 2,500 crore across 29 acres, would enhance rescue capabilities during cyclones and help locate marine resources more efficiently.

He further added that only a 150-meter harbour access is being discussed for ship movement, and no final decision has been made yet. The Minister also noted that similar shipbuilding projects are expected in Machilipatnam and Dugarajapatnam in the future.

Highlighting past developments, he credited N. Chandrababu Naidu for initiating

fishing harbours in the state and promoting processing industries to boost fishermen's income. He also mentioned that investments are now flowing into the state, reversing the trend seen during the previous administration.

The Minister clarified that out of 114 acres acquired earlier for harbour-related activities, only 29 acres are being used for the shipbuilding company. He assured that harbour jetties will not be privatized under any circumstances and warned against attempts to spread misinformation.

Local fishermen raised con-

cerns about boats coming from Tamil Nadu, and the Minister assured that discussions would be held with the neighboring state if necessary. He also acknowledged concerns regarding subsidy differences under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Yojana and promised to take up the matter with the central government.

Other leaders present at the meeting reiterated that the harbour is a major asset for the region and will continue to benefit local fishermen while also creating employment opportunities for youth.

BC Janardhan Reddy Inspects Banganapalle Government Hospital



Banganapalle, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

State Minister B. C. Janardhan Reddy inspected the Banganapalle Government Hospital and directed officials to enhance the quality of medical services being provided to patients. The visit focused on reviewing healthcare facilities, infrastructure, and patient care standards at the government-run institution.

During the inspection, the Minister emphasized that patients visiting government hospitals must receive timely and effective treatment. He instructed hospital authorities and medical staff to ensure that no patient faces inconvenience due to lack of facilities or negligence. He highlighted that improving public healthcare services remains a key priority for the state government.

Janardhan Reddy held detailed discussions with doctors, administrative staff, and other healthcare workers regarding the availability of basic amenities and the need for modernization. He stressed the importance of equipping the hospital with advanced medical equipment to provide better diagnosis and treatment. The Minister asked officials to prepare and submit a detailed list of required modern medical instruments and assured that necessary

steps would be taken to arrange them at the earliest.

He further assured the hospital staff that the government would extend full support in terms of resources and infrastructure development. He encouraged the staff to work with dedication and ensure that patients receive compassionate and efficient care at all times.

As part of his visit, the Minister toured different wards in the hospital and personally interacted with patients undergoing treatment. He enquired about the quality of medical services, availability of medicines, cleanliness, and overall hospital conditions. Patients shared their experiences and provided feedback regarding the services they were receiving.

Taking note of their responses, the Minister directed the hospital authorities to immediately address any shortcomings and improve service delivery. He reiterated that government hospitals should serve as reliable healthcare centers for the public, especially for those who depend on free or affordable medical services.

The visit reflects the government's commitment to strengthening the healthcare system and ensuring better medical facilities for people in rural and semi-urban areas.

CPM Padayatra Highlights Public Distress

Penumantra / Attili, March 17 | TPN Bureau

The ongoing district padayatra by Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) entered its 20th day on Tuesday, bringing to light a series of pressing public issues and emotional appeals from residents across villages in West Godavari district.

Addressing gatherings during the march, CPM district secretary J.N.V. Gopalan called upon people to rise against injustice, stating that "tears alone cannot resolve problems; only collective resistance can move the rulers." He urged citizens facing hardships to come forward and demand their rights.

The padayatra, which began earlier this month, passed through Palamuru, Brahmacheruvu, Penumantra, Juttiga, and Mallipudi before reaching Attili mandal. Leaders paid tributes to social activist Chintapalli Srinivasa Rao and other prominent figures by garlanding their statues. The marchers also planted saplings as a symbol of the movement's commitment to social change.

However, it was the emotional testimonies of local residents that drew attention. In Penumantra, a 55-year-old woman, identified as K. Ammaji, broke



down while narrating her life-long struggle of living in rented houses. She appealed for a permanent home, saying her family had spent decades without owning a house and feared the next generation would face the same hardship. She recalled how even during personal tragedies, such as her son's death, landlords pressured them to vacate quickly.

Her plea for government-supported housing schemes deeply moved the padayatra participants and onlookers alike, highlighting the continuing housing crisis among economically

weaker sections.

Another major issue raised during the march was the lack of a proper burial ground for Dalits in Rajiv Colony of Penumantra. Residents complained that they were forced to bury their dead in unsuitable and undignified conditions due to the absence of allocated land.

CPM district committee member K. Krantibabu condemned the situation, calling it a "grave injustice and humiliation." He pointed out that even basic access to burial space was denied, forcing families to face embarrassment and hardship during

times of grief.

When the padayatra team visited the identified site, they found it being used as a dumping yard, making it unfit for burials. This led to a protest in front of the Mandal Revenue Office. Tensions escalated when officials initially did not respond, but later MRO Ravikumar assured the protesters that the issue would be taken up with higher authorities, including the Revenue Divisional Officer and District Collector, for resolution.

Gopalan expressed concern over the widespread distress witnessed during the yatra, stating that people across the district were voicing their grievances with tears and frustration. He emphasized that the government must respond to every drop of public suffering.

Calling for greater public participation, he invited citizens to attend the concluding assembly scheduled at Bhimavaram Collectorate on March 23.

Several CPM leaders and activists, including Ketha Gopalan, P.V. Pratap, K. Tavatinaidu, and others, participated in the padayatra, which continues to highlight grassroots issues and demand immediate government action.

Railways Intensify Crackdown on Ticketless Travel

Visakhapatnam | March 17 | TPN Bureau

In a significant enforcement initiative, the ticket checking team of the East Coast Railway's Waltair Division carried out a surprise ticket inspection drive onboard Train No. 15629, achieving notable success in curbing ticketless travel.

The operation was conducted during the train's journey from Visakhapatnam to Srikakulam Road. Railway officials managed to secure a special one-minute operational halt at Srikakulam Road station, which enabled the ticket checking staff to intensify their inspection process and cover a larger number of passengers within a limited time frame.

During the drive, officials identified a total of 312 passengers traveling without valid tickets or with irregular travel documents. The enforcement team collected a penalty amounting to 2,42,000, marking a strong action against violations. The entire operation was completed within just two hours, reflecting the efficiency and coordination of the staff involved.

Officials from the Waltair Division lauded the efforts of the



ticket checking team, stating that such surprise inspections play a crucial role in maintaining discipline among passengers. They emphasized that ticketless travel not only results in revenue loss for the railways but also contributes to overcrowding, inconvenience for genuine passengers, and operational challenges.

The division highlighted that the success of this drive was due to meticulous planning, quick decision-making, and teamwork. By leveraging a

brief halt effectively, the staff ensured maximum coverage and immediate action against violators.

Railway authorities reiterated their commitment to ensuring a fair and comfortable travel experience for all passengers. They noted that regular and surprise checking drives are essential to deter passengers from attempting to travel without valid tickets.

Passengers have been urged to follow railway rules and pur-

chase valid tickets before boarding trains to avoid penalties and inconvenience. Officials also indicated that more such drives will be conducted across key routes in the Uttaraandhra region as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen enforcement.

The Waltair Division's proactive approach underscores its focus on accountability, passenger discipline, and efficient service delivery, sending a clear message that violations will not be tolerated.

Services That Endure Forever: Grand Farewell to Ramachandrapuram Municipal Council



Ramachandrapuram, March 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Senior leader Vasamshetty Satya stated that the good work done by public representatives and officials for society will remain in people's hearts forever. He made these remarks during a grand farewell ceremony held for the Ramachandrapuram Municipality Council, whose five-year term concluded on Tuesday.

The final emergency general body meeting of the council was held under the chairmanship of Chairperson Gadamshetty Sridevi. During the meeting, members reviewed development activities carried out over the past five years and reflected on the council's contributions to the town's progress.

Following the meeting, a special felicitation program was organized under the banner of the Satyam Vasamshetty Foundation. Vasamshetty Satya, along with Jana Sena in-charge Polishetty Chandrasekhar, participated in the event and honored the council members.

Speaking on the occasion, Satya praised the Chairperson and councillors for their dedicated service over the past five years. He emphasized that the duration of holding office is not as important as earning a lasting place in

the hearts of the people. He further lauded the leadership of Labour Minister Vasamshetty Subhash, stating that the municipality progressed significantly under his guidance. He credited the coordination between municipal officials and elected representatives for steering the town towards development.

Polishetty Chandrasekhar also addressed the gathering, noting that development and welfare activities in the Ramachandrapuram constituency have been carried out beyond political lines under Minister Subhash's leadership. He extended his congratulations to all public representatives who successfully completed their tenure and wished them well for the future.

During the ceremony, Chairperson Gadamshetty Sridevi and all ward councillors were felicitated with shawls and mementos as a mark of appreciation for their service. Municipal Commissioner K.V.R. Raju, along with other officials and staff, also participated in honoring the outgoing representatives and acknowledged their contributions.

Several public representatives, party leaders, officials, and staff attended the event, making the farewell ceremony a memorable and successful occasion.

Kerala Congress' Silent Power Struggle: Tharoor, Chennithala And Others Eye The Top Job



As Kerala moves closer to the 2026 Assembly elections, the Congress party in the state is witnessing a quiet but intense internal contest. The battle is not against political opponents but within the party itself, as several senior leaders position themselves as potential chief ministerial candidates if the United Democratic Front (UDF) returns to power.

At the centre of this silent struggle are four prominent figures: V. D. Satheesan, Ramesh Chennithala, K. C. Venugopal, and Shashi Tharoor. While they publicly present a united front, each leader is carefully building influence, strengthening support networks, and expanding public appeal ahead of the crucial election.

V. D. Satheesan, the current Leader of the Opposition, holds a natural advantage due to his position. He has emerged as a strong voice against the ruling Left government and has actively taken up issues ranging from governance failures to corruption allegations. His elevation to the top opposition role signaled a shift toward younger leadership in the state unit. However, Satheesan faces challenges as he does not command a strong factional base within the party. His relations with some influential community organizations have also been strained, limiting his broader political reach. To counter this, he has focused on outreach to minority groups, civil society,

and coalition partners, projecting himself as a consensus builder.

Ramesh Chennithala represents experience and organizational depth. A veteran leader with decades of service, he has held key positions both in government and within the party structure. His supporters argue that his earlier tenure as Opposition Leader was constrained by internal dynamics that prevented him from fully capitalizing on public dissatisfaction with the ruling government. Despite past setbacks, he maintains strong connections with party workers and senior leaders across districts. This organizational strength could play a decisive role in any internal leadership contest.

K. C. Venugopal occupies a different space altogether. As a senior national leader closely associated with the party's central leadership, he enjoys significant influence beyond Kerala. His proximity to the high command could become an advantage if the leadership question is decided at the national level, as is often the case in Congress. However, his challenge lies in translating this central influence into grassroots support within the state. While respected within party circles, he lacks the broad mass appeal of some of his rivals.

Shashi Tharoor stands out as the most publicly recognizable face among the contenders. A four-time Member of Parliament from Thiruvanan-

thapuram, he enjoys popularity among urban voters, young professionals, and sections of the middle class. His articulate communication style and international profile have made him one of the party's most visible leaders. However, his independent views and occasional divergence from official party positions have sometimes caused discomfort within the organization. This has led to a complex relationship with the state leadership, even as his popularity among voters remains strong.

The Congress in Kerala has traditionally followed a model of collective leadership, avoiding the projection of a single chief ministerial candidate before elections. Instead, the leadership decision is typically made after the results, based on legislative strength, factional balance, and coalition considerations. While this approach helps maintain unity during campaigns, it also encourages behind-the-scenes maneuvering as leaders attempt to strengthen their claims in advance.

The stakes in the upcoming election are particularly high. Kerala politics has historically seen power alternate between the Left Democratic Front and the United Democratic Front every five years. This pattern was broken when the Left retained power for a second consecutive term in 2021, making the next election a critical opportunity for Congress to stage a comeback.

Publicly, party leaders continue to

emphasize unity and teamwork. Yet their individual outreach programs, distinct political strategies, and factional loyalties suggest an undercurrent of competition. Satheesan is consolidating minority support and coalition leadership. Chennithala is strengthening organizational networks. Venugopal is leveraging national influence. Tharoor is expanding his appeal beyond traditional party structures.

None of the leaders appears willing to step aside, but none can decisively dominate the field either. This delicate balance has created a situation where competition remains intense but largely unspoken.

If the UDF succeeds in winning the election, the real battle may unfold afterward. The choice of chief minister will depend on multiple factors, including the number of legislators backing each leader, the preferences of coalition partners, and the decision of the central leadership.

In essence, the Congress in Kerala is navigating a complex phase marked by both opportunity and uncertainty. The presence of several capable leaders reflects the party's depth, but the absence of a clear frontrunner also highlights internal divisions. Whether this diversity becomes a strength or a weakness will play a crucial role in shaping the party's future in one of India's most politically aware states.

India-Japan Ties At A Turning Point: How A Takaichi Mandate Could Redefine The Partnership



Japan's political transition under the leadership of Sanae Takaichi comes at a moment of profound global uncertainty — and it could significantly reshape relations with India. With a strong mandate in Tokyo, the two countries have an opportunity not merely to continue their partnership but to transform it into a more strategic, future-oriented alliance suited to an increasingly volatile world.

India and Japan have long shared a special strategic relationship, strengthened during the tenure of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Their personal rapport helped promote the vision of a "free and open Indo-Pacific," emphasizing democratic values, open trade routes, and regional stability. Abe's assassination slowed that momentum, but continuity in Japanese leadership aligned with his worldview could revive and modernize the partnership.

Today's geopolitical environment makes such cooperation more urgent than ever. Conflicts in the Middle East, tensions in key maritime chokepoints, and disruptions to global trade have exposed the fragility of energy supplies and supply chains. Both India and Japan depend heavily on imported energy, making them vulnerable to shocks in oil markets and shipping routes. Coordinated policies — such as diversifying energy sources, building strategic reserves, and strengthening maritime security — could protect both economies while enhancing their global influence.

The partnership also benefits from deep historical and cultural connections. Civilizational links, particularly the spread of Buddhism from India to Japan, have created a reservoir of goodwill that few bilateral relationships possess. In an era when international relations are often transactional, this foundation of trust offers a significant strategic advantage.

Economically, the two countries are highly complementary. Japan brings advanced technology, capital, and expertise in manufacturing, while India offers a vast market, a growing innovation ecosystem, and a youthful workforce. Past collaborations demonstrate the power of this synergy — from automotive partnerships to major infrastructure projects such as metro rail systems and industrial corridors.

Looking ahead, cooperation in critical technologies will be central. Sectors such as semiconductors, batteries, clean energy, and critical minerals are now essential not only for economic growth but also for national security. By coordinating research, investment, and production, India and Japan could reduce dependence on unstable supply chains and position themselves as key players in future industries.

Defence and security cooperation is another area ripe for expansion. Rather than large, politically sensitive arms deals, both sides could focus on joint development, modular projects, and co-production. Such practical collaboration would build operational familiarity between the two militaries while strengthening deterrence capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region.

Demographics offer a powerful opportunity for mutual benefit. Japan faces a rapidly ageing population and shrinking workforce, while India has one of the world's youngest populations. Structured labour mobility programs, skills partnerships, and technology transfer could address Japan's labour shortages while providing employment opportunities for Indian professionals.

Beyond bilateral gains, the partnership could extend into third regions such as Africa and Southeast Asia. Combining Japanese financing and technological strength with India's entrepreneurial capacity and regional knowledge could create sustainable development models that differ from purely extractive approaches often associated with great-power competition.

Both countries also maintain close ties with the United States, making trilateral or multilateral cooperation feasible. Coordinated strategies among like-minded democracies could help preserve a rules-based international order at a time when global institutions face mounting pressure. Acting together in forums such as the Quad enhances their collective leverage while allowing each nation to maintain strategic autonomy.

However, challenges remain. Bureaucratic hurdles, differences in regulatory systems, and slow project implementation have historically limited the full potential of India-Japan cooperation. Turning ambitious plans into concrete outcomes will require sustained institutional engagement, political will, and clear accountability mechanisms.

A strong Japanese leadership mandate could help overcome these obstacles by enabling decisive policy action. It would also signal continuity to investors, allies, and regional partners, encouraging long-term commitments rather than cautious short-term engagement.

Ultimately, the evolving global landscape — marked by geopolitical conflict, technological rivalry, and economic uncertainty — is pushing India and Japan closer together. Their shared democratic values, complementary strengths, and converging strategic interests position them to play a stabilizing role in Asia and beyond.

If both nations seize this moment, the relationship could move beyond goodwill and symbolic cooperation toward a genuinely transformative partnership. With strong leadership in Tokyo and a willingness in New Delhi to match ambition with execution, India-Japan collaboration may indeed be poised to enter a new and consequential era — one defined not only by shared interests but by coordinated action in shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific and the global order.

When Crisis Struck, India Stood By The UAE — A Partnership Forged In Trust

During a period of heightened instability in the Middle East, India's swift and firm support for the United Arab Emirates highlighted the depth of a relationship that extends far beyond routine diplomacy. As attacks threatened civilian lives and critical infrastructure, New Delhi's response demonstrated solidarity, reassurance, and strategic confidence in one of its closest partners in the Gulf.

The crisis involved missile and drone strikes targeting civilian areas and key facilities in the UAE, resulting in casualties that included foreign nationals. Among those affected was an Indian citizen, underscoring how closely the safety of the two countries' populations is intertwined. The incident served as a stark reminder that regional instability can directly impact millions of expatriates living far from home.

At the core of India-UAE relations is the vast Indian diaspora in the Emirates. Numbering in the millions, Indians form one of the largest expatriate communities there. They contribute across all sectors of the economy, from construction and services to healthcare, education, technology, and business leadership. Their presence has helped shape the UAE's growth story, while remittances sent home support countless families across India.

Economic ties between the two nations are equally strong. The UAE ranks among India's most important trading partners and serves as a major gateway for Indian exports to the wider Middle East and Africa. Cooperation spans energy, infrastructure, finance, technology, logistics, and investment. This dense web of economic interdependence means that stability in the UAE is vital not only for its own citizens but also for India's economic interests.

When the crisis unfolded, India responded quickly at the highest level. Strong condemnation of the attacks and expressions of solidarity were conveyed directly between the leadership of the two countries. This prompt engagement



reflected a relationship built on trust and frequent communication rather than formal protocol alone. India's diplomatic stance signaled that it viewed the security of the UAE as closely linked to its own regional interests.

Beyond bilateral exchanges, India also supported broader international efforts aimed at addressing the situation and restoring stability. Such actions reinforced the perception that the partnership is both strategic and principled, grounded in a shared desire for peace, economic continuity, and regional security.

Despite fears that the conflict might weaken the UAE's economy or trigger instability, the country's underlying

strengths remain significant. Over the years, it has diversified its economy beyond oil, developed world-class infrastructure, and built substantial financial reserves. These factors provide resilience against external shocks and reassure investors, residents, and partners alike.

The episode also demonstrated how people-to-people ties can strengthen diplomatic relations. Cultural exchanges, tourism, business links, and long-standing personal connections between families across the two countries have created a bond that transcends formal agreements.

Ultimately, India's support during the crisis illustrated a partnership defined

ability. For India, the safety of its citizens abroad, uninterrupted trade flows, and regional stability are crucial concerns. For the UAE, India's backing reinforced confidence that a trusted partner would stand by it during difficult moments.

In international relations, true alliances are tested in times of uncertainty. This episode showed that India and the UAE share not just economic interests but a durable connection rooted in mutual respect, trust, and long-term cooperation. As the geopolitical landscape continues to evolve, this relationship is likely to remain a cornerstone of engagement between South Asia and the Gulf region.

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Over 200 Ex-Officials Question Rahul Gandhi's Conduct In Parliament

More than 200 retired bureaucrats, former military officers, diplomats, and senior professionals have expressed concern over the conduct of Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi inside Parliament, calling his actions inappropriate and harmful to institutional dignity.

In a joint letter, the signatories criticised an incident on March 12 when opposition MPs staged a protest within the Parliament complex over rising LPG prices. The demonstration reportedly took place near one of the main entrances, where lawmakers used symbolic cooking stoves and raised slogans to highlight the issue.

The group argued that ignoring the directions of the Lok Sabha Speaker undermines parliamentary decorum, especially when done by senior leaders. They stressed that Parliament is the nation's highest democratic forum and must be treated with respect at all times.

According to the letter, some MPs were also seen sitting on the steps of Parliament and sharing tea and snacks during the protest. The signatories described this behaviour as unbecoming of elected representatives and inconsistent with the dignity ex-



pected of lawmakers.

The statement was endorsed by a wide range of prominent individuals, including retired army officers, former civil servants, ambassadors, and legal experts. They warned that such actions could erode public trust in democratic institutions and lower the standard of political discourse.

The group also cautioned that theatrical demonstrations within the Parliament premises risk turning serious national forums into venues for political spectacle. They emphasised that disa-

greements should be addressed through debate, discussion, and constitutional processes rather than protests that disrupt normal functioning.

The letter urged Rahul Gandhi, as Leader of Opposition, to uphold the responsibilities of his position and set a positive example for other legislators. It also called on leaders across party lines to maintain civility and respect parliamentary norms even during intense political disagreements.

The controversy comes amid

ongoing tensions between the government and opposition over economic issues such as fuel and cooking gas prices. While protest is a legitimate democratic tool, the debate in this case centers on whether such demonstrations are appropriate within the Parliament complex itself.

Overall, the episode has sparked a broader discussion about the balance between dissent and decorum in India's parliamentary system, and the responsibilities of public representatives in maintaining institutional respect.

Siddaramaiah Pulls Up Ministers After Speaker Walks Out Over Delayed Replies

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reprimanded his cabinet colleagues after Assembly Speaker U. T. Khader adjourned proceedings and walked out of the House over delays in providing answers to legislators' questions.

The incident occurred during a session of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly when the Speaker expressed strong dissatisfaction with the low number of written replies submitted by government departments. He noted that repeated reminders had failed to produce results and questioned how the House could function effectively without timely responses from ministers and officials.

Before leaving, the Speaker stated that he would not continue proceedings until proper explanations were provided by the concerned ministers and departmental secretaries. His walkout brought the Assembly's work to a halt and highlighted serious concerns about administrative



accountability.

Following the episode, the Chief Minister issued a stern communication to all ministers, warning that delays in responding to questions had embarrassed the government and undermined the dignity of the legislature. He pointed out that a significant number of questions raised by MLAs across multiple sessions remained unanswered.

According to official data cited during the discussion, only a fraction of the questions submitted had received replies, leaving a large backlog. This situation has made it difficult for legislators to hold the government accountable and discuss issues affecting their constituencies.

Siddaramaiah directed departmental secretaries to immediately explain the reasons for the

delays and ensure that all pending responses are provided without further lapse. He also instructed departments to inform the concerned MLAs directly about outstanding replies and specify clear timelines for furnishing the required information.

The episode drew criticism from opposition leaders, who described the situation as a sign of poor governance and lack of coordination within the administration. They argued that failing to answer Assembly questions reflects disregard for democratic procedures and the responsibilities of elected representatives.

Overall, the Speaker's rare walkout underscored the seriousness of the issue, while the Chief Minister's intervention signaled an effort to restore normal functioning. The incident has sparked broader debate on administrative efficiency, transparency, and the importance of accountability in legislative processes.

Centre Assures Action On LPG Crisis Amid Iran-Israel War; Court Closes Distributors' Plea



The central government has assured that it is taking all necessary steps to address the cooking gas shortage triggered by the Iran-Israel conflict, after a court closed a petition filed by LPG distributors over supply concerns.

The crisis arose as tensions in West Asia disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for India's energy imports. A significant portion of the country's liquefied petroleum gas comes from the Gulf region, making supplies vulnerable to any blockade or escalation in hostilities.

Responding to fears of shortages, the government said domestic LPG supplies for households are being prioritised and that there is no need for panic. Authorities have increased local production, explored alternative import sources, and taken measures to ensure essential sectors continue receiving fuel.

Officials also urged consumers to avoid hoarding or panic buying, warning that such actions could worsen temporary disruptions. People with access to piped natural gas have been encouraged to use it where possible to reduce pressure on cylinder supplies.

Commercial users, including hotels and small businesses, have been affected more severely because domestic consumers are being given priority. In several

areas, deliveries of commercial cylinders are being rationed while authorities monitor distribution to prevent black marketing and misuse.

The legal case that led to the court proceedings had been filed by distributors seeking directions to ensure adequate supply and clarity on allocation during the crisis. However, after the Centre informed the court that the situation was under control and mitigation measures were underway, the petition was closed.

Meanwhile, both central and state governments continue to closely monitor the evolving situation. Steps include boosting refinery output, securing supplies from non-Gulf countries, and improving logistics to prevent disruptions to essential services.

Despite the challenges, officials insist that the country is not facing a complete shortage. They say existing stocks are being managed carefully to maintain uninterrupted supply of cooking gas, particularly for households and vulnerable communities.

Overall, the government maintains that contingency plans are in place to stabilise availability. The court's decision to close the plea reflects confidence that administrative measures will be sufficient to manage the situation for now.

Rajinikanth Responds To TVK Remarks: "Time Doesn't Speak, It Waits"



Tamil superstar Rajinikanth has reacted calmly to controversial remarks made by leaders of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, saying, "Time doesn't speak, but it waits," in a philosophical response that has sparked widespread discussion.

The controversy began after a TVK leader claimed that Rajinikanth's entry into politics years ago was allegedly halted due to pressure or threats from the ruling political establishment. The statement triggered strong reactions from political circles, film personalities, and fans, many of whom defended the actor.

Without directly engaging in a heated rebuttal, Rajinikanth dismissed the claims as untrue and expressed gratitude to those who condemned the remarks. His brief but pointed response suggested a composed approach, avoiding confrontation while firmly rejecting the allegations.

Observers interpreted his "time will wait" remark as a subtle message that truth will emerge eventually, rather than needing immediate argument. The statement quickly went viral on social media, with supporters praising his restraint

and dignity.

The TVK leader's comments had also included suggestions that Rajinikanth's political influence had declined or that he had withdrawn from politics under pressure. The actor's response neither confirmed nor elaborated on his past political decisions but reaffirmed that the specific claims were incorrect.

Rajinikanth had previously announced plans to enter politics but later stepped back, citing personal and health reasons. Since then, speculation about his political role has continued to surface during election cycles in Tamil Nadu.

The episode has intensified the already charged political atmosphere ahead of upcoming state elections, where film personalities and their political affiliations often play a significant role.

Overall, Rajinikanth's reaction stood out for its calm tone rather than aggressive rhetoric. By choosing a reflective statement over direct confrontation, he signaled that he does not wish to escalate the controversy, leaving the matter to public judgment and the passage of time.

Rising Dissent In CPI(M) May Challenge Pinarayi Vijayan Ahead Of Kerala Polls



Growing internal dissent within the Communist Party of India (Marxist) is emerging as a potential challenge for Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as Kerala moves toward Assembly elections.

The ruling party is facing an unusual wave of discontent from within its own ranks, including senior leaders, former legislators, and grassroots workers. Concerns have surfaced over candidate selection, leadership style, and the concentration of decision-making power within a small group at the top.

One major trigger has been the early announcement of candidates, which reportedly sidelined several experienced leaders. In some constituencies, disgruntled members are considering contesting as independent candidates against the official nominees. Such a move could divide the party's vote base and weaken its chances in closely contested seats.

There have also been reports of resignations and defections by leaders who feel overlooked or marginalised. Some have openly criticised the party's direction, suggesting that the dissatisfaction runs deeper than routine political disagreements.

Critics within the party argue that leadership has become highly centralised, leaving limited space for internal debate or dissent. Allegations of favouritism and the sidelining of influential figures have further fueled tensions. Several leaders who once held

significant positions are said to have been denied tickets or excluded from key roles.

The absence of strong internal checks has contributed to the situation. Earlier, senior leaders capable of openly challenging decisions acted as a balancing force, but such voices are now largely absent, allowing grievances to accumulate.

Unrest is not confined to the top leadership. Reports indicate dissatisfaction among local cadres and district-level workers, particularly in traditional strongholds. Some longtime members believe grassroots concerns are being ignored and that the party's ideological focus has weakened.

Political observers warn that internal divisions could hurt the party even in areas where it traditionally performs well. If rebel candidates enter the fray or supporters become disillusioned, opposition parties could gain an advantage.

Despite these challenges, the ruling alliance remains a major political force in the state after two consecutive terms in power. However, unity has historically been key to its electoral success.

Overall, the rising tide of dissent poses a significant test for Vijayan's leadership. How effectively the party manages internal conflicts and presents a united front may play a decisive role in the outcome of the upcoming Kerala Assembly elections.

AIADMK MP's "I Want Nayanthara" Remark Triggers Political Storm In Tamil Nadu



A controversial comment by an AIADMK leader has sparked a major political row in Tamil Nadu ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. C. Ve. Shanmugam, a Rajya Sabha MP from the party, faced sharp criticism after invoking actress Nayanthara while attacking Chief Minister M. K. Stalin's public outreach campaign.

Speaking at a protest rally, Shanmugam mocked the government's "Tell Us Your Dream" initiative, under which volunteers collect citizens' aspirations and feedback. He questioned whether the Chief Minister could fulfil any demand made by the public, suggesting that if someone claimed they wanted to marry Nayanthara, the government would not be able to make that happen.

The remark triggered immediate backlash, with critics calling it inappropriate, sexist, and disrespectful toward women. Many argued that invoking a woman's name in such a manner trivialised both the issue under discussion and the campaign itself.

The controversy intensified because the comment was reportedly made during an event focused on women's issues,

leading to accusations of insensitivity. Political opponents condemned the statement as unbecoming of a public representative and demanded an apology.

Shanmugam's criticism was aimed at discrediting the ruling party's initiative, which encourages people to share their hopes and expectations from the government. Supporters say the programme is designed to strengthen citizen engagement and gather public input, while opposition parties have dismissed it as a publicity exercise ahead of elections.

The incident has added to the already heated political climate in Tamil Nadu, where parties are ramping up campaigns before the polls. Analysts note that such controversies can divert attention from policy debates and shift focus toward personal remarks and rhetoric.

Overall, the episode highlights how political statements can quickly escalate into major public disputes, especially when they involve gender sensitivities. The row continues to dominate political discussions in the state as parties position themselves for the upcoming elections.

Iran Rejects Ceasefire Calls; Leadership Vows Revenge Against US and Israel

Iran's leadership has rejected proposals for a ceasefire with the United States and Israel, signaling a hardline stance as the conflict continues to intensify. Reports indicate that peace proposals were conveyed to Tehran through intermediary countries, but they were dismissed as unacceptable under current circumstances.

In a strong message, Iran's leadership stated that this is not the right time for peace and that the country will continue its resistance. Officials emphasized that Iran will not back down and will respond forcefully until it achieves its objectives and secures compensation for the losses suffered during the conflict.

Sources describe the leadership's approach as extremely tough, driven by a desire for retaliation for casualties and damage caused during the war. Tehran has reportedly indicated that any discussion of de-



escalation would only be possible after its adversaries accept responsibility and agree to terms favorable to Iran.

The rejection of ceasefire efforts comes amid one of the most serious regional confrontations in recent years. The conflict escalated after major

military strikes targeted Iranian assets, prompting retaliatory attacks across multiple areas in the Middle East. Missile launches, drone strikes, and air raids have been reported, raising fears that the crisis could expand into a broader regional war. Despite diplomatic efforts by

several countries to ease tensions, prospects for an immediate resolution remain uncertain. Iran's firm position suggests that hostilities may continue, while military operations on both sides persist.

The ongoing conflict has heightened humanitarian concerns as civilians face casualties, displacement, and disruptions to daily life. Key economic sectors and infrastructure have also been affected, worsening conditions within the region.

In addition to human costs, the crisis has triggered global anxiety over energy supplies and trade routes, as instability in the Middle East often impacts oil markets and international commerce.

Overall, Iran's refusal to accept a ceasefire and its vow to pursue retaliation mark a significant escalation, indicating that the conflict may persist unless major diplomatic breakthroughs are achieved.

Iran's New Leader Escaped Death by Seconds in US Strike

Iran's newly appointed Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, narrowly survived a powerful US-Israeli airstrike that killed his father, Ali Khamenei, along with several family members and senior officials. The attack targeted the leadership compound in Tehran on February 28 as part of a coordinated operation aimed at eliminating Iran's top command.

Reports suggest that Mojtaba Khamenei avoided death purely by chance. He had stepped out of the main building for routine work just minutes before the missiles struck. When the explosions occurred, he was reportedly returning to the building and sustained only a minor leg injury.

The strike caused massive destruction, flattening sections of the compound and killing multiple high-ranking figures. Several members of the Khamenei family and senior military officials were among those reported dead. The blast was described as ex-



tremely powerful, leaving parts of the site devastated.

Sources indicate that Mojtaba's wife and son were killed in the explosion, while another son who was nearby escaped unharmed. His survival under such circumstances has been described as remarkable.

Details of the incident reportedly emerged from leaked audio attributed to officials within the former leader's office, though the authenticity of the recording has not been independently confirmed. The strike itself is widely seen as an attempt to decapitate Iran's

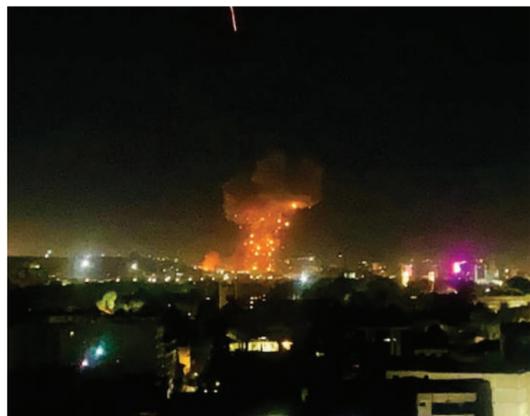
political and military leadership in a single blow.

Following his father's death, Mojtaba Khamenei was elevated to the position of Supreme Leader. However, his limited public appearances since the attack have sparked speculation about his health and security. While some accounts suggest he suffered only minor injuries, others believe he may still be recovering.

The incident highlights the growing intensity of the conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel. Had he been inside the building at the time, the attack might have eliminated Iran's entire top leadership, potentially creating a major power vacuum.

Overall, Mojtaba Khamenei's survival appears to have depended on a matter of seconds and a brief decision to step outside, turning what could have been a complete leadership wipeout into a defining moment in the ongoing conflict.

India Condemns Pakistan's Airstrike On Kabul Hospital As "Barbaric" And "Cowardly"



India has strongly denounced Pakistan's reported airstrike on a hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, describing the attack as "barbaric" and "cowardly." The strike targeted the Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital, a major drug rehabilitation facility, and reportedly caused heavy civilian casualties, drawing widespread concern.

According to Afghan authorities, hundreds of people were killed and many others injured, including patients receiving treatment at the facility. The hospital was housing a large number of individuals at the time, making the incident one of the deadliest in the recent tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

India's Ministry of External Affairs issued a sharp statement condemning the attack as an unacceptable act of violence against civilians. Officials stressed that a medical facility cannot be considered a legitimate military target and called the strike a grave violation of humanitarian norms.

The Indian government also stated that the attack undermines Afghanistan's sovereignty and poses a serious threat to regional peace and stability. New Delhi emphasized that targeting civilian infrastructure, especially health-

care institutions, is unacceptable under international law.

Pakistan has denied intentionally striking the hospital. Authorities in Islamabad claim that the military operation was aimed at terrorist hideouts and an alleged arms depot in the vicinity, asserting that precautions were taken to minimize civilian harm.

The incident has significantly escalated tensions between the neighboring countries, which have already been involved in cross-border hostilities. Several international voices have urged restraint and called for the protection of civilians to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

The humanitarian impact of the strike has been severe. Rescue operations continue amid widespread destruction, with many families searching for missing relatives. Concerns have also been raised about displacement, shortages of medical care, and long-term instability in the region.

Overall, India's strong condemnation reflects growing alarm over the rising civilian toll and the risk of further escalation. The attack on the Kabul hospital has intensified calls for accountability and renewed diplomatic efforts to restore stability.

Is Iran's Leader Mojtaba Khamenei Recovering In Moscow? What Russia Said



Iran's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, is reportedly undergoing medical treatment after being injured in a powerful airstrike that killed his father. Speculation has emerged that he may have been moved to Moscow for treatment, but the situation remains unclear and surrounded by conflicting claims.

According to reports, Khamenei sustained serious injuries to his leg, arm, and hand during the strike. Some sources suggest he was transferred to Russia after President Vladimir Putin personally offered medical assistance during a conversation with Iran's president. This fueled rumours that he could be recovering at a hospital in Moscow.

However, there has been no official confirmation from Russian authorities that Khamenei is being treated in Moscow. Iran's foreign ministry has acknowledged that he is "feeling well," without confirming any transfer abroad. This has left uncertainty about his actual location and condition.

Reports of his evacuation to Russia largely originate from foreign media and unofficial sources, making them

difficult to verify. Some claims suggest the move was necessary due to the severity of his injuries and security concerns, while others believe he may still be receiving treatment inside Iran.

Khamenei has not appeared publicly since assuming leadership, which has intensified speculation about his health. The lack of visual proof or official updates has led to widespread rumours ranging from steady recovery to severe incapacitation.

The airstrike that injured him also caused extensive damage and killed several members of his family, making it one of the most significant attacks on Iran's leadership in recent years. His survival ensured continuity of leadership, but his absence from public view has raised questions about who is effectively running the country during his recovery.

Overall, while reports suggest Mojtaba Khamenei may be recovering in Moscow, neither Russia nor Iran has officially confirmed this. The available information indicates that he was injured but is reportedly stable, and his exact location remains undisclosed for medical and security reasons.

Sri Lanka Announces Four-Day Work Week, Wednesdays Declared Holiday To Save Fuel



Sri Lanka has introduced a four-day work week and declared Wednesdays as a weekly public holiday in an effort to conserve fuel amid a worsening energy crisis linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz.

The government said the measure is intended to reduce daily commuting and overall fuel consumption as the country braces for potential shortages. Beginning March 18, most state institutions will operate only four days a week, effectively shutting down public offices every Wednesday. Schools and universities will also follow the reduced schedule.

Essential services such as hospitals, ports, emergency operations, and other critical sectors will continue to function normally despite the shortened work week. Authorities have also encouraged remote work wherever possible to further cut fuel use and reduce pressure on transportation systems.

Officials chose Wednesday as the additional day off so that government offices

would not remain closed for three consecutive days. The administration has urged private companies to adopt similar arrangements voluntarily to maximise fuel savings nationwide.

The move comes as global energy supplies face disruption due to conflict in the Middle East. The Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime route through which a significant share of the world's oil passes, has been severely affected, creating uncertainty for fuel-importing nations like Sri Lanka. The island country relies heavily on imported petroleum products, making it particularly vulnerable to supply shocks.

Alongside the four-day work week, the government has introduced fuel-rationing measures. Motorists are limited to a fixed quantity of petrol or diesel each week, while public transport services receive allocated quotas to maintain operations. Authorities say current reserves could last only a limited period if fresh supplies are delayed.

Civil servants have also been instructed to work from home when possible, and non-essential public events have been suspended to reduce energy consumption. Officials stressed that the measures are preventive, aimed at avoiding a repeat of the severe shortages experienced during the country's economic crisis in 2022.

Leaders warned that a prolonged disruption in oil supplies could threaten Sri Lanka's ongoing economic recovery and strain public services. By cutting workdays and restricting fuel use, the government hopes to stretch existing reserves while seeking stable supply arrangements.

Overall, the decision reflects the far-reaching global impact of geopolitical tensions on energy-dependent economies. Sri Lanka's emergency steps are intended to maintain essential services, prevent panic shortages, and safeguard economic stability until fuel supplies normalize.

How Indian Navy Is Escorting Ships Amid Strait of Hormuz Crisis



Amid escalating conflict in West Asia and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, the Indian Navy has deployed warships to protect commercial vessels carrying essential supplies to India. The operation aims to safeguard energy imports and ensure the safety of Indian crew members as the vital sea route faces security threats.

Under Operation Sankalp, naval ships are maintaining continuous surveillance over merchant vessels bound for India as they pass through sensitive waters such as the Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, and nearby shipping lanes. Their presence serves both as a deterrent against attacks and as a rapid-response force in case of emergencies.

Warships Monitoring And Escorting Vessels

Officials report that numerous India-bound ships with hundreds of crew members were stranded near the Strait when tensions escalated. Indian naval forces are tracking these vessels closely and coordinating their safe passage whenever conditions

permit.

Advanced warships equipped with modern missile systems, radar, surveillance tools, and anti-submarine capabilities have been deployed in the region. These vessels are positioned to respond to threats from air, surface, or underwater sources, ensuring comprehensive protection.

Escorts For Fuel Carriers

India relies heavily on oil and gas imports from the Gulf, making tanker safety crucial. Several India-flagged fuel carriers transporting large quantities of cooking gas and crude oil have been assisted. Naval ships either escorted these tankers directly through high-risk areas or monitored their movement to ensure safe transit toward Indian ports.

Wider Security Deployment

In addition to the Strait of Hormuz, the Navy has intensified patrols in the Gulf of Aden, a key shipping corridor connecting the Red Sea and the Suez Canal to the Indian Ocean. Anti-piracy operations continue in

this region, protecting ships not only from conflict-related dangers but also from maritime crime.

Why This Route Matters

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important energy chokepoints, through which a large portion of global oil and gas supplies passes. Any disruption to this route can affect fuel availability, shipping costs, and economic stability for countries dependent on imports, including India.

Overall Situation

The Indian Navy's mission is defensive in nature, focused on protection rather than confrontation. Continuous patrols, surveillance, and escort operations are helping maintain the steady flow of essential goods while reassuring shipping companies and crews during a period of heightened risk.

Overall, the deployment highlights India's efforts to secure its maritime interests and prevent supply disruptions during one of the most sensitive geopolitical crises in recent years.

Markets Extend Gains for Second Day; Nifty Reclaims 23,550, Sensex Jumps 568 Points

Indian stock markets continued their upward momentum for the second straight session, supported by strong buying across key sectors and improving investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex rose by 568 points to close near 76,071, while the NSE Nifty 50 gained 172 points to settle above the important 23,550 level. This recovery indicates renewed strength after recent market fluctuations.

The rally was broad-based, with several heavyweight stocks driving the gains. Banking, financial, information technology, and automobile stocks witnessed strong buying interest, helping both benchmark indices maintain a steady upward trend throughout the trading session. Analysts attributed the rise to bargain hunting following earlier declines and easing concerns over global uncertainties.

Market breadth remained positive as the number of advancing stocks exceeded those declining on the major exchanges. Mid-cap and small-cap shares also moved higher, reflecting wider participation from investors beyond large-cap companies. Traders observed that the Nifty's ability to regain the 23,500 zone is technically significant and could support further upside if the level holds in the coming sessions.

Global cues remained mixed, but Indian markets displayed resilience. Despite geopolitical tensions and uncertainty in some international markets, domestic equities held firm. In-



vestors focused more on India's economic fundamentals, corporate earnings outlook, and liquidity conditions, which continue to support long-term growth prospects.

Sector-wise, financial stocks were among the biggest contributors to the rally, aided by expectations of steady credit growth and a stable interest rate environment. Technology shares advanced on improved sentiment toward export-oriented companies, while auto-

mobile stocks gained on hopes of sustained demand and easing supply constraints.

Experts cautioned that although the short-term trend appears positive, volatility could persist due to global developments and upcoming economic data. They advised investors to remain selective and prioritize fundamentally strong companies rather than chasing short-term momentum.

Looking ahead, market participants will closely watch

global trends, crude oil prices, foreign investor activity, and domestic economic indicators for direction. If the Nifty sustains above 23,550, it may open the door for further gains, but failure to hold this level could lead to profit-booking.

Overall, the second consecutive day of gains signals that bullish sentiment is gradually returning to the Indian stock market, though caution remains necessary in an uncertain global environment.

GSP Crop Science IPO Sees Strong Demand; Subscribed 65 Percent on Day Two



The initial public offering of GSP Crop Science has received a solid response from investors, with the issue subscribed about 65 percent by the end of the second day of bidding. Strong demand from institutional and high-net-worth investors has driven the subscription, while retail participation has been relatively slower so far.

The portion reserved for Qualified Institutional Buyers has been fully subscribed, reflecting strong confidence from large financial institutions. The category for non-institutional investors, which includes high-net-worth individuals, has also seen full subscription. However, the retail investor segment has lagged behind, with only a part of its quota filled by the second day.

In total, the company has received bids for a significant number of shares compared with the shares

available, indicating steady but selective interest across investor groups. The IPO opened on March 16 and will close on March 18. The share allotment is expected to be finalized around March 20, with the stock likely to be listed on the exchanges on March 24.

GSP Crop Science aims to raise about 400 crore rupees through this public issue. The price band has been fixed between 304 rupees and 320 rupees per share, placing the company's valuation at roughly 1,500 crore rupees at the upper end. The IPO consists of a mix of fresh equity shares and an offer for sale by existing shareholders.

In the unofficial grey market, the premium for the IPO has remained mostly flat, suggesting limited expectations of strong listing gains at present. However, grey market trends can change quickly and may not accu-

ately predict actual performance once the shares begin trading.

Established in 1985, GSP Crop Science operates in the agrochemical industry and produces crop protection products such as insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and plant growth regulators. The company has built a long track record in the sector and focuses on research, development, and product innovation.

A portion of the funds raised from the IPO will be used to repay existing borrowings, which could improve the company's financial health. The remaining funds are intended for general corporate purposes and future business expansion.

Overall, the IPO has attracted strong interest from large investors, but the final outcome will depend significantly on retail participation in the remaining days of the issue.

Eased IPO Float Rules May Lead to Fair Pricing and Stronger Mega Listings

Recent changes to India's IPO regulations could significantly reshape the way large companies go public. Experts believe that relaxing public float requirements may result in fairer pricing of shares and help prevent underwhelming debuts by mega listings.

Under the revised norms announced on March 13, companies are no longer required to dilute 25 percent of their ownership at the time of listing. Instead, they can follow a phased approach, gradually increasing public shareholding over a defined period. This change is particularly important for very large companies, which previously struggled to sell a large chunk of equity at once without depressing prices.

Market specialists say that forcing companies to offload a large stake during the IPO often created an oversupply of shares, which could weaken demand and lead to subdued listing performance. By allowing smaller initial offerings, the new rules aim to balance supply with investor appetite, potentially leading to more stable pricing and stronger market debut gains.



The revised framework is expected to encourage major corporations to pursue listings in India rather than overseas. Large firms with massive valuations often found the earlier requirement impractical because the market might not absorb such a huge volume of shares immediately. A phased dilution model gives pro-

motors more flexibility while still ensuring that public participation increases over time.

Another key advantage is improved price discovery. When fewer shares are offered initially, companies can better gauge investor demand and market conditions. If the business performs well after listing, promot-

ers can dilute further at potentially higher valuations, benefiting both the company and existing shareholders.

However, some experts caution that a very low public float could also reduce liquidity in the early trading period. With fewer shares available for trading, stock prices may become more volatile and susceptible to sharp movements. Therefore, regulators have ensured that companies must gradually raise their public shareholding to prescribed levels over the years.

The move is also seen as a way to revive investor enthusiasm for large IPOs, many of which have delivered muted listing gains in recent times. By aligning supply with demand and allowing flexibility, the new norms could help future mega issues perform better on debut.

Overall, the eased float requirements represent a strategic shift aimed at making India's capital markets more attractive for large companies while safeguarding investor interests through a structured increase in public ownership over time.

Midcap and Smallcap Indices Rebound After Four-Day Fall; Metals Lead Gains

India's broader stock market showed signs of recovery as midcap and smallcap indices rose after four consecutive sessions of decline. The rebound was driven mainly by strong buying in metal and capital goods stocks, which lifted overall market sentiment.

The Nifty Midcap 100 index climbed about 0.68 percent, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index gained around 0.58 percent. This recovery comes after a sharp correction in the previous four sessions, during which the midcap index had fallen roughly 4.5 percent and the smallcap index nearly 4 percent.

Market participants observed steady, broad-based buying rather than a sudden surge, suggesting cautious optimism among investors. The comeback indicates that traders are selectively accumulating stocks after recent declines, especially in sectors seen as fundamentally strong.

Metal stocks emerged as the clear leaders of the rally. Companies linked to steel and industrial metals attracted strong demand, supported by improving price



outlooks and expectations of higher infrastructure activity. Capital goods companies also contributed to the upward movement, reflecting optimism about industrial growth and government spending.

Other sectors such as automobiles, infrastructure, and private banking provided additional sup-

port to the broader market. However, the gains were not uniform across all segments. Information technology and fast-moving consumer goods stocks remained under pressure, which limited the overall upside.

Individual stocks in the midcap and smallcap space witnessed sharp moves on both sides. Sev-

eral companies posted strong gains due to sector-specific triggers, while some stocks continued to face selling pressure. This pattern suggests that the recovery is selective rather than a full-scale market rally.

Volatility also eased during the session, providing stability to trading conditions. Lower market volatility typically encourages investors to re-enter equities, which helped sustain the rebound in broader indices.

Despite the positive move, analysts caution that the recovery should be viewed as a bounce after a correction rather than a complete trend reversal. Sustained buying over the coming sessions will be necessary to confirm a stronger uptrend.

Overall, the rise in midcap and smallcap indices signals that investor confidence is gradually returning after recent weakness. Strong performance by metal stocks and industrial companies has been crucial in driving this turnaround, while continued sector rotation is likely to shape market direction in the near term.

Fractal Analytics Shares Rise 5 Percent After Launch of GenAI Platform



Shares of Fractal Analytics climbed about 5 percent after the company announced the launch of its new enterprise platform, LLM Studio, designed to help businesses customise generative artificial intelligence solutions. The stock rose to around 800 rupees on the National Stock Exchange, recovering after two consecutive sessions of decline.

LLM Studio is aimed at organisations that want to build and operate language models tailored to their specific business needs. The platform allows companies to design, train, evaluate, and deploy domain-specific AI models using open-source technologies combined with advanced computing infrastructure. It is built to give enterprises greater control over how AI systems are governed, managed, and used in real-world production environments.

According to the com-

pany, the platform integrates key modules that simplify the development and operation of large language models. It enables teams to customise AI systems using their own data, train models to follow specialised instructions, and create solutions suited for tasks requiring strong reasoning or industry knowledge. The system also supports users with limited coding experience, making advanced AI tools more accessible to a wider range of business teams.

The launch reflects a broader shift in the corporate world, where companies are moving beyond experimentation with generative AI and seeking reliable, cost-predictable solutions for everyday operations. By offering tools to build secure and customised models, Fractal Analytics aims to position itself as a provider of enterprise-grade AI infrastructure rather than just analytics services.

The company plans to showcase LLM Studio at the annual AI conference hosted by NVIDIA, where global technology firms present new innovations in artificial intelligence and accelerated computing.

Market participants responded positively to the announcement, viewing it as a strategic move that could strengthen the company's growth prospects in the rapidly expanding AI sector. The rebound in the share price also comes shortly after the stock's weaker performance following its market debut earlier this year.

Overall, the introduction of LLM Studio signals Fractal Analytics' push to capitalise on rising enterprise demand for customised generative AI solutions. If widely adopted, the platform could help the company expand its presence in the competitive global AI market while supporting long-term revenue growth.

Man Confronts Students Throwing Paper From School Bus, Viral Video Sparks Debate



A viral video showing a man confronting school students for littering has ignited widespread discussion on social media about civic responsibility and appropriate ways to correct public behaviour. The incident, captured on camera and widely shared online, shows pieces of paper scattered across a road after being allegedly thrown from a passing school bus.

According to reports, a motorcyclist noticed the litter on the street and believed it had come from the bus. He then chased the vehicle, pulled alongside it, and eventually boarded it while recording the entire episode. Once inside, he questioned the students about their actions and asked why they had thrown trash onto a public road, challenging them to consider whether they thought it was acceptable behaviour.

The video, posted on social media on March 14, quickly gained traction, drawing tens of thousands of views and reactions. Faces of the students and staff were blurred, and the exact time and location of the incident have not been officially verified.

Online reactions have been sharply divided. Many viewers praised the man for taking a stand and teaching the students a lesson about cleanliness and public responsibility. Supporters argued that such direct action is neces-

sary in a country struggling with littering issues, especially when young people fail to understand the impact of their behaviour on shared spaces.

Others, however, criticized the confrontation. They felt the biker's approach may have been excessive and potentially unsafe, suggesting he should have reported the matter to school authorities instead of confronting minors directly. Some commenters also emphasized that children make mistakes and should be guided rather than publicly reprimanded.

The incident has therefore sparked a broader conversation about how society should address civic misconduct, particularly when it involves young people. While most agree that maintaining cleanliness in public spaces is essential, opinions differ on whether public shaming, direct confrontation, or institutional action is the best solution.

Ultimately, the viral clip highlights a persistent issue — everyday littering — while also revealing deeper concerns about accountability, education, and the role of ordinary citizens in enforcing social norms. It serves as a reminder that building civic sense requires both awareness and constructive guidance, especially among the younger generation.

Folk Musicians Turn Airport Security Check Into A Magical Musical Moment



Passengers at Jodhpur Airport recently witnessed an unexpected cultural treat when a group of Rajasthani folk artists transformed a routine security check into a lively musical performance. What is usually a quiet, procedural moment suddenly became memorable as traditional melodies filled the terminal.

The artists, led by renowned folk performer Ismail Langa, began singing while passing through the screening area, surprising both travellers and airport staff. Their spontaneous performance featured soulful Rajasthani folk music, instantly creating a warm and festive atmosphere inside the otherwise formal security zone.

The performance was later shared online by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which manages airport security across India. Posting the video on its official social-media account, the force described the episode as a "musical moment at the airport," noting how the artist's heartfelt rendition added a touch of sweetness to the travel experience.

According to reports, the group was travelling together when the impromptu performance occurred. Rather than a staged event, the song emerged naturally during the security process, blending traditional culture with a modern travel setting. Passengers nearby paused to watch, many appear-

ing delighted by the unexpected show.

The video captures the troupe's distinctive musical style — rich vocals accompanied by traditional expression — delivered with ease despite the unusual environment. The fusion of heritage art with a contemporary public space created a unique scene rarely witnessed in airports, where strict procedures typically leave little room for spontaneity.

Rajasthani folk music is known for its deep emotional quality, storytelling tradition, and vibrant cultural roots. Performances like this highlight how such art forms continue to thrive beyond formal stages, reaching audiences in everyday spaces.

Online reactions to the clip have been overwhelmingly positive. Many viewers praised the artists for spreading joy and showcasing India's cultural richness in an unexpected setting. Others noted how the moment humanized airport security, turning a routine checkpoint into a shared experience of music and connection.

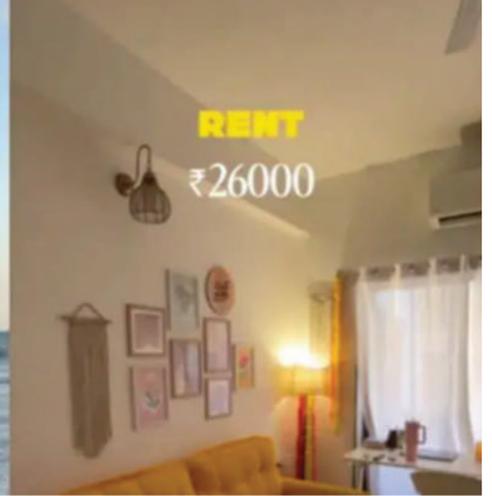
Ultimately, the viral video serves as a reminder that art can emerge anywhere — even in the most ordinary situations. For a brief moment at Jodhpur Airport, travellers were not just passengers rushing to catch flights but an audience brought together by the timeless power of folk music.

Living Solo In Goa: Techie Reveals ₹82,000 Monthly Expense Breakdown

A software professional has sparked online discussion after sharing how much it costs to live alone in Goa. In a detailed social-media post, the techie revealed that maintaining a comfortable single lifestyle in the popular coastal state costs about ₹82,000 per month — a figure that surprised many who consider Goa a budget-friendly destination.

According to the breakdown, accommodation formed the largest portion of expenses. The techie reportedly lives in a rented apartment, paying a substantial amount for housing due to the demand for well-located homes near workspaces and urban conveniences. Rent alone consumed a major chunk of the monthly budget, reflecting how property prices in Goa have risen with the influx of remote workers and digital nomads.

Food and groceries accounted for another significant share. The individual balanced home-cooked meals with occasional dining out, which pushed monthly food expenses upward. Transportation costs were also notable, as public transport options in



Goa are limited compared to major metros. Many residents rely on private vehicles or rentals, adding to recurring expenses.

Utility bills — including electricity, internet, water, and mobile services — further increased the total. Reliable high-speed internet, essential for tech professionals working remotely, can be a particularly important expense. In addition, routine household costs such

as maintenance, cleaning supplies, and personal care items contributed steadily to the monthly outflow.

Lifestyle spending played a key role as well. The techie allocated money for entertainment, shopping, subscriptions, and leisure activities, reflecting a comfortable but not extravagant way of living. Health-related expenses, insurance, and emergency provisions were also

part of the budget, underscoring the need for financial planning when living independently.

The post triggered mixed reactions online. Some users felt the amount was high for a single person in Goa, arguing that a simpler lifestyle could cost far less. Others noted that the figure seemed reasonable for someone seeking privacy, modern amenities, and a balanced quality of life.

Cost-of-living studies

support this wide variation. Monthly expenses for a single person in Goa can range roughly from ₹35,000 to ₹90,000 depending on housing choice and lifestyle preferences.

Overall, the techie's detailed account highlights an important reality: while Goa is often seen as a relaxed, affordable paradise, living there full-time — especially alone and comfortably — can be significantly more expensive than many people expect.

₹1.5 Lakh Salary, Only ₹20,000 Saved: Viral Post Reveals Bengaluru's Costly Reality

A viral social-media post has ignited debate about the true cost of living in Bengaluru after revealing that a professional earning ₹1.5 lakh per month manages to save barely ₹20,000. The story, shared online by a user about his cousin, highlights how even high salaries in India's tech capital can be quickly consumed by everyday expenses.

According to the post, the young software professional moved to Bengaluru for his first job, believing he had achieved financial success. However, within six months, he realised that the city's high living costs significantly reduced his disposable income. Family and friends initially assumed he was doing extremely well, but the reality turned out to be far more complicated.

Rent emerged as the biggest expense. The man reportedly pays around ₹36,000 per month for a small apartment located close to his workplace — a



common choice among professionals trying to avoid long commutes in the city's heavy traffic. Groceries form another major component, costing roughly ₹13,000 to ₹15,000 monthly, reflecting the rising cost of food and daily necessities in urban areas.

Transportation also takes a substantial share of income. Due to congestion and limited public transport convenience,

the professional spends between ₹6,000 and ₹8,000 per month on cabs and auto-rickshaws. Lifestyle expenses add further pressure, with about ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 going toward online food orders, coffee, and weekend outings — costs that many young professionals consider part of maintaining a balanced social life.

After accounting for these recurring expenses and other routine bills,

only a small amount remains for savings at the end of the month. The post resonated widely online, as many users shared similar experiences of struggling to save despite earning what would be considered a high income in most parts of India.

Reactions, however, were mixed. Some commenters argued that careful budgeting and lifestyle adjustments could signifi-

cantly increase savings. Others maintained that Bengaluru's housing prices, traffic-related costs, and urban lifestyle make high expenses unavoidable, especially for newcomers seeking convenience and comfort.

The discussion reflects a broader reality: in major metropolitan hubs, salary figures alone do not determine financial security. High rents, transportation challenges, and lifestyle expectations can quickly erode income, leaving even well-paid professionals feeling financially stretched.

Ultimately, the viral post serves as a reminder that while Bengaluru offers lucrative career opportunities, achieving meaningful savings often requires disciplined spending, strategic housing choices, and long-term financial planning — especially for those living independently in one of India's most expensive cities.

"Too Comfortable In Germany": Indian-German Couple Moves To India For A New Life

An Indian-German couple has gone viral online after revealing why they chose to leave their stable life in Germany and relocate to India — not because of problems abroad, but because life had become "too comfortable." Their story, shared on social media, has sparked widespread discussion about what truly defines a fulfilling life.

According to the couple, Germany offered everything most people aspire to: financial security, social stability, efficient systems, and a high quality of life. However, over time, that very stability began to feel limiting. They said their daily routine had become repetitive, predictable, and emotionally unchallenging, making it seem as though life was running on autopilot.

In their post, the man, Deepesh Patel, explained that they were not leaving due to common complaints such as cold weather or bureaucracy. Instead, they wanted something entirely differ-



ent — uncertainty, excitement, and personal growth. Despite enjoying comfort and security, they began craving new experiences and a sense of transformation.

The couple also emphasized that they did not want to live with future regrets. They feared look-

ing back and wondering "what if" they had never taken a bold step outside their comfort zone. Ultimately, the desire for challenge outweighed the fear of failure, motivating them to make the move.

India, they said, felt like the perfect destina-

tion for reinvention. They were drawn to the country's vibrant culture, deep traditions, diversity, and dynamic energy. Unlike the predictability they experienced in Germany, India offered what they described as chaos mixed with creativity — an environment where

new perspectives and personal growth are constantly possible.

Their decision quickly attracted attention online. Many social media users praised the couple's courage, calling the move inspiring and refreshing. Some people who had returned to India after living abroad shared similar sentiments, saying they appreciated the country's liveliness, colours, festivals, and sense of community.

Others, however, expressed surprise at leaving a developed country for a more unpredictable environment, highlighting how differently people define happiness and success.

Overall, the viral story highlights a powerful idea: material comfort does not always guarantee fulfillment. For this couple, true satisfaction lay in embracing uncertainty, cultural richness, and the possibility of growth — even if it meant leaving behind a secure life in one of Europe's most stable nations.

Suryakumar Yadav Apologised To Daryl Mitchell After T20 World Cup Final Clash

India's T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav personally apologised to New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell after a heated on-field incident during the T20 World Cup 2026 final.

The controversy began when Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh threw the ball back in frustration after a play, and it struck Mitchell on the pads. The action angered the New Zealand batter, leading to a tense exchange between the two players. Umpires and teammates stepped in to prevent the situation from escalating further.

After the match, Suryakumar said he apologised to Mitchell personally because he wanted to demonstrate responsible leadership and uphold the spirit of the game. He felt it was important for the captain to take initiative and ensure that tensions did not carry beyond the field.

Arshdeep had not immediately apologised during the incident, which contributed to Mitchell's reaction. The confronta-



tation occurred at a high-pressure stage of the match, where emotions were running high on both sides. Later, Arshdeep also expressed regret over the incident.

The International Cricket

Council penalised Arshdeep for breaching the code of conduct, imposing a fine and a demerit point for throwing the ball in a manner considered inappropriate. Despite the controversy, the issue was eventually re-

solved amicably between the players.

Suryakumar reportedly advised Arshdeep not to dwell on the episode and to move forward, emphasising that such moments can happen in intense matches. His approach focused on learning from the situation rather than allowing it to affect the team's morale.

The final itself ended in a dominant victory for India, who defeated New Zealand convincingly to win the tournament. The team's success marked a historic achievement, as India retained the title and became the first side to win the T20 World Cup three times.

Overall, Suryakumar's gesture was widely seen as an example of sportsmanship and calm leadership under pressure. By apologising personally and guiding his teammate, he helped defuse a potentially ugly situation and ensured that the focus remained on the game rather than the controversy.

Australian Players Warned Against Travelling To Rawalpindi For PSL After Airstrike

Australian cricketers participating in the Pakistan Super League have reportedly been advised not to travel to Rawalpindi following military tensions and an airstrike in neighboring Afghanistan. The warning came amid growing security concerns in the region, prompting authorities and team management to take precautionary measures.

Rawalpindi, one of the key host cities for the league, lies close to sensitive military installations and strategic locations. Following reports of aerial activity and strikes near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, security agencies assessed the situation as potentially risky for foreign players.

As a result, Australian players were told to avoid travel to the city until conditions stabilize. Teams and tournament officials began reviewing logistics, including possible changes to match venues, travel plans, and accommodation arrange-



ments to ensure player safety.

Foreign players, especially those from Australia, are considered high-value targets in volatile situations, which is why additional caution was exercised. Some reports indicate that families of overseas players also expressed concern,

adding pressure on cricket authorities to prioritize safety over scheduling.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has maintained that extensive security arrangements are in place for all participants. However, developments in the region have created uncertainty, forc-

ing contingency planning, including the possibility of relocating matches or adjusting the tournament schedule.

Security fears are not new for international cricket in Pakistan. In the past, geopolitical tensions and isolated incidents have led to tournaments being moved to neutral venues or played under heavy protection. Authorities aim to avoid any situation that could endanger players or disrupt the competition.

Despite the warnings, officials remain hopeful that the league can continue smoothly if conditions improve. The situation is being monitored closely, with decisions likely to depend on real-time security assessments.

Overall, the advisory reflects the seriousness of the regional security environment. Protecting players and staff remains the top priority, even if it requires significant changes to travel plans or match arrangements during the tournament.

Ricky Ponting's "Brutal" Prank On Hardik Pandya In Debut IPL Season



India all-rounder Hardik Pandya revealed a hilarious story about a prank played on him by former Australia captain Ricky Ponting during his first Indian Premier League season with Mumbai Indians in 2015.

At the time, Pandya was just 21 years old and new to the team, while Ponting was serving as the franchise's head coach. The young all-rounder impressed with his explosive performances and won several individual awards in post-match presentations during the tournament.

However, Pandya did not know how the prize money system worked. Ponting jokingly told him that whenever he won an award — such as Player of the Match — he would receive the entire cash prize personally.

Believing this, Pandya began mentally planning how he would spend the money, assuming he would receive the full amount each time he collected an award on stage.

Only later did he discover the truth: in the IPL, such prize money is typically shared among all members of the team rather than given to a single player. Realizing he had been tricked, Pan-

dy understood that Ponting had played a light-hearted prank on him as a newcomer.

Despite the embarrassment, the story has since become a fond memory for the Indian star. It also reflects the dressing-room culture in franchise cricket, where senior players and coaches often tease younger teammates to help them settle in.

Pandya's debut season itself was highly successful. He scored quick runs at an impressive strike rate, contributed with the ball, and helped Mumbai Indians clinch the IPL title that year. The experience marked the beginning of his rise as one of India's most dynamic all-rounders.

The anecdote surfaced during a cricket awards ceremony, where Pandya shared it with laughter, showing there were no hard feelings. Instead, he looked back on the episode as a humorous initiation into top-level professional cricket.

Overall, the prank highlighted both Ponting's playful side and Pandya's innocence as a young player starting his IPL journey — a story that fans have found as entertaining as it is relatable.

New Zealand Thrash South Africa By 68 Runs To Level T20 Series



New Zealand produced a dominant all-round performance to defeat South Africa by 68 runs in the second T20 International, leveling the five-match series 1-1.

Playing at Hamilton, the hosts recovered strongly after their heavy loss in the opening match. Batting first, New Zealand posted a competitive total of 175 for 6 in 20 overs. The innings was anchored by Devon Conway, who delivered a composed half-century and held the batting together while others played supporting roles.

South Africa had earlier won the toss and chose to field, hoping to repeat their success from the first game. However, New Zealand's batters adapted well to the conditions, building partnerships and accelerating in the later overs to set a challenging target of 176.

In reply, South Africa's chase never gained momentum. The visitors struggled against disciplined bowling and lost wickets at regular intervals. New Zealand's bowlers maintained tight lines, applied constant pressure, and prevented any meaningful partnerships from developing.

South Africa were eventually bowled out for just 107 runs

in 15.3 overs, falling well short of the target. The comprehensive victory highlighted New Zealand's sharp improvement in both batting and bowling compared to the series opener.

Conway's performance earned him the Player of the Match award, as his steady knock proved crucial in setting up the win. The bowling unit then completed the job with an aggressive and controlled display.

The result marked a strong comeback for New Zealand after being routed in the first T20, where South Africa had chased down a modest total with ease. By leveling the series, the hosts have revived the contest and restored confidence within the squad.

With three matches still remaining, the series is now finely poised. Both teams will look to build momentum as they head into the next game, making the upcoming fixtures crucial in determining the outcome of the tour.

Overall, New Zealand's emphatic win demonstrated their resilience and ability to bounce back under pressure, setting up an exciting battle between the two sides for the remainder of the series.

Rohit Sharma's Hilarious Banter After Smashing MI Teammate For Six



Rohit Sharma was involved in a lighthearted on-field moment with a Mumbai Indians teammate during a practice session ahead of IPL 2026, leaving players and fans amused.

The fun incident occurred after Rohit launched a towering six off a teammate's bowling during nets. As the ball soared toward the boundary, he jokingly shouted "Catch it!" toward the fielder — fully aware that the shot was virtually impossible to stop.

When the fielder failed to take the catch, Rohit continued the banter with a playful comment, teasing his teammate in a friendly manner. The exchange drew laughter from players nearby and quickly went viral on social media, highlighting the relaxed atmosphere within the camp.

The teammate on the receiving end responded sportingly, smiling and engaging in the joke rather than taking it seriously. Such moments are common in training sessions, where players use humor to relieve pressure before the intense competition of the IPL season.

Rohit is well known for his witty personality and easygoing leadership style. Even in high-pressure environments, he often injects humor into interactions with teammates, helping maintain team morale and camaraderie.

The session itself showed Rohit in strong batting form as he prepared for the upcoming tournament. His clean hitting and timing suggested he is gearing up for a productive season after mixed performances in recent years.

Teammates and coaching staff appeared relaxed, with several players enjoying the playful exchange. The clip became popular among fans because it showcased a lighter side of professional cricket rarely seen during official matches.

Overall, the moment reflected the strong bonding within the Mumbai Indians squad. Rohit's humorous taunt after the six was not meant to embarrass but to entertain — a reminder that even elite athletes enjoy friendly teasing while preparing for the big stage.

Naveen-ul-Haq Slams Pakistan After Deadly Kabul Airstrike



Afghanistan pacer Naveen-ul-Haq strongly condemned Pakistan following a devastating airstrike in Kabul that reportedly killed around 400 people and injured hundreds more. His emotional reaction reflected the anger and grief felt across Afghanistan after one of the deadliest attacks in the country's recent history.

Taking to social media, Naveen made a controversial comparison, saying it was "hard to find any difference" between Pakistan's actions and those of Israel in conflict situations. The remark drew significant attention online, highlighting the intensity of public outrage over civilian casualties.

According to reports, the strike targeted areas in the Afghan capital and resulted in massive loss of life, including non-combatants. Afghan authorities described the incident as a major humanitarian tragedy, while several public figures and athletes expressed shock and condemnation.

Naveen was not alone in reacting strongly. Other Afghan cricketers also voiced their anger, calling the attack unacceptable and demanding accountability for the loss of innocent lives. Many emphasised that civilians should never be targets in military operations,

regardless of political or security disputes.

The airstrike has sharply escalated tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, which have long had strained relations along their shared border. Analysts warn that such incidents risk triggering further instability in the region.

Despite being an international sports figure, Naveen's comments reflected deep personal anguish as an Afghan citizen. His statement quickly spread across global media, sparking debate about the role of athletes in speaking out on political and humanitarian issues.

The tragedy also overshadowed sporting ties between the two nations, which have produced several memorable cricket encounters in recent years. Calls for peace and restraint have emerged from various quarters, urging both sides to avoid further escalation.

Overall, Naveen-ul-Haq's reaction underscores how events far beyond the cricket field can profoundly affect athletes and fans alike. His emotional response captured the pain felt by many Afghans mourning the victims of the strike and hoping for an end to the violence.

Kiran Abbavaram Turns Director With Ambitious New Project



Young Tollywood actor Kiran Abbavaram is currently enjoying a productive phase in his career, steadily building a distinct identity with back-to-back films. Now, the rising star is preparing to take a major step forward by expanding his role in cinema — not just as an actor, but also as a producer and director.

Kiran has already demonstrated his creative involvement in filmmaking through SR Kalyanamandapam, where he contributed to the story and direction. Encouraged by that experience, he is now set to make his full-fledged directorial debut with a film based on his own original script. Reports suggest that the screenplay work has been completed, and the team is planning to begin shooting in May.

What makes the project particularly exciting is the reported casting approach. The makers are said to be in talks with veteran South Indian star Arvind Swamy for a key role. Additionally, acclaimed Kannada actor-filmmaker Raj B. Shetty is also being considered for another pivotal character. If both actors come on board, the film's scale and appeal could increase significantly,

turning it into a high-profile debut for Kiran as a director.

Meanwhile, Kiran continues to stay busy as a lead actor. He is currently working on Chennai Love Story, with the story penned by Sai Rajesh. In addition to films, he is also starring in a web series for a major streaming platform, signaling his growing presence across different formats of entertainment.

On the production front, Kiran is backing the film Thimmarajupalli TV, which is scheduled for release on April 17. Directed by V. Muniraj, the project is a period village drama that introduces several newcomers to the industry. The film reflects Kiran's interest in supporting fresh talent and diverse storytelling.

Overall, Kiran Abbavaram is rapidly transforming into a multi-faceted filmmaker. By simultaneously handling responsibilities as an actor, producer, and soon a director, he is positioning himself among the busiest and most ambitious young talents in Tollywood. If his directorial venture succeeds, it could mark a turning point in his career and establish him as a creative force beyond acting.

'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' Advance Booking Storm Signals Record-Breaking Opening



Dhurandhar: The Revenge has quickly become one of the most anticipated releases of the year, and its advance booking performance is reflecting extraordinary audience excitement. Even before hitting theatres, the film has created a box-office frenzy, selling more than one million tickets for its opening day alone.

Reports indicate that advance bookings have already crossed ₹50 crore gross, combining revenue from paid preview screenings and the official opening day scheduled for March 19. Preview shows have played a particularly crucial role in this surge, contributing over ₹33 crore. Meanwhile, the first day's regular screenings have generated around ₹16 crore gross from roughly 3.6 lakh tickets sold.

A striking highlight is the overwhelming response to preview screenings. More than 7.1 lakh tickets were booked exclusively for these early shows, allowing the film to surpass the previous preview record held by OG starring Pawan Kalyan, which had earned about ₹25 crore from previews. This achievement underscores the intense anticipation surrounding the sequel.

Despite its unusually long runtime of nearly four hours — a factor that often limits daily show counts — the film is

still expected to open on a massive scale. Trade analysts believe the extended duration has not dampened audience enthusiasm, as fans appear willing to commit to the immersive cinematic experience.

The excitement extends well beyond India. International markets are also witnessing strong pre-sales, suggesting a powerful global opening. In North America alone, advance bookings for the opening weekend have reportedly crossed \$5 million, an impressive figure for an Indian release. Other key overseas territories, including the United Kingdom and Australia, are also showing robust ticket sales.

Such widespread demand indicates that Dhurandhar: The Revenge could emerge as one of the biggest worldwide openers in recent times. If positive word of mouth follows the release, the film may sustain its momentum well beyond the opening weekend.

Overall, the advance booking storm highlights the enormous fan base and expectations riding on the film. With record-breaking preview collections, strong domestic demand, and impressive international response, Dhurandhar: The Revenge appears poised for a historic box-office debut when it finally arrives in theatres.

"Time Will Answer" — Rajinikanth Reacts As Political Row Erupts In Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu politics has become a major topic of national discussion, largely due to the overwhelming public response to actor Vijay's newly launched party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. With the party gaining rapid traction, speculation about possible alliances has intensified. Reports suggest that the Bharatiya Janata Party is keen to bring Vijay into the National Democratic Alliance, allegedly offering significant seat sharing and even a deputy chief minister post. Some unverified claims on social media also suggested that Vijay might be aiming for the chief minister's position.

Amid these developments, a controversial statement by TVK leader Aadhav Arjuna sparked a political storm. He alleged that superstar Rajinikanth had been prevented from entering politics in the past because he was intimidated by the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. The remark triggered immediate backlash across the political spectrum and among Rajinikanth's massive fan base.

Leaders from multiple parties condemned the statement. Edappadi K. Palaniswami of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam criticized the comments, saying Rajinikanth is a respected public figure admired across party lines and that dragging his reputation into political controversy was unacceptable. He also appeared to be appealing



to the superstar's enormous fan following ahead of elections.

Senior BJP leader K. Annamalai also condemned the remarks, stating that such statements were unnecessary and disrespectful. Political observers believe that the strong reactions from rival parties reflect Rajinikanth's enduring influence in Tamil Nadu, even though he ultimately chose not to launch a political party.

Breaking his silence, Rajinikanth responded in a calm and

philosophical manner rather than engaging in direct confrontation. He dismissed the allegations as untrue and thanked political leaders and fans who spoke in his support. His key remark — "Time does not speak, but it waits and answers" — quickly went viral, with many interpreting it as a dignified way of letting truth prevail without escalating tensions.

Rajinikanth had earlier announced plans to enter politics but later withdrew, citing

health concerns. Nevertheless, his name continues to surface during election seasons, underscoring his lasting political relevance.

Overall, the episode highlights the volatile political atmosphere in Tamil Nadu ahead of upcoming polls. It also demonstrates how influential film personalities remain in the state's political landscape — and how even indirect references to them can trigger widespread debate.

Suriya's 'Karuppu' OTT Deal Creates Buzz Ahead Of Release

South Indian superstar Suriya is currently busy with a slate of ambitious projects, and one of the most talked-about among them is his upcoming film Karuppu. Directed by R. J. Balaji, the movie has already generated significant hype on social media, with fans eagerly awaiting updates on its release plans and digital rights.

According to industry buzz, streaming giant Netflix has reportedly acquired the film's OTT rights for a hefty price. Expectations are particularly high because Suriya's earlier films such as Jai Bhim and Soorai Pottru received massive acclaim on digital platforms, expanding his global audience. Following a theatrical release, Karuppu is expected to premiere on OTT around June or July, although an official confirmation is still awaited.

The film is described as a divine fantasy action drama, adding another layer of intrigue to



the project. Reports suggest that Suriya will portray a powerful lawyer — a role that promises both intensity and emotional depth. This unique combination of mythology, action, and courtroom drama has heightened anticipation among fans and trade analysts alike.

Another major highlight is the casting of Trisha Krishnan as the female lead. The pairing marks a reunion after many years, which has further boosted excitement surrounding the film. Meanwhile, young music sensation Sai Abhyankar is composing the soundtrack. In-

dustry insiders claim that both the songs and background score have turned out exceptionally well, raising expectations for a memorable musical experience.

Adding to the excitement, March 23 has become a key date for fans. Speculation is rife that Suriya will unveil a "mega update" related to his career or the film on that day. Whether it will be a teaser, trailer, or official release announcement remains unclear, but anticipation is running high across South India.

Overall, Karuppu appears poised to deliver strong performances both in theatres and on streaming platforms. With a compelling storyline, star power, and top-tier production values, the film is shaping up to be one of Suriya's most significant releases in recent years. Fans across the country are eagerly counting down to the official announcement and the film's eventual arrival on the big screen and beyond.

Vicky Kaushal's Marriage Joke Sparks Online Debate

Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal and his wife Katrina Kaif are widely regarded as one of the industry's most loved couples. However, Vicky recently landed in controversy after a light-hearted remark at a wedding event went viral on social media.

In the circulating video, Vicky is seen interacting warmly with the groom's family and recreating his iconic "How's the josh?" dialogue from the film Uri: The Surgical Strike. While energising the crowd, he joked that bachelors usually have high enthusiasm, but married men tend to lose some of that excitement over time. He added playfully that the drop doesn't happen immediately after marriage, attempting to keep the tone humorous.

The clip quickly spread across platforms, particularly Reddit, where it triggered mixed reactions. Many users criticised the comment as an example of outdated "wife jokes," arguing that such humor can indirectly portray marriage in a negative light or reinforce stereotypes about women. Some felt that joking publicly about married life could reflect poorly on one's partner and is not in line with modern sensibilities.

A few commenters also expressed surprise, noting that Vicky is generally perceived as respectful and grounded. They said they did not expect him to make remarks that could be interpreted as insensitive. Others went further, describing the joke as "cringe" and saying younger audiences are moving away from humor built on marital stereotypes.



At the same time, a significant number of people defended the actor. Supporters argued that the comment was harmless, context-specific, and typical of the playful banter often heard at weddings. They pointed out that such jokes are commonly used to entertain guests and should not be taken too seriously.

Ultimately, what began as a spontaneous attempt to amuse a live audience evolved into a broader online discussion about changing attitudes toward humor, relationships, and public figures. The incident highlights how even casual remarks by celebrities can spark intense debate in the age of social media, where context can quickly be lost and interpretations vary widely.

'Vrushakarma' — Naga Chaitanya's Mythological Dream Takes Shape

The first glimpse of Vrushakarma has generated significant excitement across social media, marking what could be a defining phase in the career of Naga Chaitanya. Directed by Karthik Dandu — who earned acclaim for Virupaksha — the film is being described as Chaitanya's most ambitious project to date.

Vrushakarma is reportedly a large-scale adventure action thriller deeply rooted in Indian mythology. The storyline is said to blend treasure-hunting elements with mythological themes, promising a cinematic experience that combines suspense, action, and cultural depth. This fusion of genres has already sparked curiosity among fans and film enthusiasts, who see it as a fresh direction for the actor.

Speaking about the project, Naga Chaitanya revealed that working on a grand, visually rich spectacle has been a long-cherished dream. He shared that he always wanted to be part of a film that not only entertains but also explores mythological dimensions on a massive scale. According to him, Vrushakarma finally offers that opportunity.

Chaitanya also noted a growing audience interest in stories inspired by Indian mythology. He believes such narratives resonate strongly because they are deeply connected to the country's cul-

tural heritage and historical imagination. These themes, he said, naturally create emotional engagement while offering scope for epic storytelling.

Another factor fueling excitement is the use of advanced visual effects and modern filmmaking technology. With today's VFX capabilities, directors can present mythological worlds in a far more immersive and visually stunning manner than ever before. This technological edge is expected to elevate Vrushakarma into a true big-screen spectacle.

The actor further pointed out that Indian cinema is increasingly gaining global attention due to its unique storytelling traditions. Mythology-based narratives, in particular, have the potential to cross cultural boundaries while retaining their authenticity. Being part of such a project, he said, feels both meaningful and professionally fulfilling.

Overall, Vrushakarma is shaping up to be a milestone film for Naga Chaitanya — not just in terms of scale, but also in creative ambition. With a compelling blend of mythology, adventure, and cutting-edge visuals, the movie promises to deliver a cinematic journey that could redefine his image as an actor and attract audiences far beyond regional boundaries.