



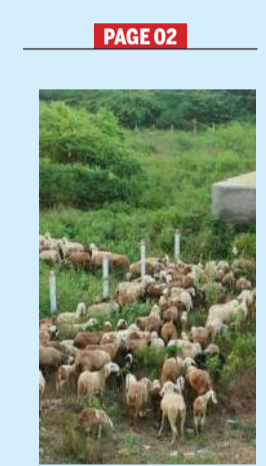
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TRUE POINT

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Two Commissioners Out Already... Will the New One Last?

Amaravati, March 21 |

TPN Bureau:

Frequent changes in leadership within the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) have raised concerns over the pace and stability of capital development works in Amaravati. In less than 20 months, two commissioners have been replaced, pointing to an apparent lack of coordination between officials and Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana.

Known for his low-profile yet decisive functioning, Narayana has been playing a key role in driving the Amaravati capital project under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Apart from handling his responsibilities as Municipal Administration Minister, he has been dedicating significant time to overseeing capital works, closely monitoring project progress, contractor selection, and execution timelines.

The development of Amaravati remains one of the most critical priorities for the state government. With an aim to fast-track construction, the government entrusted Narayana with additional responsibilities related to the capital. Since then, he has been actively



pushing for quicker execution and maintaining strict oversight on all aspects of the project.

However, beneath this push for speed, internal differences within the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority have come to light. Sources indicate that coordination between the minister and successive commissioners has been a persistent issue. The fact that two commissioners have been replaced within a short period adds weight to this perception.

Senior IAS officer Kataneni Bhaskar was appointed as CRDA Commissioner in October 2024, with high expectations from the government. However, he was removed from the post within just six months. Differences reportedly arose between him and the minister over handling farmers' concerns and objections related to proposals to re-

structure the CRDA.

His successor, Kannababu, faced a similar situation. Although he initially took charge with expectations of administrative autonomy, he reportedly grew dissatisfied over a perceived reduction in his powers. The redistribution of responsibilities among different departments allegedly limited his role, leading to friction and eventually his transfer.

These developments highlight an ongoing disconnect between political leadership and the administrative machinery. Experts point out that coordination between the two is crucial for the successful execution of large-scale infrastructure projects like Amaravati. In its absence, frequent changes in key positions could hamper progress.

Amid this backdrop, senior IAS officer Vijayara-



maraju has now been appointed as the new CRDA Commissioner. While there are hopes that his appointment will bring stability, analysts caution that repeated leadership changes could slow down project execution, as new officials often require time to fully understand ongoing work before making impactful decisions.

Despite these challenges, Minister Narayana appears determined to stick to his approach. He continues to push for faster completion of projects, emphasizing transparency in contractor selection, adherence to quality standards, and strict timelines. Government sources suggest that he is unwilling to compromise on these aspects, even if it leads to friction within the system.

Another key issue influencing the situation is the unresolved concerns of

farmers in the Amaravati region. Many landowners who contributed land for the capital project are still awaiting complete resolution of their grievances. Differences in approach between commissioners and the minister on addressing these concerns have also contributed to the tensions.

Overall, while Narayana's assertive leadership is evident in the accelerated push for Amaravati's development, the lack of administrative stability remains a concern. Balancing speed with coordination will be crucial to ensure that the ambitious capital project does not face delays.

As the situation evolves, how effectively the government manages internal differences and ensures smoother coordination will play a decisive role in shaping the future of Amaravati.



TMC Poised for Another Victory in Bengal - Chanakya Strategies

Kolkata | March 21

The ruling All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) appears firmly on track to retain power in West Bengal, with recent pre-poll assessments indicating a clear advantage over its rivals. Despite visible undercurrents of anti-incumbency in certain sections, particularly among youth and government employees, the overall electoral arithmetic continues to favor the party led by Mamata Banerjee.

According to the Chanakya Strategies survey trends, TMC is projected to secure around 45-47 percent of the vote share, translating into approximately 150 to 160 seats in the 294-member Assembly. This would comfortably place the party above the majority mark, reinforcing its dominant position in the state's political landscape. In contrast, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is expected to garner 40-42 percent votes, with an estimated 110 to 120 seats—an improvement in presence but insufficient to challenge TMC's lead.

One of the key factors working in TMC's favor is the state's unique social and demographic composition. Unlike northern states where caste plays a decisive role, West Bengal's politics is shaped more by religious and regional voting patterns. A cohesive minority vote, particularly among Muslims who constitute roughly 27 percent of the population, continues to consolidate behind TMC.

In the previous Assembly elections, the party swept the vast majority of constituencies with significant minority populations, a trend that appears likely to persist.

Additionally, welfare schemes implemented by the state government have had a tangible impact on voters, especially in rural areas. Programs focused on direct benefit transfers, food security, and social support have strengthened TMC's grassroots connect. These initiatives have translated into consistent electoral backing in regions heavily dependent on state assistance.

While the BJP has made notable inroads over the past decade—expanding its vote share significantly and consolidating support in urban and semi-urban belts—the fragmented nature of other voter groups, including Scheduled Castes and other communities, limits its ability to convert votes into decisive seat gains.

The Congress and Left parties, once dominant forces in the state, continue to struggle, with minimal vote share and limited electoral prospects. Their decline has effectively turned West Bengal into a bipolar contest, but one where TMC maintains a decisive upper hand.

As the political battle intensifies, the broader picture remains clear: despite challenges and opposition momentum, the Trinamool Congress is once again emerging as the frontrunner, with strong indications that it will secure another term in power.

WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS - PRE POLL

S.NO	ALLIANCES	VOTE SHARE	CHANCE TO WIN
1	AITC	45 TO 47%	150 TO 160
2	BJP	40 TO 42%	110 TO 120
3	INC	4 TO 6%	5 TO 8
4	OTHERS	8 TO 10%	4 TO 6

Andhra Pradesh PSU Retirement Age Likely Raised to 62

Visakhapatnam, March 21 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government is poised to increase the retirement age for employees in public sector undertakings (PSUs) and Gurukula society schools from 60 to 62 years, a move that could benefit thousands of state government employees. The decision comes after a Cabinet Sub-Committee reviewed the proposal in detail and gave its approval, paving the way for a policy change that has been long de-

manded by employees. The SubCommittee, headed by Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav and including Education Minister Nara Lokesh and Municipal Administration Minister Narayana, evaluated the potential impact on workforce management and state finances before recommending the change. Officials say nearly 8,500 employees across various state-run organizations are expected to gain from the extension of service.

The proposal, which had been under discussion for several years, had not been

acted upon by the previous administration. The current government prioritized it as part of efforts to address employee concerns and ensure retention of experienced professionals in PSUs. A detailed report prepared by the SubCommittee highlighted the benefits of extending service duration, including smoother organizational transitions, retention of expertise, and reduction in immediate recruitment pressures.

If implemented, the increased retirement age will cover employees



across a range of state-owned corporations, institutions, and Schedule 9 and Schedule 10 organizations. The policy also intends to maintain continuity in operations

while retaining institutional knowledge within the workforce.

Employee organizations and labor unions have welcomed the move, while also seeking clarity on implications for pension benefits and post-retirement entitlements. The government is expected to issue formal notifications soon, specifying the implementation framework and timeline.

While extending the retirement age may improve workforce stability and address staff shortages in the short term, the finan-

cial impact on the state's budget remains a point of consideration. The Finance Department will play a key role in finalizing the policy before its formal announcement.

The government's decision to increase the retirement age is seen as a positive step toward retaining skilled personnel, supporting employee welfare, and strengthening the functioning of PSUs in Andhra Pradesh. Employees and stakeholders are now eagerly awaiting the official notification that will confirm the new age of superannuation.

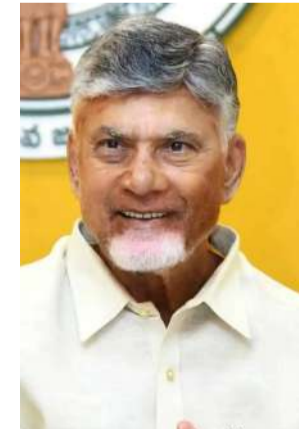
Chandrababu Naidu to Launch Mega Steel Plant, Creating 1 Lakh Jobs

Visakhapatnam, March 21, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh is set to witness a major industrial and employment milestone as Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu prepares to inaugurate a massive steel plant project, expected to generate around one lakh jobs and significantly boost the state's economy.

The foundation-laying ceremony for the new integrated steel plant will take place in Nakkapalli mandal of Anakapalli district, within the Visakhapatnam industrial region. This ambitious project marks one of the largest investments in Andhra Pradesh's industrial sector, aiming to transform the coastal industrial corridor and attract further investments.

The steel plant is planned over approximately 5,465 acres of land, with a phased production capacity expected to reach up to 17.8 million tonnes of steel annually. The project is envisioned to cater to both



domestic demand and key export markets, positioning Andhra Pradesh as a major player in India's steel industry.

Officials have highlighted that the project will create direct and indirect employment for roughly 100,000 people, spanning construction, operations, logistics, and ancillary services. To support plant operations, a captive port will also be developed, creating additional jobs and enhancing logistics efficiency for raw material supply and steel exports.

Chandrababu Naidu has emphasized that this initiative reflects the government's commitment to promoting industrial development and large-scale job creation. Under his leadership, the state has prioritized attracting global investments and expanding industrial output through investor-friendly policies and infrastructure development.

The steel plant is expected to have a transformative impact on the local economy. It will stimulate regional supply chains, encourage growth in sectors such as transport, power, and manufacturing, and provide high-quality employment opportunities for local communities. Analysts note that the project will serve as a catalyst for further industrialization, strengthening Andhra Pradesh's position as a competitive industrial hub.

The inauguration ceremony will bring together state officials, industry leaders, and representatives from the steel plant

consortium. Chandrababu Naidu is expected to highlight how the project aligns with the state's long-term economic vision, particularly in fostering sustainable growth, industrialization, and employment generation.

Once fully operational, the steel plant is projected to enhance infrastructure development across the region, attract additional private and public investment, and solidify Andhra Pradesh's reputation as a global manufacturing and export destination. The project underscores Chandrababu Naidu's continued focus on strategic industrial initiatives aimed at transforming the state into a major economic powerhouse.

This landmark steel plant represents a new chapter in Andhra Pradesh's industrial history, combining high-volume production with large-scale employment, and positioning the state for sustained economic growth in the coming decades.

Chandrababu Visits Tirumala, Donates 44 Lakh for Annadanam

Tirumala, March 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu along with his family paid a devotional visit to Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala on Saturday, coinciding with the birthday of his grandson, Devanth. The CM, accompanied by his wife Bhuvaneshwari, son and Minister Nara Lokesh, and grandson Devanth, observed the rituals with deep reverence and received Vedic blessings from TTD priests.

Marking his grandson's birthday, the CM family donated 44 lakh to the Annadanam Trust to cover a day's free meal service for devotees. This donation has been a yearly tradition since Devanth's birth, making this the 12th consecutive year the family contributed.

Choosing simplicity over protocol, Chandrababu Naidu entered the temple

through the Vaidyanatha Queue Complex, like an ordinary devotee, despite having the privilege of the Maha Dwaram access. This practice, followed since his first term as CM, highlights his personal devotion and humility.

Following the darshan, the CM family visited the Tirumala-based Vengamamba Annadanam Complex, where they personally served prasadam to devotees. Engaging with devotees, the CM inquired about their welfare and listened to their experiences. Security protocols were relaxed to allow closer interactions, and Chandrababu Naidu even received a sacred garland from a devotee with affection.

During the visit, devotees informed the CM about the improved quality of laddu prasadam. They also requested measures to speed up darshan, to which the CM responded



positively, assuring that the Integrated Command Control System has been set up and that AI-based technology will soon make darshan more streamlined and convenient.

After completing a two-day visit to Tirupati district, the CM departed from Renigunta Airport in the afternoon. He received a warm farewell from officials including CM Secretary Pradyumna, Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, District Collector Dr. Venkateshwar, TTD EO Muddada Ravindra, DIG Shimaji Boy, SP Subbarayudu, Joint Collector R. Go-

vindaraju, Municipal Commissioner Maurya, and other local MLAs, MLCs, and public representatives.

During the airport visit, the CM also interacted with people, listening to their petitions and ensuring their concerns were noted, reflecting his hands-on approach to governance and devotion. The Tirumala visit reinforced Chandrababu Naidu's commitment to tradition, service, and public engagement while celebrating a personal family milestone in a manner that connects deeply with devotees.

Waltair Division Takes Comprehensive Steps for Crowd Management During Summer

Amaravathi 21.03 .2026

TPN Bureau:

In response to rising temperatures and the anticipated surge in passenger traffic during the summer season, the Waltair Division of East Coast Railway has initiated a series of proactive and passenger-centric measures to ensure safety, comfort, and smooth operations across its major railway stations.

Recognizing the challenges posed by increased footfall and extreme weather conditions, Divisional Railway Manager Lalit Bohra conducted a comprehensive review meeting with senior officials, supervisors, and frontline staff. During the meeting, he issued clear directives to implement all necessary arrangements to enhance passenger convenience and maintain operational efficiency throughout the summer months.

mer months.

One of the primary measures includes ensuring the availability of adequate packaged drinking water and safe potable water at all major stations under the division. Special water booths have been set up, and regular inspections are being carried out by officials to ensure uninterrupted supply and proper maintenance. This initiative aims to address the increased demand for drinking water during peak summer conditions.

In addition, the division has made special arrangements to provide free drinking water, especially for passengers traveling in general coaches. These facilities are being set up at platform ends in key stations such as Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Duvvada, Rayagada, Koraput, and Jagdalpur. Civil Defence personnel, along with Scouts and



Guides, have been deployed to assist in the distribution of drinking water, ensuring passengers remain hydrated and

safe. The division is also collaborating with various non-governmental organizations

(NGOs) to facilitate voluntary distribution of water and extend support services to passengers. This partnership re-

flects a community-driven approach to handling the seasonal rush and ensuring public welfare.

Further, authorities have taken steps to ensure continuous water supply in station toilets and waiting halls. Regular maintenance checks are being conducted to uphold hygiene standards. Clear and timely announcements regarding train arrivals and departures are being prioritized to minimize confusion and crowding on platforms.

To manage the increased rush efficiently, proper queue management systems and designated holding areas have been established at major stations. Special attention is being given to regulate passenger movement on Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) and concourse areas, which are typically prone to congestion during peak hours. These efforts aim to prevent overcrowding and ensure smooth boarding

and deboarding of passengers.

As part of preparedness and coordination efforts, a mock drill was conducted at Visakhapatnam railway station involving multiple departments, including Railway Protection Force (RPF), Government Railway Police (GRP), Civil Defence, Commercial, Operating, Electrical, Civil Engineering, Mechanical, and Medical teams. The drill focused on testing emergency response mechanisms and strengthening inter-departmental coordination.

The Waltair Division reaffirmed its commitment to providing a safe, comfortable, and hassle-free travel experience during the summer season. Passengers have been urged to cooperate with railway staff, follow safety guidelines, and make use of the facilities provided for a smooth journey.

58 Crore Development Plan for Arasavalli Temple Under PRASAD Scheme

Amaravathi 21.03 .2026

TPN Bureau:

In a major boost to spiritual tourism in Andhra Pradesh, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu announced that the famous Arasavalli Sun Temple will be developed with an investment of 58 crore under the Central Government's PRASAD scheme. The initiative aims to transform the temple into a world-class spiritual destination attracting devotees from across India and abroad.

The announcement was made during the foundation stone laying ceremony for the modernization works of the Indra Pushkarini at the temple premises. The event was attended by Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, local MLA Gonda Shankar, and District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar, along with other officials and public representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister emphasized that the Central Government is committed to developing prominent pilgrimage sites across the country under

the PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) scheme. He stated that the Arasavalli temple, dedicated to Lord Surya, holds immense religious significance and attracts thousands of devotees, especially during the annual Ratha Saptami festival.

Highlighting the development plans, Ram Mohan Naidu said that the project will include the construction of a modern kitchen and dining hall, comfortable accommodation facilities for pilgrims, and the expansion of roads around the temple for better connectivity. These works will be executed in two phases, ensuring systematic and timely completion.

He further mentioned that, with the efforts of Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, 4 crore has already been sanctioned for the modernization of the Indra Pushkarini. The additional 58 crore proposal under the PRASAD scheme will further enhance infrastructure and improve facilities for devotees visiting the temple.

The ministers noted that since the declaration of Ratha Saptami as a state festival, the number of visitors to Arasavalli has significantly increased. Devo-

tees and tourists from different parts of the country, as well as from abroad, are visiting the temple in large numbers. To manage this growing influx, several infrastructure improvements have already been undertaken in Srikakulam district, including the development of wider roads and installation of central lighting systems.

Minister Atchannaidu reiterated that the state government is committed to the overall development of Arasavalli and other spiritual centers. He added that the coalition government is focusing on transforming religious destinations into major tourism hubs, thereby contributing to local economic growth and employment generation.

The leaders also stressed that these initiatives mark a departure from the neglect of previous administrations and reflect the current government's dedication to accelerating development in the region.

The event witnessed the participation of several district officials, temple authorities, and public representatives, marking a significant step towards enhancing the infrastructure and global appeal of the Arasavalli temple.



Blood Bank Launched by Indian Red Cross Society at Tirupati Maternity Hospital

amaravathi 21.03 .2026

TPN Bureau:

In a significant step towards strengthening healthcare services, State Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav and MLA Arani Srinivasulu inaugurated a blood bank set up by the Indian Red Cross Society at the Maternity Hospital in Tirupati on Saturday afternoon.

The newly established blood bank is expected to play a crucial role in providing timely access to safe blood for patients, particularly for pregnant women and emergency cases. The initiative aims to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure in the region and ensure that life-saving blood is readily available when needed.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Satyakumar Yadav emphasized the importance of accessible healthcare facilities and highlighted the role of the Red Cross Society in

supporting medical services. He stated that the establishment of the blood bank at the maternity hospital would significantly benefit patients and reduce delays in critical situations.

MLA Arani Srinivasulu expressed his appreciation for the initiative and stated that such facilities are essential to meet the growing healthcare needs of the people in Tirupati. He added that the collaboration between the government and organizations like the Indian Red Cross Society will help improve medical services at the grassroots level.

The event was attended by several prominent personalities, including Andhra Pradesh Medical Council Chairman Dr. Srihari Rao, Green and Beautification Corporation Chairperson Sugunamma, BJP District President Samanthi Srinivas, and Kola Anand, along with other officials and representatives.

Major Relief for Livestock Farmers: Exemption from Development Charges Announced

Amaravathi 21.03 .2026

TPN Bureau:

In a significant move aimed at strengthening the livestock sector and supporting small farmers, State Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu announced a series of relief measures for livestock farmers across urban areas in Andhra Pradesh.

According to the Minister, the government has taken a proactive decision to reduce the financial burden on livestock rearers, dairy farmers, and small-scale agricultural workers who depend on animal husbandry for their livelihood. As per the Government Order (GO) issued by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, livestock-related units operating within Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Urban Development Authorities (UDAs) will now receive major concessions.

The decision grants a complete exemption from betterment charges and development charges for a wide range of livestock activities. These include dairy farms, sheep and goat rearing centers, piggy units, and other animal husbandry-related establishments. This exemption is expected to significantly lower the cost of setting up and maintaining such units in urban areas, where regulatory and development charges often pose a financial challenge to farmers.



emptions from development-related charges, the government has also introduced a relaxation in building permission and licensing fees. The revised fee structure aligns these charges with those applicable in (village panchayats), making it more affordable for livestock farmers to obtain necessary approvals. This move is particularly beneficial for small and marginal farmers who are increasingly turning towards animal husbandry as a sustainable source of income.

Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu emphasized that this policy decision will provide substantial economic relief to farmers engaged in livestock activities in urban regions. He stated that by reducing operational costs, the government aims to encourage more people to take up animal husbandry, thereby promoting self-employment and boosting rural-urban economic integration.

highlighted that this decision fulfills a key assurance made by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during the Chief Ministers' conclave held in June last year. He noted that the government remains committed to implementing farmer-friendly policies and ensuring the overall development of the agriculture and allied sectors.

Officials believe that the initiative will not only enhance the livelihood opportunities for livestock farmers but also contribute to increasing milk production, meat supply, and overall agricultural productivity in the state. By easing regulatory and financial constraints, the government aims to create a more supportive ecosystem for the growth of the livestock sector.

The Minister reiterated that the state government is focused on inclusive growth and is taking continuous steps to uplift farmers and allied sectors through practical and impactful policy decisions.

Potti Sriramulu's Sacrifice is Eternal, Says Kandula Durgesh

Amaravathi 21.03 .2026

TPN Bureau:

Reaffirming the enduring legacy of one of India's greatest freedom fighters, State Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh paid homage to Potti Sriramulu during his visit to the latter's memorial building in Chennai on Saturday. The Minister described Sriramulu's sacrifice for the formation of Andhra State as "eternal" and a cornerstone in the history of Telugu people.

The Minister visited the historic memorial located in Mylapore, Chennai, where he offered floral tributes to the statue of Potti Sriramulu. Reflecting on the significance of the site, he said that it stands as a symbol of sacrifice, determination, and the unwavering

spirit of a leader who fought for the self-respect and identity of Telugu people. Sriramulu's 58-day fast unto death, he noted, remains one of the most powerful examples of non-violent protest in Indian history.

Speaking to the media, Minister Kandula Durgesh praised Sriramulu as a visionary leader who dedicated his entire life to a noble cause. He emphasized that the creation of Andhra State was not merely a political development but a result of immense sacrifice and collective aspiration. The Minister highlighted that the memorial building, situated on Royapettah High Road, is regarded as a sacred landmark in Telugu history. Originally purchased by the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh government in 1956, the building was reconstructed in 2001 and continues to preserve the legacy of



Sriramulu.

The Minister also recalled recent initiatives undertaken by the state government under

the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to honor the legendary

leader. He specifically mentioned the installation of a 58-foot-tall bronze statue of Potti Sriramulu in Amaravati,

symbolizing the duration of his historic fast. He stated that such initiatives reflect the government's commitment to preserving history and paying due respect to great leaders.

During his visit, the Minister carefully observed rare historical photographs and archival newspaper clippings displayed in the memorial hall. These exhibits document the events leading up to the formation of Andhra State and provide valuable insights into the socio-political climate of that era. He appreciated the efforts of the memorial society members who have been working tirelessly to safeguard Telugu culture and keep alive the memory of Sriramulu.

Members of the memorial committee submitted a representation to the Minister, seeking support for the maintenance of the building and the

organization of cultural activities promoting Telugu heritage. Responding positively, Minister Kandula Durgesh assured that the government would extend full support for necessary repairs and initiatives aimed at promoting Telugu language and culture. He further stated that he would discuss the matter with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and take appropriate steps to address the concerns.

Emphasizing the importance of remembering such historic contributions, the Minister said that preserving monuments like the Potti Sriramulu memorial is crucial for inspiring future generations. He added that the ideals and sacrifices of leaders like Sriramulu should continue to guide the state in its journey towards progress and unity.

AP Legislative Council Chairman Praises CPM Padayatra in Bhimavaram

Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju lauded the ongoing padayatra organized by the CPM, appreciating its focus on highlighting public issues across the district. His remarks came during an interaction with the padayatra team in Bhimavaram town on Saturday.

The CPM-led "Praja Chaitanya Padayatra," aimed at understanding and raising awareness on people's problems, was passing through Bhimavaram when Moshen Raju, who was traveling through the area, stopped his vehicle and personally met the participants. He enquired about the progress and objectives of the yatra and interacted with the leaders and members of the team.

During the interaction, CPM district secretary J. N. V. Gopalan and other leaders submitted a memorandum detailing various public issues faced by people in the district. After reviewing the representation, Moshen Raju responded positively and assured that he would bring these concerns to the attention of the government for necessary action.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman said that the padayatra undertaken by CPM on public issues is commendable. He emphasized that any political party working in the interest of the people deserves appreciation, irrespective of ideological



differences. He noted that the identification of key issues such as drinking water shortages, irrigation problems, lack of housing and house sites, and the absence of burial grounds for Dalit communities reflects a deep understanding of ground realities.

Moshen Raju further stated that it is the responsibility of elected representatives and government officials to address the problems faced by the public. He urged authorities to take proactive measures to resolve these issues and ensure that people receive the necessary support and services.

Importantly, he directed police and administrative officials to ensure that the padayatra proceeds without any obstacles. Stressing the importance of democratic practices, he said that peaceful movements and public outreach programs should be facilitated rather than hindered.

The Chairman also extended special appreciation to the women participants in the padayatra, acknowledging their active involvement and commitment despite challenges. Their participation, he said, reflects the growing role of women in social and political

movements.

Several CPM leaders and members took part in the interaction, including town secretary B. Vasudeva Rao, district committee members K. Kranti Babu, Jakkamsetti Satyanarayana, Gorla Ramakrishna, P. Poorna, A. Ajaya Kumari, and other local leaders and activists.

The padayatra continues to gain attention for its efforts to bring grassroots issues to the forefront, with organizers stating that the collected grievances will be pursued further with the government in the coming days.

Kapus JAC Demands Probe into Anudeep Murder, Warns of Indefinite Protest



Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

State Kapu Joint Action Committee (JAC) President Chandu Janardhan has demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged murder of Ambati Anudeep and called for the immediate arrest of the accused. He also urged authorities to take criminal action against those involved in the conspiracy, warning of an indefinite protest if justice is delayed.

Addressing a press conference at the Kapu JAC office in Vijayawada on Saturday, Janardhan alleged that the death of Anudeep, a member of the Kapu community from Chatrai in Nuzvid constituency, is widely believed by locals to be a case of murder. However, he accused local police officials of remaining passive and failing to take appropriate action despite growing public concern.

He stated that Anudeep's father, Ambati Gopala Rao, had already filed a complaint at the Chatrai police station, clearly alleging that his son was murdered. Despite this, Janardhan claimed that the police have not taken any concrete steps to investigate the case or apprehend the suspects. He further alleged that the police machinery appears to be siding with the accused, causing distress to the victim's family.

Janardhan informed that he, along with local leaders and representatives, visited Anudeep's residence earlier this week. During the visit, nearly 300 members of the community gathered to express their grief and anger over the incident. A meeting was held where family members and local

residents shared their concerns and demanded justice for the deceased.

Speaking on the occasion, Anudeep's father reportedly expressed deep anguish, stating that his son was killed and that the authorities were not responding adequately. Several others present at the meeting echoed similar sentiments, reinforcing the demand for a fair and transparent investigation.

The Kapu JAC President emphasized that a comprehensive probe must be conducted into the incident and that all those responsible should be identified and punished strictly according to law. He also demanded action against police officials who allegedly failed to perform their duties and supported the accused.

Janardhan warned that if district authorities do not respond promptly and initiate action, the Kapu JAC will launch an indefinite protest in Chatrai. He stated that the organization is prepared to intensify its agitation until justice is delivered to the victim's family.

The issue has sparked concern among local residents, with increasing calls for accountability and transparency in the investigation. The Kapu JAC reiterated its commitment to standing by the victim's family and ensuring that the case is pursued until a fair outcome is achieved.

The statement reflects growing pressure on the administration to address the allegations and take immediate steps to restore public confidence in the law enforcement system.

Beeda Mastan Rao Denies Link to Fishermen Dispute, Warns Against False news

Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Senior political leader Beeda Mastan Rao has strongly refuted allegations linking him to an ongoing fishermen-related dispute, stating that he has no connection whatsoever with the issue. He also warned that strict action would be taken against those spreading false information and misleading propaganda.

Addressing the media, Mastan Rao expressed concern over what he described as "baseless and politically motivated allegations" being circulated in certain sections. He clarified that attempts are being made to tarnish his image by associating his name with a matter in which he has no involvement. "I have no relation to the fishermen's dispute, and such claims are completely untrue," he asserted.

He further stated that misinformation campaigns are not only damaging to individuals but also create unnecessary confusion among the public. Mastan Rao emphasized that spreading false narratives for political gain is unacceptable and should be discouraged. He



warned that if such propaganda continues, he would not hesitate to take legal action against those responsible.

The leader called upon the media and the public to verify facts before believing or sharing any information. He stressed the importance of responsible communication, especially in sensitive matters involving communities such as fishermen, whose livelihoods depend

on stability and support.

Mastan Rao also appealed to political opponents and vested interests to refrain from dragging his name into unrelated controversies. He said that such tactics reflect a lack of genuine political discourse and divert attention from real issues affecting people. Instead, he urged all stakeholders to focus on resolving the actual concerns of fishermen through constructive di-

alogue and cooperation.

While reiterating his commitment to public service, Mastan Rao said that he has always worked for the welfare of various communities and will continue to do so. He added that attempts to defame him would not deter him from his responsibilities.

The controversy surrounding the fishermen's issue has gained attention in recent days, with differing claims emerging from various quarters. However, Mastan Rao maintained that he remains uninvolved and urged authorities to address the matter based on facts and fairness.

Concluding his statement, he issued a clear warning that any further attempts to spread false allegations would be dealt with seriously, including through legal means if necessary. He reaffirmed his stand that truth will prevail and that misleading campaigns cannot sustain in the face of facts.

His remarks come amid growing discussions around the fishermen's dispute, highlighting the need for clarity, accountability, and responsible public communication.

B.C. Janardhan Reddy Extends Ramzan Greetings to Muslim Community



Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

State Minister B. C. Janardhan Reddy conveyed warm Ramzan greetings to Muslim minorities, highlighting the spiritual significance of the holy month and the values of devotion, discipline, and compassion it represents.

In his message, the Minister noted that the sacred month of Ramzan is observed with great devotion by Muslims across the world through strict fasting, recitation of the Holy Quran, and heartfelt prayers. He extended his best wishes to all Muslim brothers and sisters celebrating the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the culmination of the month-long fasting period with the sighting of the crescent moon.

On the occasion, the Minister interacted with members of the Muslim community who visited his camp office in Banaganapalle. He greeted them warmly, exchanged pleasantries, and conveyed festive wishes in a spirit of unity and brotherhood. The Minister also shared sweets with the visitors, symbolizing joy and communal harmony during the festive occasion.

Speaking during the interaction, B.C. Janardhan Reddy emphasized the importance of festivals like Ramzan in promoting peace, harmony, and mutual respect among people of different communities. He said such occasions serve as a reminder of the

need to uphold values like compassion, charity, and togetherness in society.

Members of the Muslim community expressed their gratitude to the Minister for his warm wishes and inclusive approach. They appreciated his consistent support towards minority communities and acknowledged his efforts in addressing their concerns. Several attendees conveyed their hope that his leadership would continue to bring development and welfare initiatives benefiting all sections of society.

The Minister reiterated his commitment to the welfare and progress of minority communities, assuring that the government remains dedicated to ensuring equal opportunities and support for all. He also wished that the blessings of Allah bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to every household.

The interaction reflected a spirit of communal harmony and mutual respect, with people from different backgrounds coming together to celebrate the festival. The event at the camp office concluded on a positive note, with participants exchanging greetings and festive cheer.

Ramzan and Eid-ul-Fitr continue to symbolize unity, faith, and generosity, and leaders across the state have been extending greetings to mark the occasion, reinforcing the message of inclusiveness and social harmony.

Foundation Stone Laid for Hyatt Five-Star Hotel in Visakhapatnam

Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

In a significant boost to Andhra Pradesh's tourism and hospitality sector, State Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh, along with MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao, laid the foundation stone for a prestigious five-star Hyatt hotel project in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

The upcoming hotel will be constructed near Sagar Nagar-Endada, behind Sun International School, and is being developed by the PVR Group. Spread across three acres, the project involves an investment of approximately 250 crore and is expected to be completed within two years.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kandula Durgesh expressed optimism about the state's growing prominence in the global tourism landscape. He stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, investment agreements signed during the CII Summit are now materializing into concrete projects. He emphasized that the Hyatt hotel is one such initiative that re-



flects the government's commitment to transforming Andhra Pradesh into a premier tourism destination.

The Minister highlighted that Visakhapatnam is rapidly emerging as a "Global City," and the addition of world-class hospitality infrastructure like the Hyatt hotel will further enhance its appeal. He noted that the project will offer luxurious accommodation with international standards, catering to both domestic and international tour-

ists. The hotel will feature state-of-the-art conference halls equipped with advanced technology, making it an ideal venue for corporate meetings, conferences, and events.

He also mentioned that the hotel will provide a fine dining experience with a wide range of local and global cuisines, meeting the expectations of diverse visitors. With the increasing influx of tourists to Visakhapatnam, such high-end facilities are essential to meet growing

demand and elevate the city's tourism profile.

The project is expected to generate substantial employment opportunities for local youth, both directly and indirectly, particularly in the hospitality sector. The Minister underscored that the development of star hotels will not only boost tourism but also contribute to the overall economic growth of the region and improve the city's infrastructure and image.

Officials present at the event included District Collector Harindra Prasad, Hyatt Hotel Chairman R. V. Swami, Varun Group Chairman Prabhu Kishore, Tourism Regional Director Kalyani, DVM Jagadeesh, DTO Madhavi, and other government representatives and stakeholders.

The initiative marks a major step towards positioning Visakhapatnam as a leading destination for luxury tourism and international business events. With the entry of globally recognized hospitality brands, the city is set to witness a transformation in its tourism and infrastructure landscape.

Genetic Testing Revolutionizing Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment: Dr. Bobba Ravi Kiran

Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Renowned cancer specialist Dr. Bobba Ravi Kiran has highlighted the transformative impact of genetic testing in modern cancer care, stating that it is bringing a revolutionary shift in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of the disease. He shared these insights while addressing a health seminar on "Role of Genetic Testing in Cancer Treatment and Prevention," held at Vasavya Nursing Home near Benz Circle. The session was chaired by Dr. Samaram.



During his address, Dr. Ravi Kiran explained that cancer often develops due to mutations or changes in the DNA present in human cells. These mutations may be inherited or acquired over time due to environmental and lifestyle factors. Genetic testing is the process of identifying such changes in DNA, enabling doctors to assess an individual's risk of developing cancer even before symptoms appear. This early detection plays a crucial role in prevention and timely intervention.

He emphasized that genetic testing is particularly beneficial for individuals with a family history of cancer, those diagnosed at a young age, or

patients who have experienced multiple types of cancers. In hereditary cancers such as breast, ovarian, prostate, and colon cancer, early identification of genetic risk factors allows individuals to take preventive measures and undergo regular screening, significantly improving outcomes.

Highlighting advancements in medical science, Dr. Ravi Kiran noted that cancer treatment is no longer based on a one-size-fits-all approach. Instead, personalized or precision medicine—guided by a patient's genetic profile—is becoming increasingly important. By understanding the genetic makeup of a tumor, doc-

tors can design targeted therapies that are more effective and have fewer side effects. Genetic testing also helps determine which medications are most suitable for a patient, reducing uncertainty in treatment decisions.

Addressing common fears associated with cancer, he clarified that it should not be viewed as an incurable or untreatable disease. With early diagnosis and appropriate medical care, many forms of cancer can be effectively controlled. Screening methods such as mammography for breast cancer and colonoscopy for colorectal cancer play a vital role in detecting the disease at an early stage. When

combined with genetic testing, these tools provide a powerful strategy for managing cancer risk.

Dr. Ravi Kiran also stressed the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle, including balanced nutrition, regular exercise, and avoiding harmful habits such as smoking and excessive alcohol consumption. In certain high-risk cases, preventive surgeries may also be recommended to reduce the likelihood of developing cancer.

Concluding his address, he called for increased public awareness about cancer and the importance of early screening and genetic testing. He emphasized that informed individuals are better equipped to take proactive steps toward their health. Following the seminar, Dr. Ravi Kiran interacted with participants, answered their questions, and provided further clarity on the benefits and applications of genetic testing in modern healthcare.

The seminar underscored the growing role of advanced technologies in transforming cancer care and highlighted the need for greater awareness and accessibility of such innovations among the public.

India's Rapid 5G Expansion and Vision for 6G Highlighted at Telecom Summit

Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

India's remarkable progress in the telecommunications sector, particularly in the rapid rollout of 5G services and its forward-looking vision for 6G technology, was highlighted at a major telecom summit, according to a recent release by the Press Information Bureau (PIB).



Addressing the gathering, government leadership emphasized that India has achieved one of the fastest 5G network expansions in the world. In a short span of time, 5G services have been deployed across a vast number of districts, significantly improving digital connectivity and enabling advanced technological applications. This rapid expansion reflects the country's strong commitment to digital transformation and inclusive growth.

The summit also focused on India's ambitions in 6G technology, which is expected to define the future of communication systems. Officials called upon industry leaders, innovators, and startups to work with determination and speed to develop next-generation solutions. The aim is to position India as a

global leader in telecom innovation, rather than just a consumer of emerging technologies.

A key point highlighted during the discussions was the importance of building globally competitive telecom and technology companies within the country. The government encouraged stakeholders to invest in research and development, strengthen infrastructure, and foster innovation ecosystems. By doing so, India can not only meet domestic demands but also contribute significantly to the global digital economy.

The role of 5G in transform-

ing various sectors was also underlined. From healthcare and education to agriculture and manufacturing, high-speed connectivity is enabling real-time data exchange, automation, and improved service delivery. The expansion of 5G networks is expected to bridge the urban-rural digital divide, bringing advanced services to remote areas and empowering communities.

In addition, the government reiterated its commitment to creating a supportive policy environment for the telecom sector. This includes simplifying regulations, encouraging in-

vestments, and ensuring spectrum availability. Such measures are aimed at accelerating the growth of digital infrastructure and promoting innovation.

The summit also served as a platform for collaboration between the government, private sector, and academia. Experts stressed that partnerships will be crucial in achieving the ambitious goals set for the telecom sector, especially in the development of 6G technologies. The integration of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and advanced communication systems is expected to play a key role in shaping future networks.

Concluding the session, speakers urged stakeholders to maintain momentum and continue working towards making India a global hub for telecom innovation. With rapid advancements in 5G and a clear roadmap for 6G, India is poised to lead the next wave of digital transformation.

The PIB release underscores that the country's telecom journey is not just about connectivity but about building a robust digital ecosystem that supports economic growth, innovation, and global competitiveness.

Endowments Department Reviews Development Works at Indrakeeladri Temple

Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Senior officials from the Endowments Department conducted an extensive review of the ongoing development works at the renowned Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Temple, situated atop the sacred Indrakeeladri hill in Vijayawada. The inspection was led by Endowments Commissioner Ramachandra Mohan, accompanied by Chief Engineer G. V. R. Sekhar.



The officials carried out a detailed field-level inspection of various development and construction works currently underway in the temple surroundings. During the visit, the Commissioner personally reviewed the progress of ongoing projects and interacted with engineering and administrative staff to assess the quality and pace of work. He emphasized that no compromise should be made when it comes to construction quality and directed officials to strictly follow technical standards and timelines.

A key highlight of the inspection was the review of works being executed at the Maha Mandapam on the fourth floor of the temple complex. This area is being developed with the aim of enhancing facilities for devotees, especially during peak seasons and festivals when the temple witnesses a heavy influx of pilgrims. The

Commissioner closely examined the arrangements being made and instructed officials to expedite the completion of works to ensure that devotees can benefit from improved amenities at the earliest.

Following the inspection, a review meeting was held with senior officials, where detailed discussions took place regarding the status of ongoing projects, challenges faced, and measures required to ensure timely completion. The Com-

missioner stressed the importance of coordination among various departments, including engineering, administration, and temple management, to avoid delays and ensure smooth execution of development activities.

The visit was attended by Temple Executive Officer Seena Naik, along with a Special Grade Deputy Collector, Executive Engineers (EEs), Assistant Commissioner, Assistant Executive Officers (AEOs), superin-

tendants, and other key staff members. All officials were instructed to work collectively and remain committed to improving infrastructure and facilities at the temple.

The Endowments Department reiterated that the primary objective behind these development works is to provide better services and convenience to devotees visiting the temple. With the growing number of visitors each year, upgrading infrastructure has become essential to ensure a smooth darshan experience, better crowd management, and enhanced safety measures.

The Commissioner also highlighted the need for proper planning and monitoring of works, ensuring that every project is completed within the stipulated timeframe. He noted that the temple is not only a place of worship but also a significant cultural and spiritual landmark, and its development must reflect the highest standards.

Concluding the visit, the Commissioner expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far but urged officials to maintain momentum and complete all pending works without delay. He affirmed that the government is committed to transforming the temple infrastructure to meet the expectations of devotees while preserving its sanctity and heritage.

Special Committees Formed to Control Stray Dog Menace in Vijayawada

Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has initiated a structured approach to address the growing issue of stray dogs in the city by constituting special committees across all 64 wards. Commissioner Dhyana Chandra announced this development in an official statement released on Saturday.



According to the Commissioner, the formation of ward-level committees is aimed at ensuring better coordination and quicker resolution of issues related to stray dogs. Each committee will consist of four members and will function under the leadership of the Sanitary Inspector of the respective ward. The members will include animal lovers, representatives from Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), and responsible citizens, ensuring a balanced and community-driven approach to the problem.

Dhyana Chandra stated that these committees will play a crucial role in identifying, monitoring, and addressing stray dog-related concerns within their respective wards. The initiative is designed to create a localized system where issues can be resolved promptly without delays. By involving citizens and stakeholders at the grassroots level, the municipal corporation aims to make the process more transparent and effective.

He further explained that the committees will act as a bridge between the public and the municipal authorities. Residents facing any problems related to stray dogs—such as safety concerns, aggressive behavior, or sanitation issues—are encouraged to report them directly to the committee members. In turn, the committees will coordinate with the concerned departments to ensure timely action and implementation of control measures.

The Commissioner emphasized

that public participation is key to the success of this initiative. By actively involving citizens, the corporation seeks to strike a balance between public safety and animal welfare. The inclusion of animal lovers in the committees highlights the administration's intent to adopt humane and ethical methods in controlling the stray dog population.

This move comes as part of the broader efforts by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation to improve urban management and address civic issues effectively. With increasing concerns over stray dog incidents in several parts of the city, the formation of these committees is expected to bring a more organized and responsive system into place.

The civic body has urged residents to cooperate with the committees and report issues responsibly. Officials believe that with collective efforts and community participation, the stray dog problem in Vijayawada can be managed efficiently, ensuring both public safety and animal welfare.

The statement was issued by the Public Relations Officer of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation.

District Collector Inspects GGH, Reviews Youth Time Bank Services in Vijayawada



Amaravathi 21.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

District Collector Dr. Lakshisha conducted a detailed inspection of the New Government General Hospital (GGH) in Vijayawada on Saturday, assessing both the quality of medical services and the implementation of the innovative Youth Time Bank initiative.

During his visit, the Collector reviewed several key departments within the hospital, including the Outpatient Department (OPD), casualty ward, pharmacy, X-ray unit, general surgical OP, orthopaedic OP, neuro ward, and the main block. He also examined the services provided under the Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva scheme, interacting with patients and hospital staff to understand the effectiveness of treatment and the availability of facilities.

A major focus of the inspection was the Youth Time Bank program, which has been introduced as a volunteer-based support system to assist patients in government hospitals. On the day of the visit, 31 volunteers from the Youth Red Cross unit of Nalanda Degree College actively participated in the program. In addition, volunteers from Vasavya Mahila Mandali also extended their services, helping patients navigate different hospital departments and ensuring they received timely assistance.

The volunteers were seen working across multiple areas of the hospital, guiding patients at OP counters, assisting in wards, and providing support in various service points. The Collector appreciated their dedication and enthusiasm, noting that their contribution significantly enhances patient experience and reduces the workload on hospital staff.

Dr. Lakshisha expressed satisfaction with the functioning of the Youth Time Bank and described it as a commendable initiative that promotes social responsibility

among youth. He emphasized that such programs play a crucial role in strengthening public healthcare systems by involving community participation.

The Collector also reviewed the Youth Time Bank mobile application, which is designed to record details of volunteers and beneficiaries. Officials explained that the app helps in tracking volunteer contributions and maintaining transparency in the system. Dr. Lakshisha instructed authorities to ensure that all volunteer activities are properly documented and that the platform is used efficiently for better coordination.

In addition to reviewing the volunteer services, the Collector stressed the importance of maintaining hygiene and improving infrastructure within the hospital. He directed officials to address any gaps in services immediately and ensure that patients receive quality healthcare without inconvenience. He reiterated that public health institutions must function with accountability and efficiency, given their importance in serving large sections of society.

The visit also highlighted the collaborative efforts between government departments, educational institutions, and voluntary organizations in improving healthcare delivery. District Youth Welfare Officer Dr. Kolleti Ramesh, Hospital Superintendent Dr. Edukondalu, Youth Red Cross Coordinator Subbarao, Red Cross District Coordinator Kanakaraju, along with hospital officials and members of Vasavya Mahila Mandali, were present during the inspection.

The Collector concluded by appreciating all stakeholders involved in the initiative and encouraged continued efforts to expand such community-driven programs. The statement was issued by the District Information and Public Relations Office (DIPRO), NTR District

Garuda Vahana Seva Marks a Grand Highlight in Tirupati Kodandarama Swamy Brahmotsavams

Amaravathi 21.03 2026 TPN Bureau:

The annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Kodandarama Swamy in Tirupati witnessed a spiritually vibrant and visually magnificent celebration on the fifth day, as the deity was taken out in a grand procession on the sacred Garuda Vahana. The event, held on Saturday night, drew a large number of devotees who gathered to seek the divine blessings of Lord Rama.

The Garuda Vahana Seva commenced at around 7:00 PM, with the temple surroundings echoing with devotional chants and religious fervor. Devotees lined the streets, offering camphor harati at various points along the procession route. The atmosphere was filled with deep devotion as people eagerly awaited a glimpse of the Lord seated majestically on Garuda, the celestial eagle and the divine vehicle of Lord Vishnu.

Garuda Seva holds a place of immense significance in the nine-day Brahmotsavams. In Hindu mythology, Garuda, also known as Vainateya, is considered the eternal vehicle (Nitya Vahana) of Lord Maha Vishnu. He is revered not just as a vehicle but also as a devoted servant, companion, throne, flag, and



even the abode of the Lord. His multifaceted service symbolizes ultimate devotion and surrender to the divine. Among the Nityasuris (eternal celestial beings), Garuda is regarded as one of the foremost.

The sight of Sri Kodandarama Swamy mounted on Garuda is considered highly auspicious and spiritually uplifting. It is believed that witnessing this sa-

cred procession grants devotees divine grace and blessings. The Garuda Seva is also a prominent ritual observed across the 108 Divya Desams, further underlining its religious importance in Vaishnavite tradition.

The procession was carried out with grandeur, accompanied by traditional temple music, Vedic chants, and well-organized temple rituals. The

temple authorities ensured smooth arrangements for the large gathering of devotees, maintaining discipline and devotion throughout the event.

Several prominent dignitaries and temple officials participated in the Vahana Seva. Among them were Tirumala's revered Pedda Jeeyar Swamy and Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, along with Joint Executive Officer (JEO) Sri V. Veerabrahmam, Deputy Executive Officer Smt. Nagaratna, Superintendent Sri Muni Shankar, Temple Inspector Sri Suresh, along with temple priests and staff, were actively involved in the proceedings.

The participation of thousands of devotees added to the spiritual grandeur of the occasion, making it a memorable event in the Brahmotsavam celebrations. The Garuda Vahana Seva not only showcased the rich cultural and religious heritage of Tirupati but also reinforced the deep-rooted faith and devotion of the people.

As the Brahmotsavams continue, devotees eagerly look forward to the remaining festivities, cherishing each moment of divine connection and spiritual bliss.

Kargil Victory Park Inaugurated in Srikakulam as a Tribute to Martyrs



Srikakulam, March 21 TPN Bureau:

In a proud tribute to the sacrifices of Indian soldiers, the newly constructed Kargil Victory Park was inaugurated with grandeur in Srikakulam district. Built at a cost of ₹2 crore under the supervision of SUDA, the park stands as a symbol of respect and remembrance for the brave martyrs of the Kargil War, particularly the district's own hero, martyr Chintada Mohan Rao.

The park was formally inaugurated on Saturday at APHB Colony by Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, along with State Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu and local MLA Gondu Shankar. Addressing the gathering, the Union Minister stated that the park is a matter of pride for the district as it immortalizes the bravery and sacrifice of soldiers who laid down their lives in the Kargil War.

He emphasized that with the establishment of such a modern and well-equipped recreational space, residents of the district no longer need to travel to Visakhapatnam for quality leisure facilities. The park has been designed to provide both entertainment and awareness, combining recreation with a deep sense of patriotism.

During the inauguration, the ministers inspected various sports facilities within the park and actively participated in activities like box cricket and pickleball, adding enthusiasm to the event. The park also features a unique section dedicated to showcasing the history and contributions of 58 soldiers from the dis-

trict who participated in the Kargil War, including injured veterans like Havildar Chinni Simhachalam and Havildar Tompa Neelachalam. This initiative aims to educate the younger generation about the courage and dedication of these warriors.

District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar, along with Joint Collectors, was appreciated by the minister for their efforts in successfully executing the project. The Collector highlighted that the park has been developed as a fully "user-friendly" space, equipped with modern amenities such as an open-air theatre, LCD projector screen, solar lighting, and a sprinkler system.

Entry into the park is free for the public, while minimal charges will be collected for the use of sports courts to ensure proper maintenance and sustainability of the facilities.

Local MLA Gondu Shankar expressed confidence that this project is just a "trial run" for further developmental initiatives in the district. He assured that more large-scale projects would be undertaken in the coming days to enhance infrastructure and public amenities in the region.

The event witnessed the participation of SUDA Chairman Korikana Ravikumar, Engineer Sugunakar, other district officials, public representatives, and a large number of citizens.

The Kargil Victory Park not only serves as a recreational hub but also stands as a lasting reminder of the valor, sacrifice, and patriotism of India's brave soldiers.

Kovur MLA Prasanthi Reddy Conducts Surprise Inspection of Paddy Procurement

In a proactive move to address the concerns of farmers, Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prasanthi Reddy conducted a surprise inspection of the paddy procurement process at Vavilla Road in Vidavalur on Saturday. The inspection was aimed at understanding the ground realities and ensuring that farmers do not face difficulties during the procurement season.

During her visit, the MLA closely examined the procurement operations and interacted with farmers and rice millers present at the site. Farmers highlighted several issues, including the shortage of lorries for transporting paddy and the inadequate supply of gunny bags required for proper measurement and storage. These challenges, they said, were causing delays and inconvenience in selling their produce.

Taking serious note of the concerns, Prasanthi Reddy immediately directed the officials to ensure that there is no shortage of essential resources such as gunny bags and transportation facilities. She stressed that farmers should not suffer due to administrative lapses and that all necessary arrangements



must be made without delay. The MLA also instructed officials and local leaders to remain accessible to farmers at all times and respond promptly to their grievances.

Highlighting the importance of coordination, the MLA emphasized that cooperative societies and government officials must act as a bridge between farmers and rice millers. She pointed out that effective communication and coordination would help in avoiding misunderstandings and ensure a smooth procurement process. She also urged local leaders to

actively participate in resolving issues and maintaining transparency.

In a swift response to the complaints received, Prasanthi Reddy spoke to the Joint Collector over the phone from the inspection site. She requested immediate intervention to resolve the issues and ensure that adequate arrangements are made for the farmers. She specifically instructed that sufficient quantities of gunny bags be arranged at the earliest to avoid further inconvenience.

The MLA also issued a warning against any irregularities in

the procurement process. She cautioned rice millers against engaging in malpractices and assured farmers that strict action would be taken against anyone found exploiting them. She encouraged farmers to report any such issues directly to her or the concerned authorities without hesitation.

The inspection program saw the participation of local farmers, officials, and coalition leaders. Farmers expressed satisfaction over the MLA's visit, stating that such inspections help bring their problems to light and ensure quicker resolution.

Prasanthi Reddy reiterated her commitment to the welfare of farmers and assured that the government is taking all necessary steps to support them. She stated that ensuring a hassle-free procurement process is a top priority and that continuous monitoring will be carried out to address any emerging challenges.

The surprise inspection reflects the government's focus on strengthening agricultural support systems and ensuring that farmers receive fair treatment and timely assistance during the procurement season.

CPM Slams Coalition Government, Concludes 650 Km Padayatra in West Godavari

Bhimavaram, March 21, 2026 TPN Bureau:

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) West Godavari district committee strongly criticized the coalition government, alleging that it has neglected pressing public issues. Addressing a press conference held at Puchalapalli Sundarayya Bhavan in Bhimavaram, CPM District Secretary J.N.V. Gopalan said the party's 650-kilometre "Praja Chaitanya Padayatra" across 20 mandals and 6 towns has successfully completed 24 days and will conclude on March 23 with a public meeting at the Collectorate office.

Gopalan stated that the padayatra received an overwhelming response from the public and brought to light thousands of unresolved issues faced by people in rural and urban areas. He announced that the movement would not end with the padayatra, but instead, a larger public struggle would begin from March 23 to demand solutions.

He accused the coalition government of making false promises regarding housing. The government had assured allocation of house sites—3 cents in villages and 2 cents in towns—before the elections. However, even after coming to power, the promises remain unfulfilled. Gopalan criticized recent statements suggesting that house sites may be distributed in the



coming years, calling them misleading and politically motivated.

Highlighting ground realities, he said that in Dalit colonies, people are struggling not only for housing but even for basic facilities like burial grounds. Many families are facing hardships due to the absence of proper cremation spaces. Government colonies, he alleged, are facing discrimination, with a lack of basic infrastructure such as drinking water, roads, drainage, electricity, schools, and gas supply.

He further remarked that elected representatives have distanced themselves from public concerns after elections,

while those who lost have also shown little interest in addressing people's problems. In contrast, CPM's padayatra aimed solely at identifying public issues and mobilizing people for their resolution.

Gopalan revealed that the party has received around 4,000 petitions during the padayatra, highlighting issues such as pensions for the elderly, disabled, and widows. He expressed concern that no new pensions have been sanctioned in recent years, leaving many vulnerable groups in distress.

Water scarcity was another major issue raised during the padayatra. Despite the district being surrounded by water

sources, people are forced to spend ₹1,000-₹1,200 per month on drinking water due to inadequate and unsafe supply. He alleged that untreated and contaminated water is being supplied in many areas, posing health risks.

The CPM leader also raised concerns about the housing crisis, stating that many families are forced to live together in cramped conditions due to the lack of proper housing. He demanded immediate allocation of house sites and distribution of land titles to those who have constructed houses on government land, instead of evicting them.

Other issues highlighted include increasing mosquito menace due to poor sanitation, pending fee reimbursement for students, and delays in welfare schemes like "Annadata Sukhibhava." He urged the government to release pending dues to colleges to prevent harassment of students.

The padayatra included 30 CPM leaders and activists, along with members of Praja Natya Mandali and women comrades, who completed the journey despite several hardships.

Gopalan called upon students, intellectuals, and the general public to participate in large numbers in the public meeting on March 23 and support the movement for resolving people's issues.

Cyber Crime Awareness Drive Conducted by Shakti Team in Tirupati



Tirupati, March 21 TPN Bureau:

Under the directions of Tirupati District Superintendent of Police Sri L. Subbarayudu, IPS, the Shakti Team police, led by Women DSP Smt. Srilatha, conducted extensive awareness programs on cyber crimes and public safety across key locations in the city.

As part of this initiative, awareness sessions were organized for workers at Trends Shopping Mall located on Karakambadi Road, as well as for the general public near the RASS Building on Air Bypass Road. The program aimed to educate citizens on the rising threats of cyber fraud and other social issues affecting the community.

During the sessions, the police provided detailed information about the Shakti App and encouraged people to download and use it for enhanced safety. They also explained various types of cyber crimes, including loan app frauds, social media scams, and the risks associated with clicking unknown links. The team highlighted how such fraudulent activities can lead to financial loss and personal data theft.

In addition to cyber awareness, the program covered a wide range of important social and safety topics. These included the harmful

effects of excessive mobile gaming, the dangers of drug abuse, adherence to traffic rules, and the importance of women's safety. The officers also addressed issues such as crimes against women, child labour, and the prevention of child marriages, urging the public to remain vigilant and socially responsible.

The Shakti Team emphasized the importance of being alert and cautious in daily life. Citizens were advised to immediately report any suspicious activities to the police to prevent potential crimes.

As part of the awareness drive, the police also informed the public about important toll-free helpline numbers. These included 112 for emergency services, 1930 for cyber crime complaints, 1972 for drug-related information, 1098 for child helpline services, and 809999977 for additional assistance.

The initiative received a positive response from the public, with many appreciating the efforts of the police department in spreading awareness and ensuring community safety. The Tirupati District Police reaffirmed their commitment to protecting citizens and promoting a safe and informed society.

World Water Day: Significance and Global Impact

World Water Day (March 22):

Meaning, Theme 2026, and Importance in India (Rural & Urban Context)

World Water Day is observed every year on March 22, as an international initiative led by the United Nations to highlight the importance of freshwater and promote sustainable water management. It serves as a global platform to raise awareness about water scarcity, sanitation issues and the need for equitable access to clean water for all.

Theme of World Water Day 2026

The theme for 2026 is "Water and Gender", with the slogan "Where Water Flows, Equality Grows."

This theme emphasizes:

- The link between water access and gender equality
- The disproportionate burden on women and girls in water collection and management
- The need for inclusive participation in water governance

Globally, women and girls are often responsible for fetching water, especially in rural areas, which affects their education, health and economic opportunities.

Global Importance of World Water Day

Water is a fundamental human right and essential for survival, development and ecological balance. However, the world faces a severe water crisis:

- Billions still lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Water scarcity is increasing due to climate change and population growth

World Water Day highlights:

- The need for sustainable use of water resources
- The urgency of addressing water inequality
- The importance of integrating water management into development policies

It also aligns with the United Na-



tions Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), which aims to ensure universal access to safe water by 2030.

Importance in India

India faces a critical water crisis due to population pressure, urbanization and climate variability. Per capita water availability has drastically declined from over 5,000 cubic meters in 1951 to less than 1,500 cubic meters today.

Additionally:

- Around 70% of India's freshwater is polluted
- Groundwater depletion is a major concern

Thus, World Water Day is highly significant for India, as it encourages awareness, conservation and policy action.

Importance in Rural Areas of India

Water plays a crucial role in rural life, especially in agriculture and daily household needs.

1. Drinking Water Access

Many rural areas still lack piped water supply. People depend on wells, hand pumps and rivers, which may be unsafe or seasonal. Government initiatives like community-based programs aim to improve access and sustainability.

2. Burden on Women

In rural India, women and girls often travel long distances to fetch water. This:

- Reduces time for education and employment
- Causes physical strain and health issues

- Reinforces gender inequality
- This directly connects with the 2026 theme "Water and Gender."

3. Agriculture Dependency

Agriculture consumes a large share of water in rural India. Inefficient irrigation practices lead to:

- Water wastage
- Groundwater depletion
- Reduced agricultural productivity

4. Health and Sanitation

Lack of clean water leads to water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea, affecting rural populations more severely.

Importance in Urban Areas of India

Urban India also faces serious water challenges, though of a dif-

ferent nature.

1. Water Scarcity and Demand

Rapid urbanization has increased demand for water in cities. Many cities face:

- Water shortages during summer
- Dependence on tankers and groundwater

2. Unequal Distribution

Water access is often unequal:

- Affluent areas receive regular supply
- Slums and informal settlements suffer shortages

3. Pollution

Urban water bodies are heavily polluted due to:

- Industrial waste
- Untreated sewage

This makes water unsafe and increases treatment costs.

4. Infrastructure Challenges

Old and inefficient water infrastructure leads to leakage and wastage, worsening the crisis.

Bridging Rural and Urban Challenges

World Water Day emphasizes integrated solutions for both rural and urban India:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Efficient irrigation (drip and sprinkler systems)
- Wastewater treatment and reuse
- Community participation in water management

The 2026 theme highlights that empowering women in both rural and urban water systems can lead to more sustainable and equitable outcomes.

Conclusion

World Water Day 2026, with its theme "Water and Gender," reminds us that water is not just a natural resource but also a social and developmental issue. In India, both rural and urban areas face distinct yet interconnected water challenges. Ensuring equitable access to clean water, promoting sustainable practices and empowering communities—especially women—are essential steps toward a water-secure future.

Ultimately, conserving water today ensures survival, equality and prosperity for future generations.



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Cinema, Conflict and Memory: The Haunting Politics of "Dhurandhar" and Kashmir

The world of popular cinema often borrows from history, reshaping real events into stories of heroism, revenge, and national identity. *Dhurandhar: The Revenge* does precisely that—but beneath its high-octane action and dramatic storytelling lies something far more complex: a reflection of the unresolved trauma and political tensions surrounding Kashmir.

At its core, the film can be read as more than just a fictional spy thriller. It carries the emotional weight of a deeply personal story—one that mirrors the experiences of many displaced Kashmiri Pandits. The protagonist's journey, from loss to transformation, echoes the pain of a community uprooted from its homeland.

The narrative traces the life of a young man whose world collapses due to violence and injustice. His family suffers unimaginable tragedy, and the systems meant to deliver justice fail him. This breakdown of faith—in institutions, in society, and even in the idea of home—becomes the turning point. What follows is not just a quest for revenge but a complete transformation of identity. The protagonist evolves into a weapon, driven by anger and shaped by circumstances beyond his control.

In many ways, this transformation is symbolic. It represents how prolonged conflict can radicalize individuals, turning victims into agents of violence. The personal becomes political, and grief morphs into a larger narrative of nationalism and retribution.

The Kashmir Valley itself emerges as a silent but powerful presence in this story. It is not merely a backdrop but a metaphor—one that stands for loss, longing, and displacement. For those who were forced to leave, Kashmir becomes an idea rather than a place: something remembered, imagined, and mourned, but never fully reclaimed.

The film suggests that even decades later, the wounds remain unhealed. The "ghosts" of Kashmir are not literal, but emotional and psycho-



logical—memories of a home that no longer exists in the same way. These ghosts haunt both individuals and the national consciousness, shaping how stories are told and understood.

At the same time, *Dhurandhar* operates within a broader political framework. It presents a clear narrative of conflict between India and Pakistan, framing the latter as a source of ongoing aggression. However, the film simplifies a deeply complex geopolitical issue into a more straightforward battle between good and evil.

This simplification is both the film's strength and its limitation. On one hand, it makes the story accessible and emotionally compelling. On the other, it risks reducing a multifaceted conflict into a single perspective, leaving little room for nuance.

The portrayal of national security and intelligence agencies further reinforces this viewpoint. Figures modeled on real-life strategists are depicted as decisive and visionary, guiding the nation through turbulent times. Their actions are framed as necessary responses to persistent threats, offering a sense of order in an otherwise chaotic world.

Yet, beneath this narrative of

strength lies a deeper unease. The film repeatedly returns to the idea that justice, when delayed or denied, can push individuals toward extreme measures. It raises uncomfortable questions about the cost of such transformation—both for the individual and for society.

Another significant aspect of the film is its engagement with real-world events. References to major incidents of violence and terrorism blur the line between fiction and reality. This blending creates a sense of immediacy, making the story feel grounded and relevant. However, it also complicates the viewer's understanding, as the boundaries between historical fact and cinematic interpretation become increasingly unclear.

This ambiguity is central to the film's impact. By weaving together personal trauma and national history, *Dhurandhar* invites viewers to reflect on how stories are constructed—and whose stories are being told.

The emotional core of the film lies in its exploration of displacement. For the protagonist, losing his home is not just a physical loss but an existential one. It strips away his sense of

identity and belonging, leaving behind a void that can only be filled through action—however destructive that action may be.

This theme resonates strongly with the experiences of Kashmiri Pandits, many of whom continue to live in exile decades after their displacement. The film captures this sense of irreversible change: the idea that even if one returns, the place itself has transformed so profoundly that it no longer feels like home.

At the same time, the film reflects a broader cultural moment in Indian cinema, where stories of nationalism and security have gained prominence. These narratives often emphasize resilience, strength, and the ability to overcome adversity. *Dhurandhar* fits squarely within this trend, offering a vision of empowerment through action.

However, it also reveals the tension inherent in such storytelling. While it celebrates strength, it is also haunted by loss. While it seeks closure, it acknowledges that some wounds may never fully heal.

Ultimately, *Dhurandhar: The Revenge* is as much about memory as it is about conflict. It shows how the past continues to shape the present, influencing not just individual lives but collective narratives. The "ghosts" of Kashmir are a reminder that history is never truly behind us—it lingers, resurfacing in stories, emotions, and identities.

The film's power lies in its ability to evoke this lingering presence. It forces viewers to confront uncomfortable truths about violence, displacement, and the narratives we construct to make sense of them. At the same time, it offers a form of catharsis—a way to process complex emotions through the lens of cinema.

In the end, *Dhurandhar* is not just a story of revenge or patriotism. It is a story of loss, transformation, and the enduring impact of history. It reminds us that while nations may move forward, the echoes of the past continue to shape their journey—often in ways that are difficult to ignore.

Caught Between Wars: How Long Can India Stay Neutral in the Iran-Israel Conflict?

The escalating conflict between Iran and Israel is not a distant war for India—it is a crisis unfolding dangerously close to its strategic, economic, and human interests. As tensions intensify across West Asia, the question is no longer whether India will be affected, but how long it can realistically avoid being drawn into the consequences of "other people's wars."

At the heart of India's foreign policy lies the principle of strategic autonomy—the ability to maintain independent positions without formally aligning with any major power bloc. So far, New Delhi has followed a careful, measured approach: calling for restraint, emphasizing diplomacy, and avoiding explicit sides. This balancing act allows India to maintain relations with both Israel and Iran, two countries critical to its geopolitical and economic interests.

Yet, this neutrality is increasingly under pressure. The conflict has already spilled beyond a localized confrontation, affecting the wider Gulf region—an area central to India's energy security and trade routes. The Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of the world's oil supply passes, has become a zone of uncertainty. Any disruption here directly impacts India's access to energy, pushing up prices and threatening economic stability.

Energy is only one dimension of the challenge. India is deeply connected to West Asia through its large diaspora—millions of Indians work across the Gulf. Their safety, livelihoods, and remittances are at risk if the conflict escalates. A wider war could trigger evacuations, job losses, and disruptions in the flow of money that supports households and the broader economy.

Trade and maritime security are equally at stake. As the conflict edges closer to key shipping lanes, insurance costs rise, routes become riskier, and supply chains face disruption. For a



trading nation like India, what begins as a geopolitical confrontation rapidly translates into domestic economic stress.

India's current stance has been described as pragmatic. By avoiding strong public alignments, it preserves diplomatic flexibility. In volatile circumstances, even a single statement can close doors to dialogue or limit future options. Measured language is not indecision—it is a strategic choice to keep communication channels open with all sides.

But the crisis also exposes limits to India's autonomy. Energy dependence on the Middle East, reliance on global supply chains, and expectations from global powers such as the United States constrain options. Strategic autonomy is not just about refusing to take sides—it is about having the capacity to act independently when circumstances demand it.

Domestically, rising oil prices and market volatility risk translating into inflation and economic pressure. Global conflicts today have immediate effects on Indian markets and industries. The longer the war continues, the harder it becomes to shield the country from these ripple effects.

The real test for India lies ahead. Maintaining balance will become more difficult as the conflict unfolds, external pressures increase, and choices narrow. The question is no longer whether India can avoid "other people's wars," but whether it can navigate them without compromising its own interests. Strategic autonomy, in this context, is not a fixed principle—it is a challenge to be continually proven in the face of shifting global realities.

PM Modi Speaks to Iran President, Stresses Secure Shipping Lanes Amid Tensions

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a phone conversation with Masoud Pezeshkian, emphasizing the need to keep global shipping routes open and secure amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

During the discussion, Modi strongly condemned attacks on critical infrastructure in the region, warning that such actions threaten regional stability and disrupt global supply chains. He stressed the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation, particularly at a time when key maritime routes are facing disruptions.

A major concern highlighted in the conversation was the security of shipping lanes, especially in sensitive areas like the Strait of Hormuz. This route is crucial for global energy trade, and any disruption can have far-reaching consequences for economies worldwide, including India.

Modi reiterated that shipping lanes must remain open and secure to ensure uninterrupted movement of goods and energy supplies. He underlined that targeting infrastructure or commercial routes is unacceptable and poses risks not just to regional countries but to the global economy.



The Prime Minister also conveyed greetings to the Iranian President on the occasions of Eid and Nowruz, expressing hope that the festive period would bring peace, stability, and prosperity to the region.

In addition, Modi appreciated Iran's support in ensuring the safety and security of Indian nationals residing in the coun-

try. This aspect has gained importance given the rising tensions and uncertainties in the region.

The conversation comes at a time when the ongoing conflict in West Asia has begun to impact global trade routes, energy markets, and maritime security. India, which relies heavily on energy imports passing through

these routes, has been actively engaging with regional stakeholders to ensure stability.

Overall, the call reflects India's diplomatic efforts to maintain balance and safeguard its economic and strategic interests, while advocating for peace and secure international shipping channels amid a volatile geopolitical situation.

BJP Slams Mamata Banerjee Over Remarks on PM Ahead of Bengal Polls

The political battle ahead of the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections intensified after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sharply criticised Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her recent comments targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP accused Banerjee of making "irresponsible" and "unconstitutional" remarks, with party leaders stating that her comments were not befitting someone holding a constitutional post. The criticism comes amid escalating war of words between the ruling All India Trinamool Congress and the BJP as the state heads toward a high-stakes electoral contest.

Banerjee had recently attacked the Prime Minister during public engagements, accusing the Centre of undermining the rights of people in West Bengal and attempting to interfere in the state's governance. Her



remarks are part of a broader campaign narrative in which the Trinamool Congress has positioned the election as a fight between the state and the Centre.

In response, BJP leaders alleged that such statements lower the dignity of public office and

violate the norms expected from a chief minister. They argued that criticism of the central government should remain within constitutional limits and not turn into personal or inflammatory attacks.

The controversy comes at a time when political tensions in

the state are already high. Both parties have been trading accusations over issues such as voter lists, governance, and alleged interference by central agencies. The campaign has increasingly taken a confrontational tone, with leaders from both sides stepping up rhetoric to mobilise support.

The upcoming election is expected to be a closely watched contest, with the BJP aiming to expand its footprint in the state, while Banerjee seeks to retain power for another term. Political analysts note that such sharp exchanges are likely to intensify further as polling dates draw closer.

Overall, the latest controversy reflects the deepening political divide in West Bengal, where the battle between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP continues to dominate the electoral landscape.

Punjab Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar Resigns Amid Row Over Official's Suicide



Punjab cabinet minister Laljit Singh Bhullar resigned from his post following a major controversy linked to the alleged suicide of a government official, triggering political outrage in the state.

The resignation came after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann asked Bhullar to step down to ensure a fair and impartial investigation into the incident.

The controversy revolves around the death of Gagandeep Singh Randhawa, a district manager with the Punjab State Warehousing Corporation in Amritsar. Before his death, a video reportedly surfaced in which Randhawa claimed he had consumed poison and named the minister.

Opposition leaders alleged that the official was under pressure related to a tender process and claimed he had been asked to accept a bribe and favour a particular bidder. They also accused the minister of harassment and intimidation, intensifying the political storm.

Bhullar, however, strongly denied all allegations, calling them baseless and false. He

stated that he supports a transparent probe and voluntarily stepped down so that the investigation can proceed without any influence.

The incident has sparked widespread political reactions, with opposition parties demanding strict action and a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the official's death. The case has also raised concerns about governance, accountability, and the functioning of administrative systems in the state.

Chief Minister Mann reiterated that the government is committed to uncovering the truth and ensuring justice. He emphasized that seeking the minister's resignation was necessary to maintain the integrity of the probe and public trust.

The development marks a significant political moment in Punjab, highlighting the increasing pressure on public officials to step aside in the face of serious allegations. The outcome of the investigation is expected to have broader implications for the state's political and administrative landscape.

BJP Releases Third List for Kerala Polls, Announces 9 Candidates in Puducherry



The Bharatiya Janata Party has released its third list of candidates for the upcoming Kerala Assembly elections, while also announcing nine nominees for the Puducherry Assembly polls, further stepping up preparations ahead of the April 9 elections.

With the latest announcement, the BJP has now declared a total of 97 candidates for the 140-member Kerala Legislative Assembly elections 2026. The third list includes candidates for 11 constituencies, mostly in southern Kerala, as the party looks to strengthen its presence in the region.

Key candidates in the third list include V. Ratheesh from Peermade, Raveendranath Vakathanam from Puthuppally, Ajimon from Mavelikkara (SC), and Pandalam Prathapan from Adoor (SC). Other names include K.R. Rajesh (Chavara), R.S. Arun Raj (Chadayamangalam), B.S. Anoop (Chirayinkeezhu), Karmana Jayan (Thiruvananthapuram), Vivek Gopan (Aruvikkara), T.N. Suresh (Kovalam), and S. Rajasekharan Nair (Neyyattinkara).

The Kerala Assembly elections will be held in a single phase on April 9, with counting scheduled for May 4.

At the same time, the BJP has also announced its candidates for nine constituencies in Pu-

ducherry, where elections will be conducted on the same day. The Union Territory has a 30-member assembly, making the contest crucial for alliance arithmetic.

Prominent names in the Puducherry list include A. Namassivayam from Mannadipet, E. Theppainthan from Ousudu (SC), P.M.L. Kalyanasundaram from Kalapet, and V.P. Ramalingam from Raj Bhavan. Other candidates include A. Johnkumar (Mudaliarpet), R. Selvam (Manavelly), G.N.S. Rajasekaran (Thirunallar), TKSM Meenatchisundaram (Neravy-T.R. Pattinam), and A. Dineshan (Mahe).

The candidate lists were finalised by the party's central election committee, attended by senior leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The announcements signal the BJP's continued push to expand its footprint in southern states, particularly in Kerala where it has been striving to gain a stronger electoral base, and in Puducherry where coalition dynamics play a key role.

With polling dates approaching, all major parties are accelerating their campaign strategies, setting the stage for closely watched electoral battles in both regions.

Delhi-NCR Sees Rare March Fog Amid Rain, Thunderstorm Spell



Delhi NCR witnessed an unusual weather shift with dense fog covering parts of the region even in late March, accompanied by continuous rain and thunderstorms over the past few days.

The sudden change was triggered by an active western disturbance affecting north India. This system brought widespread rainfall, gusty winds, and heavy cloud cover, leading to a sharp drop in temperatures across the region.

The rainfall over the last two to three days has been significant, with more showers and thunderstorms expected in the short term. The India Meteorological Department has also issued alerts, warning of continued unstable weather conditions, including lightning and strong winds.

One of the most striking aspects of the current weather pattern has been the appearance of dense fog—something rarely seen in March. Reduced visibility was reported across several areas, affecting early morning traffic

and daily routines.

The sudden cooling has been equally notable, with temperatures dipping to levels unusual for this time of year. The weather has felt more like late winter than early summer, with misty mornings and overcast skies dominating the atmosphere.

Despite some disruption, the rainfall has brought relief in terms of air quality. Pollution levels dropped significantly as rain and winds helped clear airborne particles, improving overall air conditions.

Meteorologists note that such weather patterns are uncommon for March, which typically sees rising temperatures and dry conditions. However, changing climate trends and frequent western disturbances have contributed to these unseasonal variations.

Looking ahead, intermittent rain, thunderstorms, and cloudy skies are likely to continue for a few more days before temperatures gradually begin to rise again.

EC Sets Up 19 Appellate Tribunals for Bengal Voter Roll Appeals



The Election Commission of India has constituted 19 appellate tribunals in West Bengal to hear appeals related to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls ahead of the Assembly elections.

The move follows directions from the Supreme Court of India and recommendations of the Calcutta High Court, aimed at ensuring a transparent and fair mechanism for resolving disputes over voter inclusion and exclusion.

These tribunals will examine appeals against decisions made by designated judicial officers who are currently reviewing the eligibility of lakhs of voters in the state. The SIR exercise involves scrutiny of a large number of cases concerning additions and deletions in the electoral rolls.

A total of 19 former judges have been appointed as single-member tribunals, each assigned to one or more districts across the state. Among them is former Chief Justice T. S. Sivagnanam, who will oversee appeals for key districts including Kolkata.

The appellate tribunals have come

into effect and will function until all appeals in their respective jurisdictions are resolved. Their primary role is to provide a second level of review, allowing individuals to challenge decisions regarding their inclusion or exclusion from the voter list.

This step is part of a broader effort to streamline the revision process and address concerns about errors or discrepancies in the electoral rolls. The SIR exercise has involved scrutiny of millions of voter records, making an appellate mechanism essential for handling grievances efficiently.

The development comes as West Bengal prepares for Assembly elections, where an accurate and updated voter list is critical to ensuring free and fair polling. The tribunals are expected to enhance accountability and provide relief to voters who may have been wrongly excluded or included.

Overall, the formation of these appellate bodies is seen as a significant measure to strengthen the integrity of the electoral process and build public confidence ahead of the polls.

Gautam Singhania Hospitalised After Maldives Boat Mishap



Gautam Singhania, Chairman and Managing Director of Raymond Group, was injured in a speedboat accident in the Maldives and is currently recovering after receiving medical treatment.

The incident occurred late at night when a speedboat carrying several tourists overturned near V Felidhoo island. Singhania was among the passengers on board when the mishap took place.

Following the accident, he sustained minor injuries and was rescued before being brought back to Mumbai for treatment. His spokesperson confirmed that he is under medical care and recovering well.

Reports indicate that the boat was carrying a mix of Indian and foreign nationals at the time of the accident. While several passengers were rescued, two individuals, including a well-known Indian rally driver, were reported missing, prompting search operations in the area.

The accident has drawn attention due to the high-profile nature of those in-

involved. Authorities in the Maldives initiated rescue efforts immediately after the incident, with coast guard teams searching the surrounding waters.

Singhania's team described his injuries as minor and reassured that he is stable and recovering. The focus now remains on the ongoing search for the missing passengers and ensuring the safety of those involved.

The development has sparked concern in business and sporting circles, with many expressing relief that Singhania is safe while hoping for positive news regarding the missing individuals.

Russia Denies Claim Putin Offered to 'Ditch' Iran for Ukraine Deal



Vladimir Putin has rejected reports suggesting that Russia offered to cut ties with Iran in exchange for the United States halting support to Ukraine, amid rising tensions in the Middle East.

According to media reports, a proposal was allegedly made by a Russian envoy during talks with US representatives, suggesting that Moscow could stop sharing intelligence with Iran if Washington agreed to end intelligence assistance to Ukraine. The reported discussions were said to have taken place during a meeting involving US officials and Russian negotiators.

However, the Kremlin has firmly denied these claims. Russian officials dismissed the reports as inaccurate, with envoy Kirill Dmitriev calling them "fake." Moscow maintained that no such offer had been made and rejected the idea of any quid pro quo involving Iran and Ukraine.

The United States had reportedly rejected the alleged proposal, reaffirming its continued support for Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia. Washington has been providing intelligence and military assistance to Kyiv since the start of the war in 2022.

The controversy comes at a

time of heightened geopolitical tensions, with conflicts involving Iran, the US, and Israel intensifying in the Middle East. These developments have complicated global diplomacy, as major powers navigate overlapping crises in different regions.

Despite speculation, Russia has publicly reiterated its position as a partner to Iran, even as analysts suggest that Moscow may be balancing its strategic interests between the Middle East and the Ukraine conflict. Reports indicate that while Russia maintains ties with Tehran, it is also exploring diplomatic lev-

erage in its standoff with the West.

The situation highlights the complex and shifting alliances shaping global politics. While unconfirmed reports of backchannel negotiations continue to surface, official statements from Moscow suggest that Russia is not willing to trade its relationship with Iran for concessions in Ukraine.

As tensions persist on multiple fronts, the evolving dynamics between Russia, the US, Iran, and Ukraine are likely to remain a key focus in international relations in the coming weeks.

Balendra Shah to Take Oath as Nepal PM on Ram Navami



Balendra Shah, the 35-year-old leader of the Rastriya Swatantra Party, is set to take oath as the next Prime Minister of Nepal on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, which falls on March 27.

The decision is being viewed as symbolically significant, as Shah had earlier launched his election campaign from Janakpur, a place traditionally regarded as the birthplace of Sita in the Ramayana. The choice of date and location has generated widespread discussion, especially in Nepal's Hindu-majority society where Lord Ram holds deep cultural and religious importance.

Shah's rise to power marks a major shift in Nepal's political landscape. A former mayor of Kathman-

du and a trained structural engineer, he first gained popularity as a rapper known for speaking out against corruption. His strong appeal among youth played a crucial role in his political success, especially during the recent elections where his party secured a decisive victory.

Notably, Shah is the first leader from the Madheshi community of Nepal's southern Terai region to reach the country's top political post. This has added to his popularity among historically underrepresented groups, further strengthening his support base.

His party's landslide win reflects a broader generational shift in Nepal, driven by youth dissatisfaction with traditional political

leadership and demands for transparency, accountability, and reform. The elections followed months of political unrest and protests that led to the fall of the previous government.

Experts suggest that the symbolism surrounding Shah's oath-taking ceremony should not be interpreted as a move toward monarchy or religious politics, but rather as a cultural gesture aimed at connecting with the public.

As Shah prepares to assume office, expectations are high for transformative governance. His leadership is seen as a test of whether a new generation of politicians can deliver on promises of reform and stability in a country navigating political transition and economic challenges.

Iran Fires Missiles at US-UK Base in Indian Ocean, War Expands Beyond Middle East

The ongoing conflict involving Iran and Western powers has taken a significant turn, with Tehran launching missiles toward a key US-UK military base in the Indian Ocean, signaling a widening of the war beyond its traditional geographic boundaries.

According to reports, Iran fired intermediate-range ballistic missiles targeting the joint US-UK military facility at Diego Garcia, a strategically important base located thousands of kilometers from Iran. However, neither missile struck the target, with one reportedly failing mid-flight while another may have been intercepted by defense systems.

This marks a major escalation in the conflict, as it is one of the first instances of Iran attempting to strike a target so far from its territory. The move highlights a potential expansion of Tehran's missile capabilities, suggesting a range that exceeds previously under-



stood limits.

The attack also indicates that the conflict is no longer confined to the Middle East. By targeting a base in the Indian Ocean, Iran has effectively opened a new front, raising concerns about the safety of distant military installations and global trade routes.

The Diego Garcia base holds immense strategic importance for both the United States and the United Kingdom, serving as a hub for long-range bombers, naval operations, and logistical support. Any threat to this facility is seen as a serious escalation with potential global security implications.

The missile launches come amid intensifying hostilities, including ongoing airstrikes, drone attacks, and retaliatory operations involving multiple countries. The broader conflict has already impacted energy markets, shipping lanes, and regional stability, with fears growing that it could spiral into a wider international confrontation.

Analysts say the attempted strike, even though unsuccessful, sends a strong strategic message about Iran's reach and intent. It also raises questions about missile defense preparedness and the evolving nature of modern warfare, where conflicts can rapidly expand across regions.

As tensions continue to rise, global attention remains focused on how major powers respond to this escalation. The situation remains highly volatile, with the risk of further military actions and broader geopolitical consequences in the coming days.

Sri Lanka Refuses US Warplanes, Reaffirms Neutral Stand Amid Iran Conflict



Anura Kumara Disanayake has revealed that Sri Lanka rejected a request from the United States to allow two of its warplanes to land at Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport earlier this month, underlining the island nation's commitment to neutrality amid rising global tensions.

According to the president, the US had sought permission for two military aircraft based in Djibouti to land in Sri Lanka on March 4 and March 8. Both requests were declined, as Colombo did not want its territory to be used for military purposes during the ongoing conflict involving Iran and Western powers.

Disanayake emphasized that Sri Lanka is determined to maintain a neutral position despite external pressures. Allowing foreign military operations from its soil, he indicated, could draw the country into a wider geopolitical conflict, something the government

is keen to avoid.

The development comes amid heightened tensions following the escalating Iran-related conflict, which has already spilled into regions beyond the Middle East. Sri Lanka's strategic location in the Indian Ocean has placed it in a sensitive position, making it crucial for the country to balance its diplomatic ties carefully.

The issue has been further complicated by recent maritime incidents near Sri Lanka's waters. An Iranian naval vessel was sunk by a US submarine close to the island, while another Iranian ship sought assistance from Sri Lankan authorities. Colombo responded on humanitarian grounds, rescuing sailors and providing necessary aid, while maintaining that such actions were in line with international law and neutrality obligations.

Sri Lanka also reportedly faced a dilemma as Iran had separately sought clearance

for a naval visit around the same period. Officials indicated that approving requests from one side could compel the country to grant similar access to the other, potentially undermining its neutral stance.

The government's decision reflects a broader foreign policy approach aimed at avoiding entanglement in global conflicts while safeguarding national interests. Sri Lanka maintains important economic and diplomatic relations with both the United States and Iran, making neutrality a key priority.

Analysts say the move highlights Colombo's cautious diplomacy at a time when global tensions are rising and smaller nations are increasingly caught between competing powers. By refusing military access, Sri Lanka has signaled its intent to stay out of the conflict, even as geopolitical pressures continue to mount.

Pakistan Tops Global Terrorism Index 2026, Faces Rising Internal Threat

Pakistan has emerged as the country most affected by terrorism in the latest Global Terrorism Index 2026, highlighting a dramatic shift in the global security landscape. The report underscores a stark reality: a nation long accused of nurturing militant networks is now among the worst-hit by the very forces it once supported.

According to the index, Pakistan recorded a sharp rise in terrorist activity and fatalities, pushing it to the top of the rankings. This comes even as global terrorism-related deaths have declined overall, indicating that the threat has become more concentrated in specific regions rather than widespread across the world.

The surge in violence within Pakistan is attributed to a combination of factors, including the resurgence of militant groups such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), growing insurgency in regions like Balochistan, and increased cross-border tensions with neighboring Afghanistan. These dynamics have created a volatile security environment, with frequent attacks on secu-



rity forces, civilians, and infrastructure.

Experts note that Pakistan's long-standing policy of engaging with militant groups for strategic purposes has contributed to the current situation. Over time, several of these groups have turned inward, targeting the state itself. This "blowback" effect has intensified internal instability, making counterterrorism efforts more complex and challenging.

Recent incidents reflect the

deteriorating security scenario. Suicide bombings, coordinated assaults, and targeted attacks have become more frequent, particularly in border regions and conflict-prone provinces. The escalation of violence has also strained relations with Afghanistan, with both sides accusing each other of harboring militant elements.

The report also highlights a broader global trend: while overall terrorism deaths have decreased, the threat is evol-

ving. In some regions, attacks are becoming more localized but deadlier, while in others, new patterns such as lone-wolf attacks and youth radicalization are emerging.

For Pakistan, the findings serve as a warning that internal security challenges are far from resolved. Analysts stress the need for a comprehensive approach that goes beyond military operations, including addressing root causes such as economic instability, political tensions, and ideological extremism.

Despite ongoing counterterrorism efforts, the situation remains fragile. The rise in attacks suggests that militant networks continue to adapt and exploit vulnerabilities within the country. As a result, Pakistan faces a critical moment in its fight against terrorism, with long-term stability depending on sustained and coordinated action.

Overall, the Global Terrorism Index 2026 paints a complex picture—one where declining global figures mask deepening crises in specific nations, with Pakistan now at the center of that shift.

Markets End Flat in Volatile Week; Rupee Hits Record Low

Indian equity markets closed the week on a subdued note, reflecting heightened volatility and cautious investor sentiment amid global uncertainties. Despite fluctuations throughout the week, benchmark indices managed to end largely unchanged, as late recovery erased most earlier losses.

The week was marked by sharp swings driven by multiple global and domestic factors, including geopolitical tensions, rising crude oil prices, continued foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows, and persistent weakness in the Indian rupee. These pressures kept investors on edge, limiting any sustained upward momentum in the markets.

After posting gains in the first three trading sessions, markets witnessed a significant sell-off on Thursday, which wiped out earlier advances. However, a rebound on Friday helped indices recover, resulting in a flat weekly close. The overall trend highlighted the fragile nature of investor confidence amid uncertain global cues.

For the week ended March 20, the BSE Sensex edged down



marginally by about 31 points to close at 74,532.96, while the Nifty 50 slipped around 36 points to settle at 23,114.50. The minimal changes in headline indices masked the underlying volatility and sectoral divergence seen during the period.

Broader markets also reflected weakness, with the BSE Largecap index declining modestly. Several prominent stocks

came under pressure, particularly in sectors sensitive to global trends such as oil, finance, and industrials. Companies linked to energy and consumption faced headwinds due to rising input costs and uncertain demand outlook. At the same time, select stocks managed to post gains, indicating stock-specific action in an otherwise range-bound market.

A major concern during the week was the continued depreciation of the Indian rupee, which fell to record lows against the US dollar. The currency weakness has been driven by rising crude oil prices, sustained FII outflows, and global risk aversion triggered by geopolitical developments. A weaker rupee raises concerns about imported inflation and can impact corporate earnings, especially for sectors dependent on imports.

Additionally, foreign investors remained net sellers for the fifth consecutive week, further weighing on market sentiment. Persistent outflows signal cautious global positioning toward emerging markets like India, particularly in times of global uncertainty.

Overall, the week reflected a market caught between resilience and risk. While strong domestic fundamentals and selective buying supported indices, external pressures continue to pose challenges. Analysts expect markets to remain volatile in the near term, with global developments, currency movements, and institutional flows likely to dictate the direction.

Gold Faces Historic Weekly Fall as Iran Conflict Dims Rate Cut Hopes



Gold prices are heading toward their worst weekly performance in over four decades, as escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and shifting interest rate expectations weigh heavily on the precious metal.

The sharp decline comes amid the ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, which has significantly disrupted global energy markets. Traditionally considered a safe-haven asset during times of crisis, gold has failed to maintain its appeal in the current environment, marking a notable shift in investor behavior.

During the week, bullion prices dropped sharply, with losses extending as the US dollar strengthened and bond yields surged. Gold fell sharply in a single session, reflecting increased selling pressure. The strengthening

dollar has made gold more expensive for international buyers, further dampening demand.

A key factor behind the downturn is the surge in global energy prices triggered by the conflict. Disruptions in oil supply through critical routes have pushed crude prices higher, intensifying inflation concerns worldwide.

As inflation fears mount, expectations of interest rate cuts by major central banks have weakened considerably. Markets are increasingly pricing in the possibility that policymakers could delay rate cuts or even consider further tightening. This shift is unfavorable for gold, which does not offer any yield and typically benefits from lower interest rates.

Adding to the bearish sentiment, gold-backed exchange-traded funds have witnessed continued outflows for several con-

secutive weeks, indicating reduced investor interest. Holdings in such funds have declined significantly, highlighting a broader trend of capital moving away from bullion.

Despite geopolitical uncertainty, investors appear to be favoring the US dollar and other assets over gold. The metal has now recorded losses for multiple consecutive weeks since the outbreak of hostilities, underscoring the sustained pressure on prices.

Overall, the current scenario reflects a complex interplay of global factors where rising inflation, higher bond yields, and a stronger dollar are overriding gold's traditional safe-haven status. Analysts believe that unless there is a clear easing of geopolitical tensions or a shift in monetary policy outlook, gold prices may continue to face volatility in the near term.

Wall Street Slides as Middle East Tensions Fuel Inflation Fears

Global markets faced renewed pressure as Wall Street ended sharply lower, driven by escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and rising concerns over inflation. Investor sentiment weakened significantly as the ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran entered its fourth week, raising fears of prolonged instability and economic disruption.

All three major U.S. indices recorded notable losses. The S&P 500 dropped around 1.5 percent, closing at its lowest level in six months. The Nasdaq Composite declined over 2 percent, bringing it close to correction territory, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell nearly 1 percent. The broad-based sell-off reflected growing unease among investors over the potential long-term impact of geopolitical risks on global economic growth.

A key driver behind the market decline has been the surge in oil prices, which has intensified inflationary pressures. As the conflict shows no immediate signs of easing, energy markets remain volatile, prompting concerns that central banks, particularly the U.S. Federal Reserve, may main-



tain a tighter monetary policy stance. Market expectations now indicate a higher likelihood of interest rate hikes rather than cuts by the end of 2026.

Technology stocks, especially major players often referred to as the "Magnificent Seven," were among the hardest hit. Shares of companies like Nvidia, Tesla, Alphabet, Meta Platforms, and Microsoft saw notable declines, re-

fecting broader risk aversion in high-growth sectors.

Bond markets also mirrored the negative sentiment, with U.S. Treasury yields rising alongside similar movements in European and UK government bonds. Higher yields typically signal expectations of sustained inflation and tighter financial conditions, which can weigh on equity valuations.

Sector-wise, most segments of the S&P 500 ended in the red, with utilities and real estate stocks witnessing the steepest losses. However, the energy sector remained relatively stable and continued its upward trajectory, supported by elevated crude prices and strong demand dynamics.

Trading activity was particularly heavy due to the quarterly expiry of derivatives contracts, commonly known as "triple witching," which added to market volatility. Overall market breadth remained weak, with declining stocks significantly outnumbering gainers.

On a weekly basis, major indices posted consistent losses, and since the onset of the Iran conflict in late February, U.S. markets have seen a noticeable downturn. Analysts believe that unless geopolitical tensions ease, markets may continue to face pressure from rising inflation expectations and uncertain policy outlooks.

In the near term, global markets are likely to remain volatile, with investors closely monitoring developments in the Middle East, oil price movements, and central bank signals for further direction.

FII Sell ₹5,518 Crore, DIIs Provide Support with ₹5,703 Crore Buying



Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued their selling streak in Indian equity markets on March 20, offloading shares worth ₹5,518 crore. In contrast, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) stepped in as net buyers, purchasing equities worth ₹5,703 crore, helping cushion the impact of foreign outflows.

The contrasting activity between FIIs and DIIs highlights the ongoing tug-of-war in the market. While foreign investors remain cautious due to global uncertainties, domestic investors have been actively supporting the market by deploying capital during dips.

Market sentiment has been influenced by multiple factors, including rising crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions, and concerns over global economic stability. These elements have prompted for-

foreign investors to adopt a risk-off approach, leading to continued selling pressure in Indian equities.

Despite the outflows, domestic investors have shown confidence in the long-term fundamentals of the Indian economy. Their consistent buying has played a crucial role in preventing sharp declines in benchmark indices and maintaining overall market stability.

Sector-wise, autos, metals, and PSU banks witnessed buying interest during the session, driven by bargain hunting at lower levels. This selective buying indicates that investors are still willing to take positions in fundamentally strong sectors despite broader market volatility.

The sustained selling by FIIs in recent sessions reflects a broader global trend, where investors are reallocating funds amid

changing macroeconomic conditions. Factors such as higher bond yields, a stronger US dollar, and an uncertain monetary policy outlook have contributed to reduced foreign inflows into emerging markets like India.

On the other hand, DIIs—including mutual funds, insurance companies, and other domestic financial institutions—have continued to act as a stabilizing force. Their steady inflows demonstrate resilience in domestic participation and confidence in India's growth prospects.

Overall, the session underscores a balancing act in the markets, with domestic liquidity offsetting foreign withdrawals. Analysts believe that market direction in the near term will depend on global cues, oil price movements, and the trajectory of foreign fund flows.

Kacholia Offloads Stake in Naman Industries, Bets on Aelea Commodities

Ace investor Ashish Kacholia reshuffled his portfolio through bulk deals on March 20, offloading a significant stake in Naman Industries Proxima while making a fresh investment in Aelea Commodities.

Kacholia sold around 10.78 lakh shares, representing an 8.25 percent stake in Naman Industries Proxima, at a price of ₹53.41 per share. The total transaction value stood at approximately ₹5.76 crore. The move marks a notable exit from the company, where he previously held a sizeable position.

At the same time, the seasoned investor shifted focus to Aelea Commodities, where he purchased 7.73 lakh shares at ₹120.50 apiece, amounting to an investment of about ₹9.32 crore. This indicates a strategic reallocation of capital into a different microcap opportunity, possibly reflecting his confidence in its growth potential despite recent market volatility.

Shares of Naman Industries Proxima were trading slightly higher after the transaction, closing near ₹51.50, showing marginal gains during the session. The stock movement suggests that the bulk deal did not trigger immediate negative sentiment, even as a prominent investor reduced his exposure.



Apart from Kacholia's trades, several institutional investors were also active in the market. Norges Bank sold shares in Zee Entertainment Enterprises, while Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund trimmed its stake in NIIT. Other transactions included stake sales in Tridhya Tech and Monika Alcobev, highlighting continued activity in the bulk deals segment across exchanges.

Meanwhile, India Capital Man-

agement picked up shares in Ganesha Ecosphere, indicating selective buying interest among domestic institutional players. Such mixed activity reflects a broader trend where investors are rotating portfolios and adjusting positions amid evolving market conditions.

Overall, the latest bulk deals underline a dynamic investment environment, with marquee investors like Kacholia actively rebalancing their holdings. While

his exit from Naman Industries Proxima signals caution or profit-taking in that counter, his fresh bet on Aelea Commodities points toward a continued appetite for emerging opportunities in the small and microcap space.

Market participants will closely watch these developments, as moves by well-known investors often influence broader sentiment and provide cues on potential investment trends in the coming sessions.

Viral Lookalike Clears the Air: "I'm Not Epstein, I'm Just Palm Beach Pete"



A Florida man who recently became an internet sensation due to his uncanny resemblance to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein has finally spoken out, putting an end to widespread online speculation. Known on social media as "Palm Beach Pete," the man found himself at the center of a viral storm after a short video of him driving went viral, with many users claiming Epstein was still alive.

The clip, reportedly filmed on a highway, showed Pete casually driving a convertible while wearing a backward baseball cap. The person recording the video repeatedly suggested that Epstein had been spotted alive, fueling conspiracy theories and sparking millions of views across platforms. The resemblance was striking enough that many viewers were convinced the controversial figure had somehow resurfaced.

However, Pete has firmly denied these claims. In a response video shared online, he introduced himself and addressed the rumors directly, stating clearly that he is not Epstein. He explained that he had no idea he was being filmed at the time and only realized what had happened hours later when his phone was flooded with notifications.

According to him, the sudden at-

tention was overwhelming. What started as a random moment on the road quickly turned into a viral phenomenon, drastically changing his daily life. He revealed that strangers now recognize him in public, often approaching him for photos or questioning his identity.

Pete described the experience as surreal, noting how quickly misinformation can spread online. He expressed surprise at how easily people believed the claims, despite there being no factual basis behind them. The incident highlights the power of social media in amplifying rumors and the speed at which false narratives can gain traction.

The confusion largely stems from Epstein's notoriety and the lingering public fascination surrounding his life and death. Epstein, who died in 2019 while awaiting trial on serious criminal charges, continues to be the subject of numerous conspiracy theories.

In the end, Pete's message is simple: he is just an ordinary individual who happens to resemble a well-known figure. While the internet may have briefly turned him into a viral mystery, he hopes his clarification will finally put the rumors to rest.

"One Month, Endless Chaos": Why March 2026 Feels Like an Entire Year Online



March 2026 has taken over social media conversations, with many users joking that the single month feels as long and eventful as an entire year. From global tensions to academic stress and cultural moments, the sheer volume and pace of events have left people both overwhelmed and amused.

Across platforms, users have been sharing memes and posts highlighting how packed the month has been. Many point out that major developments—ranging from geopolitical conflicts to exam season pressures—have all collided within a short span of time. The combination has created a sense that time is moving unusually fast, while also feeling stretched due to the intensity of daily updates.

One of the biggest contributors to this feeling is the ongoing global uncertainty. News related to international conflicts has dominated headlines, keeping people constantly engaged with serious developments. At the same time, students in many regions are dealing with crucial exams, adding personal stress to an already heavy news cycle.

Social media has amplified this perception. With constant notifications, trending topics, and viral discussions, users are exposed to a nonstop stream

of information. What might have once felt like events spread over several months are now being consumed within days or even hours. This rapid flow of content has made March feel unusually dense and emotionally exhausting for many.

Memes have played a major role in shaping the narrative. Users are humorously comparing March 2026 to a "full year," sharing posts that list everything that has happened so far in the month. Others joke about feeling mentally drained, as if they've already lived through several phases of a year in just a few weeks.

The phenomenon also reflects a broader trend of how people experience time in the digital age. With information constantly at their fingertips, individuals are more aware of global and local events than ever before. This heightened awareness can make periods of intense activity feel longer and more significant.

Ultimately, the online reaction to March 2026 highlights how perception of time is influenced not just by the calendar, but by the volume and impact of events. While the month may only have 31 days, for many on the internet, it already feels like they've lived through much more.

Lost at Birth, Found After 28 Years: Woman Reunites With Biological Family

In a deeply emotional story of separation and reunion, a Chinese woman raised in the Netherlands has finally met her biological parents after nearly three decades. Her journey, marked by loss, uncertainty, and hope, highlights the power of persistence and modern technology in reconnecting families.

The woman, identified as Hong Yangli, was abandoned shortly after birth under tragic circumstances. According to reports, her grandfather, influenced by a preference for a male heir, took the newborn away from her mother under the pretense of caring for her. Instead, he left the infant in a public place in a nearby village, an act that would separate mother and daughter for 28 long years.

Just two days old, the baby was discovered crying by a passerby and taken to a welfare home. She was left with a small amount of money, milk powder, and a note containing her date of birth—clues that would later become crucial in uncovering her identity. Soon after, she was adopted by a Dutch couple and



grew up in the Netherlands, far removed from her origins in China.

Despite having a stable upbringing, questions about her roots remained. As she grew older, the desire to understand her past and find her biological family became stronger. In December 2024, she took a significant step by submitting her DNA to a Chinese database designed to help locate miss-

ing children and reconnect families.

The decision proved life-changing. The DNA match eventually led authorities to her biological parents, who had spent years wondering about the fate of their daughter. Her mother revealed that the day her child was taken away was the last time she saw her, carrying the pain of that loss for decades.

The reunion, when it

finally happened, was filled with overwhelming emotions. After 28 years of separation, mother and daughter were able to meet face-to-face, bridging a gap created by circumstances beyond their control. The moment symbolized closure, healing, and a second chance at building a relationship.

This story sheds light on the lasting impact of cultural pressures and

the consequences of gender bias, while also offering a message of hope. Advances in DNA technology are increasingly helping people uncover long-lost connections, turning what once seemed impossible into reality.

For Hong, the reunion marks not just the end of a long search, but the beginning of a new chapter—one that reconnects her with her past while shaping her future.

"Find Me a Flat, Get Paid": Frustrated Bengaluru Tenant's Unique Offer Goes Viral

A frustrated house-hunter in Bengaluru has caught the internet's attention after making an unusual offer—promising to pay half a month's rent to anyone who helps them find a suitable home. The post, shared on social media, reflects the growing challenges of finding affordable housing in the city's competitive rental market.

The tenant, struggling to secure a 3BHK apartment, took to Reddit with a straightforward yet striking proposal. They offered a financial reward to literally anyone who could connect them with a suitable property, saying they were "super frustrated" after an exhausting search. The requirement was specific: a good 2.5 or 3BHK flat in prime areas such as Koramangala or HSR Layout.

The budget mentioned in the post ranged between ₹45,000 and ₹48,000 per month. However, even with this relatively high budget, the user found it



extremely difficult to find a suitable option in preferred locations. The post quickly gained traction, with many users reacting to both the desperation and creativity behind the offer.

Social media users responded with a mix of sympathy and realism. While some shared potential leads and tried to

help, many pointed out that finding a 3BHK within that budget in these areas is increasingly rare. The discussion highlighted how rising rents and high demand have made house-hunting in Bengaluru a stressful experience for many residents.

The viral post also sparked a broader conversation about the city's

rental crisis. Over the past few years, Bengaluru has seen a sharp rise in housing costs, especially in tech-centric neighborhoods. Many tenants have complained about inflated rents, unusual conditions set by landlords, and limited availability of spacious homes.

This is not an isolated case. Similar viral posts

in the past have shown how renters are often forced to stretch their budgets or compromise on location and amenities. The increasing demand for larger homes, particularly 3BHK apartments, has further pushed prices upward, making them inaccessible for many middle-income tenants.

The tenant's offer, though unconventional, reflects a deeper issue—how difficult it has become to secure a decent home even with a substantial budget. It also shows how social media is increasingly being used as a tool for problem-solving, where users turn to the internet for help beyond traditional brokers and listings.

In the end, the post is both a humorous and telling snapshot of urban life in Bengaluru—where finding the right home can feel like winning a jackpot, and sometimes, even that requires a reward.

"You're Underselling Your City": Mumbaikar Praises Delhi After 14 Years

A lifelong resident of Mumbai has gone viral online after sharing an unexpectedly positive experience of visiting Delhi, saying the capital is far better than people often claim. His remarks have sparked fresh debate in the long-standing rivalry between the two cities.

In a widely shared Reddit post, the traveller revealed that he had visited Delhi after a gap of 14 years and was "humbled" by how much the city had improved. What stood out most to him was the overall infrastructure, which he described as more advanced and well-planned than he had anticipated.

One of the biggest highlights of his visit was the city's metro system. He praised its scale, efficiency, and connectivity, noting that it made commuting significantly easier compared to what he was used to. The metro, in particular, left a strong impression, contributing to his changed perception of the capital.

The visitor also pointed out that Delhi felt cleaner



than expected. While the city often faces criticism for pollution and congestion, he said his personal experience was quite different. He noticed better-maintained public spaces and an overall sense of order that challenged his

earlier assumptions.

Another aspect that surprised him was the weather. Compared to Mumbai's humid climate, Delhi's conditions felt more pleasant during his visit. This added to his overall positive impression and made

his stay more enjoyable.

He also observed differences in how the two cities are structured. According to him, Delhi has a clearer separation between different types of neighborhoods, whereas Mumbai tends to have a more

mixed urban layout. This distinction gave Delhi a more organized feel in his view.

His post quickly gained traction, with many social media users agreeing that Delhi is often unfairly criticized. Others, however, pointed out that experiences can vary depending on the area and time of visit, and that both cities have their own strengths and challenges.

The viral reaction reflects how deeply people identify with their cities, especially when it comes to Mumbai and Delhi—two of India's most iconic urban centers. While Mumbai is known for its fast-paced life and financial importance, Delhi is often associated with its history, political significance, and expanding infrastructure.

In the end, the traveller's message was simple but impactful: sometimes, cities are judged more by reputation than reality. And in his experience, Delhi turned out to be far more impressive than he had imagined.

IPL 2026 Row: Overseas Players Criticised for Missing Season Start

A fresh controversy has erupted ahead of the Indian Premier League 2026 season, with overseas players facing criticism for missing the opening matches despite being signed for significant sums.

With the tournament set to begin soon, several franchises are struggling with the delayed arrival of foreign recruits. Many of these players are unavailable for the initial phase due to international commitments, injuries, or workload management, leaving teams short-handed at the start of the competition.

The issue has sparked strong reactions from former cricketers and experts, who questioned the commitment of overseas stars. One sharp remark that gained attention was: "You will come for 7 matches, take 1 crore and leave," highlighting frustration over players earning hefty contracts while participating only partially in the season.

Franchises invest heavily in foreign players during auctions, often paying crores to secure their services. However, when these players miss early matches, team combinations are disrupted, forcing management to reshuffle line-ups and rely on backup options. This creates both strategic and financial concerns for franchises aiming for a strong start.



The problem is not entirely new but appears more pronounced this season due to a combination of injuries and international scheduling conflicts. Several teams are already dealing with unavailable overseas stars, raising concerns about squad balance and competitiveness in the early stages.

Experts believe that such situations undermine the value proposition of high-priced signings. Fans and analysts argue that players should ideally be available for the full season,

especially considering the scale and expectations associated with the league.

On the other hand, some voices within the cricketing community have defended the players, pointing out that international duties and injury management are legitimate reasons for delayed participation. With cricket calendars becoming increasingly crowded, clashes between franchise leagues and national commitments are becoming more common.

The controversy has reignited

discussions about whether stricter rules or revised contracts are needed to ensure better player availability. Suggestions include partial payment structures or mandatory availability clauses to protect franchise interests.

As the season approaches, teams will hope their overseas stars join quickly and make an impact. However, the debate has once again highlighted the challenges of managing a global T20 league in an increasingly packed international cricket calendar.

Sivaramakrishnan Targets BCCI Official After Quitting Commentary Over 'Racism' Row



Former India cricketer Laxman Sivaramakrishnan has stirred controversy after stepping down from his long-standing commentary role, alleging "colour discrimination" and later clarifying that his grievance is directed at a specific individual within the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

The former leg-spinner announced his decision after expressing frustration over being consistently overlooked for key on-field roles such as toss duties and post-match presentations, despite being part of the commentary setup for over two decades. His remarks quickly went viral on social media, triggering widespread debate within the cricketing community.

In a social media exchange, Sivaramakrishnan appeared to agree with a comment suggesting that "colour discrimination" could be a reason behind his lack of opportunities. The statement intensified the controversy, with many questioning whether bias existed within the system.

However, he later issued a clarification, stating that his criticism was not aimed at the entire BCCI administration. He emphasized that the issue was "one-on-one" with a particular employee and insisted that top officials, including Jay Shah, were not involved in the matter.

Sivaramakrishnan also made it clear

that his decision to quit commentary was personal, adding that he wanted to take control of his professional life after years of perceived neglect. His exit has sparked conversations about opportunities and fairness in cricket broadcasting roles.

The development drew reactions from members of the cricket fraternity, including Ravichandran Ashwin, who expressed disappointment over the veteran's sudden move and questioned the timing of his departure ahead of major tournaments.

Sivaramakrishnan, who began his commentary career around 2000, has been a prominent voice in Indian cricket broadcasting. As a player, he was known for his match-winning performances, particularly during India's successful 1985 World Championship campaign.

The controversy has now placed a spotlight on the functioning of commentary panels and the allocation of on-field roles, raising broader questions about transparency and equal opportunity within cricket administration.

While the BCCI has not officially responded to the allegations, the incident has generated significant discussion, with fans and experts divided over the claims and their implications for Indian cricket.

Afghanistan Star Celebrates Birthday with Mumbai Indians After Emotional Message to India

Afghanistan cricketer Rashid Khan found himself in the spotlight once again, this time for a heartwarming moment with his Indian Premier League franchise Mumbai Indians, shortly after making headlines for his emotional message to India.

Rashid, who had earlier expressed solidarity with India following deadly air strikes in Pakistan, celebrated his birthday with teammates in the Mumbai Indians camp. The franchise shared glimpses of the celebration, where players and support staff came together to mark the occasion, reflecting strong camaraderie within the squad.

The Afghan star had recently drawn attention on social media after posting a message extending support to India during a tense geopolitical situation. His gesture was widely appreciated



by Indian fans, strengthening his popularity across the country where he already enjoys a massive following due to his IPL performances.

The birthday celebration added a lighter moment amid the

serious backdrop of global tensions. Teammates were seen cutting a cake and sharing laughs, highlighting the close-knit environment within the Mumbai Indians setup ahead of the IPL 2026 season.

Rashid Khan, one of the most sought-after T20 players in the world, has been a consistent performer in franchise cricket. Known for his match-winning leg-spin and handy lower-order batting, he remains a key figure in any team he represents.

His association with the IPL has made him a household name in India, and his off-field gestures—such as his recent message—have further endeared him to fans. The latest celebration with Mumbai Indians once again showcased the blend of professionalism and camaraderie that defines the league.

As IPL 2026 approaches, Mumbai Indians will be counting on Rashid's experience and skill to deliver strong performances, while fans continue to rally behind one of the game's most charismatic stars.

Goenka, Rishabh Pant Visit Ram Janmabhoomi Ahead of IPL 2026



Ahead of the upcoming IPL 2026 season, Sanjiv Goenka, owner of Lucknow Super Giants, along with team captain Rishabh Pant, visited the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya to offer prayers.

The visit comes just days before the start of the IPL 2026 season, with the team seeking blessings ahead of the tournament. Goenka, Pant, and other members of the Lucknow Super Giants squad paid respects at the temple, marking a spiritual beginning to their campaign.

Speaking after the visit, Goenka emphasized the importance of faith, stating that offering prayers brings positivity and helps everything fall into place. The franchise also shared moments from the visit on social media, highlighting the team's unity and enthusiasm before the season.

The trip is being seen as a morale-boosting exercise for the squad as they prepare for

a competitive season. Teams often engage in such activities to strengthen team spirit and focus ahead of major tournaments.

Pant, who is leading the franchise, has also been actively involved in pre-season preparations. He recently spoke about the team's readiness and the addition of experienced coaching staff, expressing confidence in the squad's balance and performance potential.

The Lucknow Super Giants, who are still chasing their maiden IPL title, will be looking to start the season strongly. With a mix of experienced international players and promising domestic talent, the team aims to improve on past performances and emerge as strong contenders.

As IPL 2026 approaches, the visit reflects not just tradition and belief, but also the team's intent to begin their campaign on a positive and unified note.

No Place for Phil Salt in Ex-India Star's RCB XI for IPL 2026



Former India cricketer Wasim Jaffer has made a surprising call in his predicted playing XI for Royal Challengers Bengaluru ahead of IPL 2026, leaving out England wicketkeeper-batter Phil Salt.

Instead of Salt, Jaffer backed young talent Jacob Bethell to open the innings alongside Virat Kohli, opting for a different top-order combination. The decision raised eyebrows, considering Salt's reputation as an explosive opener and his strong T20 credentials.

Jaffer's XI features Kohli and Bethell as openers, followed by captain Rajat Patidar at No. 3. He slotted Venkatesh Iyer at No. 4 to maintain a left-right balance in the batting order. In the middle order, he picked Tim David and wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma, both known for their finishing abilities.

The all-rounders in his lineup include Romario Shepherd and Krunal Pandya, providing both batting depth and bowl-

ing options. In the bowling department, Jaffer selected Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Nuwan Thushara, and Yash Dayal as the pace trio, while Suyash Sharma was named as the Impact Player.

Jaffer's exclusion of Phil Salt appears to be a tactical decision rather than a reflection of form, focusing on team balance and combinations. His preference for Bethell suggests an emphasis on flexibility and variety at the top of the order.

The selection highlights the depth in RCB's squad, where multiple players are competing for limited spots. It also underlines the challenge team management faces in finalizing the best XI ahead of the season.

As defending champions, RCB enter IPL 2026 with high expectations. While Jaffer's XI may not reflect the final lineup, it has certainly sparked debate among fans and experts over the ideal combination for the team.

KKR Suffer Fresh Blow as Akash Deep Ruled Out of IPL 2026



Kolkata Knight Riders have been dealt another major setback ahead of IPL 2026, with pacer Akash Deep ruled out of the tournament, adding to their growing injury concerns.

The development comes shortly after the team lost key fast bowler Harshit Rana, who has already been ruled out of the entire season due to a knee injury. With Akash Deep now also unavailable, KKR's pace attack has taken a significant hit just days before the tournament begins.

Akash Deep, who was picked by the franchise for ₹1 crore in the auction, was expected to play an important role in strengthening the bowling unit. However, his injury has forced the team to rethink its plans and explore replacement options ahead of the season opener.

Harshit Rana's absence itself was a big blow for the franchise, as he had been a key contributor in recent seasons. The young pacer suffered a ligament injury in his knee and underwent surgery, ruling him out of action for an extended period. His

unavailability has already left a gap in the team's bowling lineup.

KKR's troubles don't end there. Overseas pacer Matheesha Pathirana is also expected to miss the initial phase of the tournament due to fitness concerns, further weakening the team's fast-bowling resources.

With multiple frontline pacers unavailable, the franchise is now under pressure to find suitable replacements or rely on bench strength. Team management is reportedly evaluating several options to fill the gaps and maintain balance in the squad.

The injury crisis comes at a crucial time, as KKR aim to mount a strong campaign in IPL 2026. With their bowling department significantly affected, the team will need quick adjustments to stay competitive in the early stages of the tournament.

As the season approaches, all eyes will be on how KKR responds to these setbacks and whether their backup players can step up in the absence of key pacers.

Allu Arjun's Upcoming Films Spark Buzz, Big Birthday Reveals Expected

Allu Arjun continues to dominate headlines as excitement builds around his upcoming film projects. While multiple reports have been circulating about his next ventures, key details remain tightly under wraps, adding to the mystery and anticipation among fans.

One of the most talked-about projects is his collaboration with director Atlee. The film has reportedly already entered the shooting phase, with schedules progressing in Mumbai under high secrecy. Despite the scale of the project, there has been no official confirmation regarding the film's title, storyline, or even Allu Arjun's look. This deliber-

ate silence has only heightened curiosity, with fans eager to know what the duo is preparing.

Equally intriguing is Allu Arjun's upcoming film with Lokesh Kanagaraj. Although the project has been officially announced, crucial details such as the female lead, supporting cast, and plot remain undisclosed. Given Lokesh Kanagaraj's reputation for delivering stylish and intense action dramas, expectations for this collaboration are already sky-high.

Amid this growing buzz, reports suggest that the makers are planning a series of major announcements on April 8, which

marks Allu Arjun's birthday. The date is expected to serve as a platform for unveiling key updates across multiple projects.

For the Atlee film, industry sources indicate that the first look could be released on the same day, along with the official title and possibly even the release date. Such a reveal would give fans their first glimpse into what is being described as a large-scale entertainer.

At the same time, initial details about the Lokesh Kanagaraj project are also likely to be shared. This could include information about the cast, storyline, or production timeline, offering more clarity on the

much-awaited film. Additionally, there are strong indications that updates on other potential projects involving Allu Arjun may also be announced during this period. Reports suggest that fans could receive back-to-back announcements over two to three days, making it a celebratory phase for his followers.

With multiple high-profile collaborations lined up and major reveals expected, Allu Arjun's birthday is shaping up to be a significant moment for Tollywood. Fans are eagerly counting down to April 8, hoping for a complete picture of the star's exciting cinematic lineup.



Karthi Continues Spy Thriller Streak with 'Marshal'

Karthi is set to continue his successful run in the spy thriller genre, with strong buzz surrounding his upcoming film Marshal. After the success of Sardar, which marked a turning point in his career, the actor is once again stepping into an intense espionage-driven narrative.

Marshal is being developed as a large-scale spy thriller with a gripping storyline and a broader international backdrop. The film is expected to revolve around a covert operative who navigates dangerous global missions to safeguard national interests, facing a powerful and complex conspiracy.

One of the major highlights of the project is its focus on high-end action. The makers are reportedly planning Hollywood-style sequences, incorporating advanced stunt choreography and martial arts-based combat. The aim is to deliver a visually striking and technically superior action experience that raises the bar compared to Karthi's previous films.

The screenplay is said to be packed with unexpected twists and a fast-paced narrative designed to keep audiences engaged throughout. Unlike his earlier spy outing, which dealt with localized issues, this film is expected to explore a much wider international threat, making it more ambitious in scale and storytelling.

Karthi is also undergoing a significant transformation for the role. He is reportedly training extensively to meet the physical de-

mands of the character, including working with expert trainers to prepare for intense action sequences. This dedication indicates the importance of the project in his career trajectory.

The film is being directed by Tamizh, who is known for his grounded storytelling style. With Marshal, he is expected to blend realism with high-scale action, offering a unique take on the spy thriller genre.

In addition to this project, Karthi also has Sardar 2 in the pipeline, further strengthening his position as a leading actor in content-driven action films.

With its combination of strong narrative, global appeal, and cutting-edge action, Marshal is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated films in Karthi's lineup. Fans are eagerly awaiting official announcements and teaser releases to get a glimpse of what promises to be an intense cinematic experience.



Ramya's Harsh Review: Calls 'Dhurandhar 2' a Big Disappointment

Kannada actor and politician Ramya has strongly criticised Dhurandhar 2, sharing a brutally honest review on her social media shortly after watching the film. Her comments have now sparked widespread discussion online. In her reaction, Ramya described the film as an "endurance test," saying that what starts as a promising premise quickly turns into a tiring and dull experience. She compared watching the film to "reading a boring textbook," adding that it fails to keep the audience engaged and instead leaves them exhausted. She didn't spare the technical aspects either. Ramya criticized the direction, dialogues, editing, background score, and performances, calling them "consistently subpar." According to her, the sequel lacks the intensity and emo-

tional grip that the first part had, and theatres this time seemed filled with disappointment rather than excitement.

Ramya also took a dig at lead actor Ranveer Singh, questioning claims that he carries the film. In a sarcastic tone, she remarked that the only thing she noticed was his hairstyle, which she felt lacked the charm seen in the previous installment. The film's heavy use of violence also came under fire. She described it as a "visual handbook of brutality," stating that the excessive violent scenes eventually feel exaggerated and even unintentionally comical. In her closing remarks, Ramya criticised director Aditya Dhar for what she called outdated jingoism and propaganda, urging him to move beyond such themes.

Pan India Film KORAGAJJA of Sudheer Attavar will be in 3D Technology

Sudheer Attavar's Koragajja, which was preparing for its theatrical release, has been postponed once again but this time for a compelling reason. Marking Ugadi, the team revealed that the film will now be presented in 3D technology, adding a fresh layer of excitement to the project.

While most 3D films are shot natively during production, converting a completed 2D film into 3D is an expensive and complex process. However, after watching the final cut, an international distribution company reportedly labelled Koragajja a "world-class film," praising its locations, production quality, and cinematic scale. They recommended a premium 3D conversion, suggesting that it could elevate the film's impact and help it connect with global audiences beyond language barriers.

Considering this, producer Trivikram Sapalya has decided to release Koragajja in both 2D and 3D formats under the banners of Trivikram Cinemas and Success Films. Director Sudheer Attavar expressed his delight over the upgrade, with a dedicated team of nearly 40



professionals currently working on the conversion.

To enhance the visual experience further, the climax has been reshot underwater. The sequence was filmed at the "Vismaya" studio in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, owned by Malayalam star Mohanlal. A custom underwater set was built for the shoot, with cinematographer Manoj Pillai capturing the scenes using four cameras.

Actress Shruti performed the underwater portions herself, a rarity in Kannada cinema since the era of Dr. Rajkumar. She underwent nearly 15 days of training before performing the high-risk stunts. Safety teams, in-

cluding scuba divers, medical staff, and an ambulance, were stationed throughout the shoot.

One of the standout moments involved Shruti leaping from a height of almost 30 feet into water with a harness and resurfacing on camera. She also performed a 22-second underwater take without oxygen support, showcasing remarkable commitment.

These additions have significantly increased the film's budget, with producer Trivikram Sapalya investing an additional 12 crore solely for the underwater sequence, as confirmed by executive producer Vidyadhar Shetty.

Shambhala Makers Reunite for a Grand Pan-India Socio-Fantasy Spectacle with SundEEP KISHAN

After delivering the blockbuster success Shambhala, the acclaimed production house Shining Pictures is once again joining hands with visionary filmmaker Ugandhar Muni for an even more ambitious cinematic venture. Produced by Mahidhar Reddy and Rajashekhar Annabhimoju, the banner earlier created a strong impact with Shambhala, starring Aadi Saikumar, which turned out to be a sensational hit.

The makers also unveiled a striking concept poster to kickstart the film's announcement. The poster features a fierce face-off between a lion and a wolf, symbolizing an epic clash of power, destiny, and primal force. Between them stands an ancient sword glowing

against the backdrop of a mystical battlefield. The poster is accompanied by the impactful tagline: "Some wars never end. Some kings never die." The artwork sets the tone for a massive fantasy adventure and hints at the grandeur the team is gearing up to deliver.

For their next project, the makers have roped in talented actor SundEEP KISHAN to play the lead. Known for his energetic screen presence and versatility, SundEEP is said to be excited about stepping into a completely new space with this socio-fantasy thriller. The film is expected to showcase him in a powerful and never-seen-before avatar, further expanding his range as a performer.

This marks the second collaboration between the director and the producers, and they are determined to raise the creative and technical bar even higher this time. The upcoming venture is

being planned on a massive scale and is said to be one of the costliest films in SundEEP KISHAN's career. The makers are leaving no stone unturned in terms of production design, visual effects, and storytelling to ensure a rich cinematic experience.

Fueled by strong creative synergy, the team is developing a large-scale socio-fantasy drama aimed at captivating audiences across the country. With an eye on wider reach, the film is being strategically planned for a grand pan-India release, targeting viewers from multiple linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Shining Pictures, already recognized for its meticulous craftsmanship and high-quality promotional strategies during Shambhala, is expected to bring the same level of excellence, and possibly surpass it, with this new project. While the storyline is currently under wraps, the makers assure that the film will of-



fer a unique blend of fantasy elements and mainstream commercial appeal.

More exciting updates about the cast and technical crew are expected to be announced soon. Pre-production is currently in progress, and the regular shoot is scheduled to begin in August 2026.



Bichagadu Combo Is Back, Vijay Antony-Sasi Team Up Again For Vanda Devullu, Vishnu Manchu Unveiled First Look

The much-loved Bichagadu combination is back as actor Vijay Antony joins forces again with acclaimed director Sasi for their new rural drama, Vanda Devullu. Produced by Vijay Antony Film Corporation in association with Sarvanth Ram Creations and Ramanjaneyulu Javvaji Productions, and presented by Fatima Vijay Antony, the film promises a gritty and emotionally charged narrative set against a rustic backdrop.

The female lead is portrayed by Swasika, while Ajay Dhis-

han, Karunaas, Lijmol, and Kavaya Anil appear in pivotal roles. The first-look poster, unveiled by Dynamic Star and MAA President Vishnu Manchu, immediately establishes the film's intense rural tone. Vijay Antony is featured in a rugged avatar, standing amidst cornfields in a worn beige shirt and traditional headscarf, holding a sickle—a clear symbol of his identity as a farmer. Beside him, Swasika dons a traditional saree, her serious, contemplative expression reflecting resilience and

inner strength. The film's poster hints at the emotional and narrative depth audiences can expect, emphasizing both hardship and heroism in a rural setting.

On the technical front, S.B. Darshan Kirlosh handles cinematography, while Balaji Sriram composes the music. Harish Yuvaraj serves as editor, and V. Sasi Kumar is in charge of art direction. Raman Kumar choreographs action sequences, while Viji Sathesh directs dance numbers. The lyrics are penned by Mohan

Rajan, with D. Naveen Kumar as executive producer and Sai Satish as PRO.

The film is currently in the production phase, with shooting underway across rural locations. The makers aim to craft a visually immersive socio-rural narrative that blends emotional drama with authentic depictions of village life.

With a talented ensemble cast including Vijay Antony, Swasika, Ajay, Kavaya, Sakthi, Padini, Balaji Sakthivel, Dewakar, Arul Doss, Bucks, Vinodhini, Munish Kanth, and Kodan-

gi Vadivelu, Vanda Devullu is poised to engage audiences with its raw storytelling and strong performances.

Fans of the Vijay Antony-Sasi duo can expect another power-packed cinematic experience, combining strong character arcs, immersive rural visuals, and a socially resonant narrative. The film is slated to make a Pan-Indian impact, aiming to captivate audiences across multiple regions with its rustic charm and dramatic intensity.