

BUZZ POINTS



Bastar Emerging from Red Terror, Development Picks Up Pace: Amit Shah

PAGE 07



US Deploys 57,000 Troops To Middle East, Raising Fears Of Ground War With Iran

PAGE 08



Nadendra Manohar Reviews Paddy Procurement System in Nellore District

PAGE 02



BJP Demands Action on Temple Land Protection and Communal Unrest in Andhra Pradesh

PAGE 03

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Chandrababu Naidu Inaugurates Mass Housing Program in Nayudupeta

Nayudupeta, March 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu participated in a large-scale housing hand-over program at Pudur village in Nayudupeta Mandal on Monday. The event, organized as part of the state's ongoing efforts to provide homes to the underprivileged, saw the distribution of 2,064 TIDCO houses to beneficiaries.

Several dignitaries attended the ceremony, including Municipal and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana, Housing and Information Minister Kolu Parthasarathi, District In-Charge Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, MLA Nelavai Vijayashree, AP State Housing Corporation Chairman B. Tatayya Babu, APTIDCO Chairman Vemulapati Ajay Kumar, Housing Department Principal Secretary Ajay Jain, Municipal and Urban Development Secretary Suresh Kumar, District Collector Dr. S. Venkateshwar, SP Subbarayudu, among others.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Naidu said that over the past year, the state government has worked to balance development and welfare, improving living conditions



for economically disadvantaged families. "This program marks a historic step, fulfilling the dream of homeownership for more than 2.5 lakh families statewide. Each house handed over is a step toward a brighter future for these families," he stated. The Chief Minister noted that despite economic challenges between 2019-24, the government has successfully ensured timely welfare disbursements and completion of essential development projects. Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana highlighted the significance of TIDCO housing projects, stating that the initiative, launched in 2014-19, aims to provide durable, high-quality homes. He

added that homes have been designed in three sizes—300, 365, and 430 sq. ft.—incorporating modern Shear Wall technology, A-grade tiles, teak doors, granite platforms in kitchens, stainless steel sinks, underground drainage, and sewage treatment plants. These houses are part of fully developed gated communities with parks, gyms, playgrounds, schools, hospitals, and community halls. The program also included the completion of 16,000 houses under the Beneficiary Led Construction scheme, with 4,260 homes in the Sullurupeta constituency handed over during the event. The District Collector emphasized that strong foundations in housing are es-

sential for secure futures, expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Naidu for his leadership and commitment.

Beneficiaries, including Adilakshmi, shared emotional testimonies, expressing joy at finally receiving their own homes after years of living in rented accommodation. Many credited the Chief Minister for fulfilling a lifelong dream and extending hope and stability to their families.

The event witnessed widespread participation from local officials, community leaders, and residents, marking a significant milestone in Andhra Pradesh's drive to provide safe, quality housing to all eligible families.

Chandrababu Naidu Highlights P4 Achievements at Annual Poverty Eradication Event

Tirupati, March 30 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu emphasized the importance of reducing economic inequality and improving the living standards of the underprivileged during the P4 annual celebrations held at Sri Padmavati Mahila University in Tirupati. The state government organized the event to mark a year of the P4 initiative, aimed at eradicating poverty and creating social role models among the golden families—those benefitting from the program.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister highlighted that today's empowered families can serve as guiding lights for society tomorrow. "Everyone must act with social responsibility and step forward to reduce inequalities, ensuring equal opportunities for all," he said. A video presentation showcased the impact of the P4 program, including financial assistance to golden families, livelihood support, skill training, educational aid, and housing improvements. The event also featured a live video conference with mentors and golden families from across the state.

Reflecting on P4's progress, Chandrababu Naidu said, "It is satisfying to see one year of this social revolution. Over the past 12 months, 1.06 lakh mentors have supported 10.97 lakh golden families, directly benefiting more than 2 lakh households. Our call for the top 10% of wealthier families to support the bottom 20% has received remarkable response." He noted that the program complements existing government initiatives, such as the Super Six scheme and pensions for 63



lakh beneficiaries, with a total annual outlay of 33,000 crore.

The Chief Minister also praised mentors and role models who selflessly guided and assisted the underprivileged. "The P4 movement, under the banner 'Give Back to the Society,' ensures sustained support. We must not stop mid-way but continue empowering families to achieve meaningful change," he said. Corporates like TVS, Mega, and Adani have collectively adopted 8,904 families, showcasing private sector participation. Awards were presented to outstanding mentors at state, district, and constituency levels, including titles like Ideal Mentor, Knowledge Mentor, and Social Cooperation Mentor. Chandrababu Naidu called on all citizens to actively participate as role models in building a welfare-driven and equitable society. He urged, "Let us extend support without limits to uplift the lives of those in need and collectively realize the vision of Golden Andhra 2047." The annual P4 journey handbook was released, and mentors who had significantly contributed to the program were felicitated with shawls, mementos, and certificates, celebrating a year of transformative social change.

Temple Controversy in Akiveedu Pedapeta

Political Pressure Over Public Sentiments?

West Godavari, TPN Bureau

The issue of temple construction in Akiveedu Pedapeta has gone beyond a routine development decision and turned into a sensitive matter where religious sentiments, public needs, and political positions have collided. Local opinions on one side, the determination of public representatives on the other, and former MP Harsha Kumar's opposition have together made the controversy even more complicated. Although the temple construction began as a local-level proposal in Akiveedu Pedapeta, it has now sparked political and social debate. The public's needs, religious beliefs, and representatives' decisions have intertwined to create a delicate situation.

What is the actual situation?

After the temple construction proposal was introduced, some villagers expressed the need to build a community hall instead, considering public utility. Since the village has people from different backgrounds, with a significant Christian population, they argued that a structure serving social needs would be more



What is the core issue?

This controversy is not just about temple vs community hall. It rests on three key conflicts: The Pedapeta controversy demonstrates how a small local issue can turn into a major debate. Respecting public sentiments and making decisions through coordination are the keys to a lasting solution.

beneficial. However, another group supported the temple construction. This led to clear differences of opinion within the village. Deputy Speaker's stance - the focal point of the controversy. The position taken by Andhra Pradesh Assembly Deputy Speaker Raghuram-krishna Raju on this issue has fueled the controversy. He has been criticized for being inflex-

- Public needs vs religious sentiments
Decisions of representatives vs local opinions
Social equality vs political influence
Way forward
To resolve the issue:
Engage in discussions with people from all communities
Prioritize the needs of villagers
Handle religious aspects delicately
Reduce political posturing and promote harmony

ible about the temple construction and not taking local requests into consideration. As a public representative, he is expected to balance the emotions of all communities, but making a unilateral decision has intensified tensions, say critics.

Harsha Kumar's response - political or social? Former MP G.V. Harsha Ku-

mar strongly highlighted the issue. He demanded that local opinions not be ignored and that decisions be made in line with public needs. However, opinions on his response are also divided. Some feel he is supporting the sentiments of Dalits and minorities, while others criticize him for politicizing the matter and escalating the controversy.

Vangalapudi Anitha Criticises YSRCP's Opposition Tactics

Andhra Pradesh, March 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has sharply criticised the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), accusing it of acting irresponsibly as an opposition while failing to focus on issues that affect the people of the state. Speaking at a media interaction in Prakasam district, Anitha said that opposition parties have a duty to provide constructive scrutiny and hold the government accountable, but YSRCP has repeatedly chosen theatrics over meaningful engagement.

She described recent political events and public protests orchestrated by the YSRCP as distractions that do little to address citizens' real concerns. According to Anitha, the party's focus on symbolic campaigns, controversial statements, and provocative demonstrations undermines the quality of democratic discourse and diminishes public trust in the political process. She emphasised that opposition parties must prioritise citizen welfare and developmental issues instead of resorting to spectacle politics.

Anitha also criticised specific statements by YSRCP leaders regarding arrests and



other controversial claims, stating that such rhetoric is often misleading and designed to shift attention away from governance outcomes. She said that the people have already expressed their opinion through the ballot box, indicating their expectations for accountability, reform, and effective administration. She warned that if the opposition continues on its current path, public dissatisfaction could grow further, reinforcing the demand for responsible political conduct.

The Home Minister highlighted that the government remains committed to development, law and order, and

public welfare across Andhra Pradesh. She pointed out that the ruling coalition has focused on completing key infrastructure projects, improving public services, and implementing welfare schemes aimed at empowering citizens and providing equal opportunities. Anitha contrasted these achievements with the opposition's repeated attempts to politicise routine governance matters instead of offering constructive alternatives.

Political analysts note that Anitha's remarks reflect growing tensions between the ruling party and the YSRCP, particularly as the state continues to implement major development initiatives. Her comments are seen as a strategic assertion of the government's focus on stability, accountability, and citizen-centric governance, while framing the opposition as unable to present viable solutions to pressing public issues. Concluding her remarks, Anitha called on all political parties to engage responsibly, maintain decorum in public discourse, and prioritise the welfare of the people above political theatrics. She stressed that the citizens of Andhra Pradesh deserve an opposition that contributes meaningfully to development while holding the government accountable.

Chandrababu Naidu Thanks Pawan Kalyan for TDP Anniversary Wishes

Amaravati, March 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has expressed gratitude to Deputy Chief Minister and Janasena Party leader Pawan Kalyan for his heartfelt wishes on the 44th anniversary of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Naidu highlighted the gesture as a reflection of political cooperation and shared commitment to the state's development and public welfare. Pawan Kalyan extended

his congratulations to the TDP, marking over four decades since its founding. In response, Chief Minister Naidu acknowledged the gesture, emphasizing the importance of alliance partners working together for the progress of Andhra Pradesh.

In his message, Naidu noted that Pawan Kalyan's support and constructive engagement demonstrate strong ideals and contribute significantly to governance and policy implementation. He underlined that cooperation between the TDP, the Ja-

nasena Party, and other allied parties is a positive force for achieving sustained socio-economic progress in the state.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the spirit of political alignment and collective effort demonstrated during the anniversary will continue, strengthening government initiatives aimed at delivering benefits to the public. He said that the experience and dedication of allied leaders play a meaningful role in the state's development trajectory.

The acknowledgment comes at a time when the Andhra Pradesh government is implementing major welfare and infrastructure programs, focusing on housing, rural development, employment generation, and social welfare schemes. Analysts note that public displays of unity between senior leaders of partner parties reinforce the message of cooperation and shared purpose, helping the government effectively execute its ambitious development agenda.



## Nadendra Manohar Reviews Paddy Procurement System in Nellore District

Amaravati March 30|TPN Bureau

State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendra Manohar visited the paddy procurement center at Inamadugu village in Kovur constituency of Nellore district on Monday, accompanied by Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy. During the visit, the Minister interacted directly with farmers, listened to their concerns, and assessed the ground-level challenges they are facing in the procurement process. He also personally inspected the moisture measurement procedures to ensure transparency and fairness.

Addressing a later, the Minister highlighted the government's commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests. He criticized the previous administration for allegedly failing to clear paddy dues worth 1,674 crore to farmers during the 2024 election year. He stated that the present coalition government has taken responsibility



for clearing these dues promptly.

Manohar emphasized that paddy procurement has significantly improved under the current government. While 29 lakh metric tonnes were procured earlier, the coalition government increased it to 34 lakh metric tonnes, with a record target of 51 lakh metric tonnes this year. In Nellore district alone, over 3,000 farmers have already been paid 160 crore.

He also spoke about reforms such as enabling farmers to choose nearby rice mills, even through WhatsApp, reducing transportation burden. The introduction of QR codes on each paddy bag ensures traceability

and transparency, giving due recognition to farmers.

The Minister assured that payments would be credited within eight hours of procurement and promised to procure every grain from farmers. He also announced that paddy with up to 22% moisture content would be accepted, and modern drying facilities would be made available.

Strict action was warned against rice mills that trouble farmers, including blacklisting. The Minister reiterated that the government aims to create a farmer-friendly system and is open to correcting any flaws with the support of media and public feedback.

## Andhra Pradesh Leads India's Largest Energy-Efficient Housing Drive Under PMAY

Amaravati March 30|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh has taken a pioneering step in sustainable development by launching India's largest energy-efficient housing initiative under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), in collaboration with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

The initiative was formally unveiled at Naidupeta in Tirupati district in the presence of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who reaffirmed the State's commitment to energy conservation and climate responsibility. Highlighting global energy challenges, the Chief Minister stressed that energy efficiency has become essential for economic stability and environmental protection. He called for a people-led movement to achieve national cli-



mate goals.

As part of the programme, Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Limited (APSHCL), in partnership with EESL and AP SEEDCO, has entered into a tripartite agreement to provide energy-efficient appliances to 5 lakh PMAY beneficiaries in the first phase. The agreement sets a national benchmark in integrating sustainability with housing for economically weaker sections.

Under this initiative, each household will receive four 6-watt LED bulbs, two 20-watt LED tube lights, and two 30-watt BLDC ceiling fans. These energy-efficient appliances will reduce the total connected load per household from 266 watts to 124 watts, achieving more than a 50 percent reduction. Annual electricity consumption is expected to decrease from 1,013.72 kWh to 456.88 kWh, resulting in yearly

savings of around 3,341 per household.

In addition to financial savings, the programme will significantly reduce carbon emissions by approximately 456.61 kg per household annually. This not only improves indoor comfort but also contributes to environmental sustainability and energy security.

Officials noted that the initiative will also benefit the State's power sector by reducing peak demand, easing pressure on distribution networks, and improving grid stability. The government reiterated its commitment to providing permanent housing to all eligible families by 2029, while ensuring these homes are energy-efficient.

EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit described the initiative as a milestone, stating that Andhra Pradesh is setting a strong example for the nation in sustainable housing and clean energy adoption.

## Drone Experience Center Launched in Bhimavaram, Minister Highlights Future of Technology

Amaravati March 30|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, inaugurated the JDK Drones Experience Center in Bhimavaram, calling it a significant step towards embracing advanced technology for the future. The center, described as a unique drone experience facility in the country, was launched in the presence of Assembly Deputy Speaker Kanumuri Raghurama Krishna Raju. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that adopting modern technology is essential to building a strong and sustainable future. He interacted with the organizers to understand the process

of drone manufacturing and their practical applications. He particularly appreciated the use of drones in agriculture, noting that they are bringing innovative and efficient changes to farming practices.

Ravindra stated that drone technology is proving to be highly beneficial in agriculture and aquaculture sectors, delivering impressive results. He stressed the importance of keeping pace with technological advancements and highlighted that the state government is giving top priority to the promotion of drone usage. He also mentioned that the government has already introduced a dedicated drone policy and established a drone park in Kurnool to encourage innovation in this sector. Highlighting

a recent example, the Minister credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for effectively using drone technology during the Vijayawada floods. He noted that drones played a crucial role in delivering food, medicines, and drinking water to people stranded in areas inaccessible to boats and vehicles. The Minister expressed confidence that the drone sector holds immense potential for growth in the coming years. He praised the establishment of the experience center in Bhimavaram, stating that it reflects foresight and vision. He further added that Andhra Pradesh is set to emerge as a hub for drone technology in the country, and initiatives like this center are strong indicators of that direction.

## Andhra Pradesh Warns of Population Decline 'Time Bomb', Unveils New Stabilization Policy

Amaravati March 30|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has raised serious concerns over the rapidly declining fertility rate in the state, warning that it could soon turn into a demographic "time bomb" if corrective measures are not taken. In a detailed press statement, the Minister revealed that the state's fertility rate has dropped to 1.50, significantly below the required 2.10 needed for population stability.

He cautioned that continued decline in birth rates would lead to severe socio-economic consequences, including a shrinking workforce and a sharp rise in the elderly population. If the trend persists, the state risks losing its demographic dividend by 2040 and may face a "population debt," where the burden of an aging



population outweighs economic productivity.

To address this challenge, the state government has formulated a new population stabilization policy framework with a target to achieve a fertility rate of 2.10 by 2035. Moving away from traditional population control approaches, the new policy focuses on creating a supportive environment that encourages families to volun-

tarily have more children.

The Minister highlighted that the policy aims to ensure maternal health, child welfare, youth development, and dignified elderly care. He stressed that women's empowerment will play a crucial role in achieving these goals. The government plans to increase women's participation in the workforce to over 60 percent, which is expected to signifi-

cantly boost the state's economic growth.

The policy is built on five key pillars—Maternity, Sanjeevani (health monitoring), Shakti (women empowerment), Kshema (elderly welfare), and Skill Development. These pillars are designed to work together to improve healthcare, social security, and economic opportunities across all age groups.

The Minister also pointed out that the state's median age is already higher than the national average, indicating faster aging of the population. He emphasized that the next decade is critical for achieving population balance and ensuring sustainable development.

The government will soon place the policy in the public domain for wider discussion, inviting participation from citizens, media, and stakeholders to build a collective movement toward population stabilization.

## Minister Gummidi Sandhya Rani Reviews Development Works in Alluri Sitarama Raju District

Amaravati March 30|TPN Bureau

State Minister Gummidi Sandhya Rani participated in the Budget and P4 review meetings held in the district, conducting a comprehensive assessment of development activities across all 11 mandals. The Minister reviewed the progress of welfare schemes, infrastructure projects, and the status of "Bangaru Kutumbalu" initiatives with district officials.

During the meeting, the Minister revealed that approximately 3,000 crore has been allocated for various development works in the district. She emphasized the need for effective implementation to ensure that the benefits reach the grassroots level, especially in tribal areas.

A key focus of the review was on resolving drinking wa-

ter issues in tribal villages. The Minister directed officials to take immediate steps to provide permanent solutions to water scarcity in every affected habitation. She also stressed the importance of improving rural road connectivity to eliminate difficulties faced by tribal people particularly the need to ensure proper transport access without dependence on manual carrying methods.

In the education and welfare sectors, Sandhya Rani instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of cooking gas in schools and hostels. She also highlighted the need for regular medical check-ups for students in nearly 200 hostels across the district, directing that doctors should frequently monitor students' health, especially after holidays.

The Minister further urged officials to ensure that all eligi-

ble beneficiaries receive government welfare schemes without delay or discrimination. Special attention, she said, must be given to improving education, healthcare, drinking water, and road infrastructure in tribal regions.

She appreciated the coordinated efforts of various departments in implementing development programmes effectively and called for continued teamwork to achieve better outcomes. During the meeting, several individuals were also felicitated for their contributions and guidance in district development initiatives.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, the Minister stated that focused efforts would continue to transform the district into a model region with inclusive growth and improved quality of life for all sections of society.

## PM Surya Ghar Scheme Launched in West

### Godavari, Minister Highlights Solar Benefits

Amaravati March 30|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar launched the PM Surya Ghar programme at Kovvada during his visit to West Godavari district, emphasizing the government's commitment to promoting renewable energy and reducing electricity costs for households. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister stated that the scheme is being implemented free of cost for SC and ST beneficiaries, enabling them to access solar power at no financial burden. He explained that under the scheme, households will receive subsidies of up to 60,000 for 2-kilowatt rooftop solar systems and up to 78,000 for 3-kilowatt systems. The Minister announced an ambitious target of completing at least 2,000 solar connections in every constituency by the time of Ambedkar Jayanti. He highlighted that beneficiaries can not only use the electricity generated for their own consumption but also sell surplus power

back to the government, creating an additional source of income. Ravi Kumar noted that power distribution companies (DISCOMs) purchase electricity at a rate exceeding 2 per unit, making the scheme financially beneficial for both the government and consumers. He added that the initiative would transform electricity users into energy producers, promoting self-sufficiency and sustainability. The Minister further explained that the PM Surya Ghar scheme would help reduce transmission losses by encouraging decentralized power generation. He also assured that under the upcoming PM Kusum scheme, farmers would soon receive nine hours of quality power supply for agricultural purposes. Highlighting the broader vision, the Minister said the state is moving towards clean and green energy solutions while ensuring affordability and reliability for all sections of society. He urged people to take advantage of the scheme and contribute to building a sustainable energy future.



## TIDCO Housing Brings Dream Homes to the Poor in Kadapa, Says Minister Savitha

Amaravati March 30|TPN Bureau

District In-charge Minister and State BC, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles Minister S. Savitha stated that the dream of owning a house for the poor has become a reality under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. She participated in a mass housewarming ceremony held at the TIDCO housing colony in Lakshminagar along with local MLA Madhavi Reddy. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that the TIDCO housing projects have been developed with modern infrastructure, wide roads, and improved amenities, resembling well-planned townships. She recalled that over 90 percent of TIDCO housing works were completed between 2014 and 2019, but alleged that the subsequent government failed to complete and hand over the houses to beneficiaries.

Savitha criticized the previous administration for neglecting the housing projects and leaving them incomplete, even in Kadapa district. She alleged that funds were misused and beneficiaries were burdened with loan repayments without receiving their homes, leading

to distress among the poor.

The Minister stated that with the formation of the coalition government, efforts were accelerated to complete the pending works and provide houses with all basic facilities. As part of this initiative, around 2.5 lakh TIDCO houses are being handed over to beneficiaries across the state.

She also highlighted that the concept of providing permanent housing to the poor was first introduced by former Chief Minister N. T. Rama Rao and is being carried forward by Chandrababu Naidu with renewed commitment. She praised the government for implementing several welfare schemes for women, including financial and social support initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Madhavi Reddy said that both the initiation and completion of TIDCO houses were made possible under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. During the program, house ownership documents were distributed to beneficiaries. The event was attended by District Collector Cherukuri Sridhar, public representatives, officials, and a large number of beneficiaries, marking a significant milestone in providing dignified housing to the poor.

## Strict Checks Intensified to Prevent Road Accidents, Warns Minister Rampasad Reddy

Amaravati March 30|TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Transport Minister Mandipalli Rampasad Reddy has announced intensified enforcement measures across the state to curb road accidents, particularly targeting overloaded private buses and unauthorized commercial transport activities.

In an official statement released from the Tadepalli camp office, the Minister directed transport and enforcement officials to take strict action against

private buses operating with excessive loads and carrying commercial goods illegally. He emphasized that such violations pose serious risks to passenger safety and cannot be tolerated.

Highlighting the ongoing inspections, the Minister revealed that a total of 976 buses were checked across the state on Sunday alone. Out of these, 193 buses were found to be operating without proper documentation, leading to the registration of cases and imposition of penalties. Rampasad Reddy stated

that special inspections are being carried out at 16 key, including toll plazas and check-posts, to monitor and regulate bus operations effectively. He noted that, following his directives, officials have intensified special drives to ensure compliance with safety norms and transport regulations.

The Minister made it clear that there would be zero tolerance towards violations of safety rules. "Strict action will be taken against those endangering passenger safety by ignoring traffic and transport regulations," he said.

He further stressed that ensuring the safety of passengers remains the top priority of the government. The Minister urged all transport operators and drivers to strictly adhere to traffic rules and safety standards to avoid penalties and contribute to safer roads.

Reiterating the government's commitment, Rampasad Reddy assured that continuous monitoring and enforcement drives will be carried out across Andhra Pradesh to reduce accidents and ensure a secure travel environment for the public.



# BJP Demands Action on Temple Land Protection and Communal Unrest in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravathi March 30 | ITPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh BJP Chief PVN Madhav has called for stringent action against those instigating violence and demanded immediate measures to safeguard Hindu temple lands across the state. In a press statement, he stated that BJP leaders have submitted representations at district collectorates statewide, highlighting concerns over temple land encroachments, lack of reconstruction of dilapidated temples, and the need to review existing government policies.

Speaking about the party's flagship outreach initiative "Janata Varadhi," Madhav said that during village and urban visits, trustees and devotees expressed deep concern over the protection of temple properties. He emphasized that

Hindu temples are not just places of worship but symbols of culture, tradition, and spirituality, with lakhs of acres of land representing the faith of millions of devotees.

Madhav expressed serious concern over recent incidents, including violence during the reconstruction of the Ramalayam in Akividu and attacks reported on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami. He condemned these acts and demanded strict action against those responsible for provoking unrest, stating that such incidents have caused anxiety among the Hindu community.

Highlighting the scale of the issue, he claimed that temple lands in Andhra Pradesh span approximately 4.7 lakh acres, of which around 1.5 lakh acres have allegedly been encroached upon. He further alleged that nearly 8,000 acres



have been taken over by the government in the name of development, raising fears about the diversion of temple assets

worth thousands of crores. The BJP leader also criticized proposals to merge temple lands into private survey

numbers and transfer them to individuals without proper investigation. He termed such decisions as dangerous and detrimental to temple preservation. Additionally, he opposed long-term lease policies, especially in urban areas, stating that they have forced devotees to approach courts for relief. Madhav urged the state government to conduct a comprehensive survey of temple lands, halt transfers to private entities, and take strict action against encroachers. He also called for legal guarantees to ensure that temple revenues are used exclusively for temple development and festivals.

Reiterating BJP's stance, he said temple lands must remain with temples and not be diverted under any circumstances, adding that the sentiments of devotees must be respected and protected.



## New Chairperson and Members Assume Charge of AP Child Rights Commission

Amaravathi March 30 | ITPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has welcomed its new leadership, with Vetukuri AVS Suryanarayana Raju assuming charge as Chairperson along with six newly appointed members. The members include K.G. Venkata Padmalatha, Dr. Dhoni Srinivasa Murthy, Undavalli Gandhi Babu, Challa Madhusudana Rao, Mandala Ganga Suryanarayana, and P. Naga Manasa.

The oath-taking and assumption of office took place at the state commission office on Monday in the presence of Commission Secretary Umadevi. The Secretary and staff extended their congratulations to the new Chairperson and members, expressing confidence in their leadership and commitment to child welfare.

Addressing the gathering, Chairperson Suryanarayana Raju emphasized the importance of safeguarding children's rights and ensuring a secure and progressive future for them. He stated that the commission would work with dedication to create an environment where every child in

the state can grow with dignity, safety, and access to opportunities.

He further highlighted that coordinated efforts between state-level and district-level authorities would be strengthened to effectively address issues concerning child rights. The commission aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a leading "child-friendly state" in the country by implementing robust mechanisms for protection, welfare, and development of children.

The Chairperson also urged the public to promptly report any violations of child rights to the commission so that swift action can be taken. The members reiterated their commitment to working collectively and proactively to uphold the rights and well-being of children across the state.

The newly appointed panel is expected to focus on addressing key issues such as child protection, education, health, and prevention of exploitation, while ensuring strict implementation of child rights laws.

The announcement was formally issued by the Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.



## High Court Dismisses Alla Ramakrishna Reddy's Petitions in Amaravati Inner Ring Road Case

Amaravathi March 30 | ITPN Bureau

In a significant legal development, the Andhra Pradesh High Court has dismissed three petitions filed by former Mangalagiri MLA and YSR Congress Party leader Alla Ramakrishna Reddy in connection with the Amaravati Inner Ring Road (IRR) case.

The court ruled that the petitions lacked legal maintainability and therefore did not merit further consideration. This decision is being seen as a major setback for Ramakrishna Reddy and a relief for Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and other individuals named in the case.

Ramakrishna Reddy had approached the High Court with three key requests. Firstly, he sought the transfer of the IRR case investigation from state agencies to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Secondly, he requested the cancellation of the bail previously granted to Chandrababu Naidu in the case. Thirdly, he petitioned for the transfer of the case trial from the ACB Court to a special court designated for MPs and MLAs.

After hearing the arguments, the High Court bench concluded that the petitions did not have sufficient legal grounds to proceed. The court report-

edly observed that such petitions could not be entertained without proper justification and dismissed all three pleas accordingly.

The Amaravati Inner Ring Road case has been a politically sensitive issue in Andhra Pradesh for several years. The case was originally registered by the state CID in 2022 following allegations that the alignment of the proposed Inner Ring Road was altered to benefit certain individuals and entities, leading to significant increases in land value.

The allegations were primarily directed at key political figures, including Chandrababu Naidu and others, with claims of irregularities and quid pro quo arrangements in land dealings. However, the legal battle has seen multiple developments over time, with courts examining various aspects of the case.

With the High Court now dismissing Ramakrishna Reddy's petitions, the immediate legal challenges raised through these pleas have come to an end. The ruling is likely to have political implications as well, given the high-profile nature of the case and the leaders involved.

## AP Introduces QR Code System on Rice Bags to Honour Farmers, Targets Record Paddy Procurement

Amaravathi March 30 | ITPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar announced a series of farmer-centric initiatives aimed at ensuring transparency, recognition, and efficiency in paddy procurement across the state. Emphasizing that the coalition government is committed to strengthening farmers' dignity, he stated that every grain produced by farmers will now carry their identity through an innovative QR code system. Under this initiative, fine rice supplied to students in nearly 41,000 government schools and over 400 welfare hostels will feature QR codes on the bags. These codes will provide details about the farmer and the location where the paddy was cultivated, enabling students to understand the source of their food. The minister described this as a first-of-its-kind model in the country, positioning Andhra Pradesh as

a role model for other states.

During his visit to Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore district, Manohar personally inspected procurement operations in Kovur and Sarvepalli constituencies. He interacted directly with farmers to understand their concerns and later conducted a three-hour review meeting at the district collectorate with officials, millers, and farmers. Highlighting procurement achievements, the minister said the state has recorded an unprecedented collection of 5.1 million metric tonnes of paddy during the current Kharif season. In Nellore district alone, 75,000 metric tonnes have already been procured, with a target of 200,000 metric tonnes for the season. So far, over 60,000 metric tonnes have been collected, and the target is expected to be achieved soon. Manohar assured that payments are being credited directly to farmers' bank accounts within 24 hours, reinforcing the government's

commitment to their welfare. Addressing operational challenges, he acknowledged issues related to transportation and gunny bag supply. Steps are being taken to deploy additional vehicles and streamline logistics. The government has also revised bank guarantee norms for rice millers from a 1:2 ratio to 1:3, aiming to accelerate procurement. The minister warned of strict action against millers who delay procurement or cause inconvenience to farmers. He expressed gratitude to farmers for supplying high-quality rice without demanding additional bonuses, contributing significantly to student nutrition programs.

On fuel supply concerns, Manohar clarified that there is no shortage of cooking gas in the state and urged the public not to believe rumors. He confirmed that LPG supplies have been stabilized and alternative energy arrangements are being strengthened to meet future demands.

## Former Minister Vellampalli Slams AP Government Over Amaravati 'Drama'

Amaravathi March 30 | ITPN Bureau

Former Minister Vellampalli Srinivasa Rao strongly criticized the Andhra Pradesh government, accusing it of misleading the public in the name of Amaravati development. Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada, he alleged that the ruling coalition government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is resorting to diversionary tactics instead of focusing on actual development. Vellampalli termed the recent Assembly resolution on Amaravati as a "political gimmick," claiming it was aimed at facilitating a second phase of land pooling rather than addressing real issues. He questioned the government's intent, asking why there were parallel narratives about completing the capital by 2028 while also spreading speculation about shifting the capital.

He remarked that this reflects a lack of confidence within the government itself. He further alleged that the government had bypassed the Legislative Council to avoid scrutiny, suggesting that fears of exposing corruption were the real reason behind such decisions. Highlighting the plight of farmers who had given land for the capital project, Vellampalli said many of them are struggling due to lack of development. He pointed out that basic infrastructure like roads and plot demarcation is still incomplete, leaving farmers in distress. Raising concerns over the financial viability of the Amaravati project, he questioned how the state could afford an estimated 2 lakh crore expenditure. He alleged that despite claims of Amaravati being a self-financed project, the government has failed to generate any revenue so far. He also criticized the reported borrowing of large sums, asking who would ultimately bear the burden of

repayment.

The former minister accused the government of wasting nearly 400 crore on designs without constructing permanent buildings and alleged that contracts were being awarded to select companies at inflated costs. He further claimed that a significant portion of loans taken after June 2024 was diverted as mobilization advances, hinting at corruption. Clarifying his party's stance, Vellampalli stated that the YSR Congress Party has never opposed Amaravati as a capital but has consistently questioned irregularities in its development. He noted that former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had even built a house in Amaravati, reinforcing that there is no opposition to the region itself. He urged the public to remain cautious and not fall for what he described as unrealistic promises, calling for greater transparency and accountability in the Amaravati project.

## Bhuma Karunakar Reddy Accuses Nara Lokesh in 1000 Crore Tirupati Land Deal

Amaravathi March 30 | ITPN Bureau

Senior YSR Congress Party leader Bhuma Karunakar Reddy has made serious allegations against Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh, accusing him of being involved in a massive 1000 crore land deal in Tirupati. Addressing the media, Bhuma alleged that a large-scale land scam is taking place in and around Tirupati, claiming that valuable lands worth hundreds of crores are being irregularly transferred. He accused Lokesh of playing a key role as the "mastermind" behind the al-



tating the transfer of lands to private entities. The YSRCP leader demanded a thorough and impartial investigation into the matter, urging the state government to disclose complete details of the land transactions. He stated that the truth must be brought before the public and those responsible should be held accountable.

He also raised concerns over the protection of lands in Tirupati, a region known for its religious and economic significance. Bhuma alleged that if such activities continue unchecked, it could lead to large-scale loss of public assets and damage the sanctity of the re-

gion. Reacting strongly, he said that such alleged irregularities reflect misuse of power and warned that the opposition would continue to raise the issue both politically and legally. He asserted that the YSRCP would not remain silent and would fight against what he termed as "land exploitation." As of now, there has been no official response from Nara Lokesh or the state government regarding these allegations. The issue is likely to intensify political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, especially as land-related matters continue to remain a sensitive topic in the state's political landscape.

are being diverted under ques-

illegal transactions and facili-

# Grand Chaitra Festival Celebrations Continue at Indrakiladri

Vijayawada March 30 | TPN Bureau

The Chaitramas Brahmotsavams of Sri Durgammalleswara Swamy on Indrakiladri Hill continued with grandeur on the second day, Monday, delighting devotees with a series of sacred rituals and festivities. The temple premises reverberated with devotional fervor as priests and devotees participated in time-honored ceremonial practices, reflecting the rich spiritual heritage of the region.

The day began early with the Moolamantra Havanam at 8:00 AM in the temple premises.

Priests chanted the sacred Vedic hymns with utmost devotion, performing fire rituals that are believed to purify the surroundings and invoke divine blessings. Devotees witnessed the rituals with reverence, contributing to the serene and spiritual ambiance of the temple.

In the evening, the Ravana Vahana Seva captivated devotees. At 5:00 PM, Sri Swamy, accompanied by the deity, graced the massive Ravana Vahana, providing darshan to a large gathering of enthusiastic devotees. The procession witnessed an overwhelming turnout, as devotees thronged the temple to seek

blessings and participate in the colorful spectacle.

Following the Vahana Seva, from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, the temple conducted Upasana and Baliaranam ceremonies. These traditional rituals, accompanied by Vedic chants, are an integral part of the Brahmotsavams, symbolizing devotion, surrender, and spiritual upliftment. Devotees offered prayers and received the priestly blessings, after which the Swamy performed the Harati and offered Mantrapushpam, concluding the evening rituals with the distribution of prasadam to devotees. The festival's celebrations are set to reach their

zenith tomorrow. On Tuesday, March 31, 2026, the temple will host the Rayabaram (Eduarkolu Utsavam) at 7:00 PM, followed by the Sri Durgammalleswara Divya Kalyana Mahotsavam at 10:30 PM. This main event is expected to be the most spectacular of the Chaitramas festivities, showcasing unparalleled grandeur, devotion, and cultural richness.

The ongoing Brahmotsavams continue to attract devotees from across the region, reinforcing the timeless spiritual and cultural significance of Sri Durgammalleswara Swamy's abode on Indrakiladri.



## Joint Collector Addresses Public Grievances in Machilipatnam

Vijayawada March 30 | TPN Bureau

The district administration of Krishna took a significant step towards addressing citizen concerns today with a well-organized Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) session held at the Collectorate Conference Hall in Machilipatnam. The initiative provided a structured platform for residents to directly present their grievances and seek timely solutions, reflecting the administration's commitment to transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric governance.

Joint Collector M. Naveen personally presided over the session, welcoming citizens and actively receiving petitions from residents on a wide range of issues. Accompanying him were senior officials, including the District Revenue Officer, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, and other administrative officers who assisted in the documentation, verification, and follow-up of grievances. Their presence ensured that queries



were addressed promptly and citizens received clear guidance on the next steps.

During the session, several citizens brought forward concerns related to land disputes, revenue records, property documentation, and civic amenities. Others raised issues pertaining to welfare schemes, government subsidies, and local infrastructure development. Each submission was recorded systematically, and officials provided detailed ex-

planations, clarifying processes and informing petitioners about the expected timelines for resolution. The session also served as an opportunity for citizens to interact directly with authorities, fostering a sense of engagement and confidence in the administrative process.

The PGRS initiative is part of the state government's ongoing effort to strengthen participatory governance and ensure that the administration

remains accessible to the public. By providing a direct forum for citizen feedback, the district administration aims to bridge the gap between policy implementation and public expectation.

Officials emphasized that grievances submitted during the session would be prioritized and monitored closely until resolved. They encouraged citizens to take full advantage of such programs, which not only allow for immediate redressal of issues but also promote awareness of government schemes and procedures.

The session concluded with a reiteration of the administration's commitment to responsive governance. Citizens expressed appreciation for the opportunity to directly engage with the authorities, reinforcing the importance of such public grievance mechanisms in promoting transparency, efficiency, and trust between the administration and the community.

## District Education Officer Reviews SSC Social Studies Exams in Krishna

Vijayawada March 30 | TPN Bureau

The Krishna District Education Department closely monitored the ongoing SSC Social Studies examinations today, with District Education Officer U.V. Subbarao personally visiting multiple exam centers across the district. The visit was aimed at ensuring smooth conduct of the exams, maintaining discipline, and verifying that students were provided with the necessary facilities for a fair and secure testing environment.

During his rounds in Machilipatnam Mandal, the DEO inspected several regular SSC exam centers, including St. John's High School, CPM High School, Bhashyam High School, Balaji Vidyalayam, MPL High School in Desayipet, and Narayana High School. In addition to these regular centers, he also visited three open school examination centers operating at Bhashyam High School, Balaji High School, and Narayana High School, highlighting the administration's attention to all types of exami-



DEO U.V. Subbarao reviewing exam centers.

In total, the DEO visited nine SSC exam centers to review exam arrangements, facilities provided to students, and overall security measures. At each location, he interacted with school authorities and examination staff to ensure that protocols were being followed strictly. Emphasis was placed on maintaining an orderly environment, preventing malpractices, and providing students with comfortable seating, proper lighting, and necessary stationery.

After completing the inspections, DEO U.V. Subbarao commended the efforts of school

authorities and staff in maintaining exam discipline and ensuring that the testing environment remained calm and focused. He provided necessary suggestions to further enhance the administration of exams, including measures to handle emergencies and streamline logistics wherever required.

The DEO confirmed that the SSC Social Studies examinations across Krishna district were conducted peacefully, with no disruptions reported. The supervision and guidance extended by the district education authorities aimed to reassure students and parents that every effort was being made to maintain fairness, transparency, and student safety during this critical academic evaluation.

Through such proactive oversight, the Krishna District Education Department continues to uphold its commitment to excellence in examination management, ensuring that students have a secure and conducive environment to perform to the best of their abilities.

## VMC Commissioner Urges Citizens to Segregate Waste at Source

Vijayawada March 30 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has launched a renewed campaign to promote proper waste management in the city, with Commissioner Dhyanaachandra HM emphasizing the importance of segregating waste at home. During an inspection tour on Monday, the Commissioner visited several key areas, including Mahatma Gandhi Road Bench Circle, Gayatri Nagar, and Eluru Road, to assess cleanliness and interact with sanitation workers on the ground.

Addressing sanitation workers at Mahatma Gandhi Road, the Commissioner highlighted the crucial role of citizens in facilitating efficient waste collection. He urged residents to segregate wet, dry, and hazardous waste at the household level, ensuring that waste is handed over in designated color-coded bins—red, blue, and green—for easy collection. This step, he noted, is essential for improving the efficiency of sanitation services and safeguarding public health.

Dhyanaachandra also instructed sanitation staff and municipal officials to conduct awareness campaigns, educating citizens on proper waste disposal practices and the environmental benefits of segregation. By encouraging households to participate actively in the process, the city aims to reduce the burden on sanitation workers and convert waste into a resource, contributing to sustainable urban management.

The Commissioner further emphasized that continuous monitoring by municipal authorities is key to maintaining the city's cleanliness standards. He expressed the goal of positioning Vijayawada as a model "Super Swachh League"



city, highlighting the administration's commitment to the Swachh Bharat Mission and sustainable urban governance.

Officials noted that households are expected to use the designated color-coded bins for wet, dry, and hazardous waste to ensure that collection is organized and efficient. The initiative aligns with broader municipal plans to enhance civic participation, improve waste-to-resource conversion, and promote public hygiene.

Through proactive citizen engagement, effective awareness campaigns, and close supervision of sanitation teams, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation aims to maintain a cleaner, greener, and healthier city. Commissioner Dhyanaachandra concluded that by transforming waste management practices, Vijayawada can continue to set benchmarks for urban cleanliness in the region.

The municipal public relations office (PRO) confirmed that similar awareness initiatives will be carried out across other zones in the coming weeks, reinforcing the message that waste segregation begins at home.

## Beneficiaries Receive New Homes in Jakkampudi under TIDCO Housing Scheme

Vijayawada March 30 | TPN Bureau

A significant milestone in fulfilling the dream of homeownership for underprivileged families was achieved today in Jakkampudi, where beneficiaries were handed over TIDCO houses under the state government's housing initiative. The event, held at NTR Nagar, saw participation from NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh, MLAs Bonda Umamaheshwar Rao and Gadde Rammoan, as well as Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner Dhyanaachandra HM.

Addressing the gathering, Collector Dr. Lakshmeesh emphasized that owning a house is a lifelong aspiration, and the government, guided by the vision of the Honorable Prime



Minister and Chief Minister, has ensured that this dream becomes a reality. He highlighted that, despite challenges, persistent efforts by government officials and public representatives made the program a success.

During the event, 2,256 houses were handed over to beneficiaries at Jakkampudi NTR

Nagar. The Collector mentioned that housing projects across various constituencies are at different stages of construction and assured that the remaining homes would be completed and distributed within the next two to three months. He also elaborated on the value of these properties: a 300 sq. ft. house obtained at a

nominal cost is currently valued at around 12 lakh, a 365 sq. ft. home is valued at 14 lakh, and a 430 sq. ft. house worth 17 lakh, underscoring the tangible asset that beneficiaries now possess.

Dr. Lakshmeesh also outlined the comprehensive amenities provided, including well-laid roads, electricity, clean water supply, drainage systems, and parks. He urged beneficiaries to actively maintain the colonies, avoid single-use plastics, and participate in government programs aligned with the vision of "One Family - One Industrial Entrepreneur", contributing to the development of a prosperous and modern Andhra Pradesh.

MLA Bonda Umamaheshwar Rao expressed satisfaction in fulfilling the long-standing

dream of providing homes to the poor, emphasizing the commitment of past and present administrations in delivering quality housing. MLA Gadde Rammoan added that the initiative has removed the difficulties faced by families living in rented accommodations and congratulated all beneficiaries. The event was attended by senior officials including TIDCO Project Director B. Chinnodu, Additional Commissioner (Projects) Dr. D. Chandrasekhar, Zonal Commissioners B. Ramya Keerthan, K. Prabhudas, K. Shammi, Project Officer M. Vijayalakshmi, and other key dignitaries. The program reflects the government's commitment to improving living standards and creating sustainable urban communities in NTR District.

## Senior Maoist Leader Among Nine Surrenders Before Andhra Pradesh DGP

Vijayawada March 30 | TPN Bureau

In a significant development in the fight against Left Wing Extremism, a senior Maoist leader along with eight other cadres surrendered before Harish Kumar Gupta, Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, on Monday.

The surrendered group includes senior Maoist leader Chelluri Narayana Rao alias Suresh, a Central Committee Member (CCM) and a key functionary of the Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee (AOBSZC). He had been associated with the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) for over 36 years. Along with him, eight other cadres holding various ranks in the Maoist hierarchy also



laid down arms.

As per the Andhra Pradesh Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy, financial incentives were announced for the surrendered cadres. Chelluri Narayana Rao will receive 25

lakh, while other members will receive rewards ranging from 1 lakh to 5 lakh based on their rank. Immediate financial assistance of 20,000 each was also provided.

During the surrender event,

police displayed a cache of weapons recovered through intelligence-based operations. The seized arms included one INSAS rifle, two BGLs, five .303 rifles, five SBBL guns, and several other weapons and explosive materials, totaling 19 items.

The DGP highlighted that Andhra Pradesh Police have achieved notable success in curbing Maoist activities over the past year. He stated that in various encounters, three Central Committee Members and several senior zonal leaders were neutralized. Additionally, the police have played a crucial role in sharing intelligence with neighboring states like Chhattisgarh and Odisha, leading to multiple successful anti-Maoist operations.

Authorities also revealed that attempts by underground Maoist cadres to carry out activities in districts such as Krishna, Eluru, NTR, Kakina, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema were foiled. Around 81 Maoist cadres were arrested, and over 100 individuals surrendered during this period.

The DGP commended the efforts of the Special Intelligence Branch (SIB), Greyhounds, and district police teams for their consistent and coordinated operations. He reiterated that the state government remains committed to eliminating extremism while encouraging Maoist cadres to surrender and reintegrate into society through rehabilitation programs.

# Life-Saving Skills Emphasized at State-Level Neonatal Resuscitation Workshop in Chittoor

Chittoor, March 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Highlighting the critical importance of timely medical intervention in neonatal emergencies, Dr. H. Vinod Bhat, Vice-Chancellor of The Apollo University, stated that equipping healthcare professionals with essential resuscitation skills can significantly improve newborn survival rates. He made these remarks while inaugurating a two-day State-Level Basic Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) Workshop at Apollo College of Nursing, Chittoor.

The workshop, organized in collaboration with Aragonada Apollo College of Nursing, is being held at the Dr. Prathap C. Reddy Knowledge Centre Auditorium. It has drawn participation from nursing faculty, students, and healthcare professionals from various institutions across Andhra Pradesh, reflecting the growing emphasis on specialized neonatal care training.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Vinod Bhat stressed that every second is vital during neonatal emergencies and that prompt decision-making, combined



with strong clinical skills, can make the difference between life and death. He underscored the need for continuous learning and hands-on practice, even as medical science contin-

ues to advance rapidly.

APNMC Observer Mr. K.N. Satyanarayana Bai graced the occasion as a guest. Dr. T. Jayanthi, Principal of Apollo College of Nursing, welcomed the

participants and emphasized the role of such workshops in strengthening the practical competencies of both students and practicing nurses.

The program features ex-

per-led sessions by distinguished resource persons, including Dr. Rajesh, Head of the Department of Pediatrics at AIMSR, along with Dr. Gnanaivel and Dr. Maila Geetha from Sri Venkateswara Medical College, Tirupati. The sessions focus on key aspects such as delivery preparedness, routine newborn care, initial resuscitation steps, and effective ventilation techniques. The first day included participant registration, a pre-assessment test, and a series of scientific sessions, followed by skill station-based hands-on training conducted in small groups. This practical approach has been identified as a major highlight, enabling participants to gain real-time experience in handling critical situations. Organizers stated that the workshop aims to enhance rapid response capabilities among healthcare providers, ultimately contributing to better neonatal outcomes. The event also saw the presence of Dr. Alfred J. Augustine, Dean of AIMSR, Dr. Jinto Mathew, Vice Principal, along with faculty members and attendees from multiple nursing colleges.



## Beware of IPL Betting Frauds: Strict Action Warned by East Godavari SP

East Godavari March 30 | TPN Bureau

With the onset of the IPL season, the East Godavari district police have issued a strong warning against the rising menace of cricket betting activities targeting youth. Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore, IPS, cautioned that strict action will be taken against those involved in illegal betting operations.

He stated that betting syndicates are luring innocent people, especially youngsters, with promises of "easy money." However, such activities are illegal, and those participating in betting will face stringent action under the Andhra Pradesh Gaming Act. The SP made it clear that offenders will not be spared and legal proceedings will be initiated without hesitation.

Addressing the youth, the SP highlighted that betting apps and social media platforms are increasingly being used to trap individuals. Falling into such traps can lead not only to financial losses but also to mental stress, family issues, and long-term consequences affecting

one's future. He urged youngsters to stay away from betting apps and focus on safeguarding their careers.

"Stay away from betting apps... protect your future," the SP appealed, adding that involvement in such illegal activities could result in criminal cases, severely impacting career prospects.

The district police have intensified surveillance across the region by deploying special teams to curb betting activities. The SP assured that prompt action will be taken wherever such illegal operations are detected.

He also encouraged the public to report any betting or suspicious activities by dialing 112, assuring that the identity of informants will be kept confidential.

Additionally, he warned about cybercriminals who create fake betting apps and websites to cheat people. Citizens are advised to remain vigilant and avoid falling prey to such scams. The SP reiterated that hard-earned money should not be lost through illegal and risky means.



## Call for an Equal Society: P4 First Anniversary Celebrated Grandly in Ramachandrapuram

Ramachandrapuram, March 30 | TPN Bureau

State Labour Minister Vasanamsetti Subhash called upon people to work collectively towards building a society free from economic inequalities. He was speaking at the grand celebrations of the first anniversary of the P4 "Bangaru Kutumbam" program held at the Telugu Desam Party office in Ramachandrapuram.

The minister stated that the P4 initiative was introduced under the vision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu with the objective of poverty eradication. He explained that under this program, economically weaker families are identified as "Bangaru Kutumbalu" (golden families), while well-off individuals act as "Margadarshakulu" (mentors) by adopting and supporting these families socially and financially.

Highlighting the progress in the constituency, the minister said that out of 11,308 identified Bangaru families, 7,309 families have already been adopted by 1,068 mentors. He emphasized that collective participation is essential to achieve the goal of a poverty-free society.

He appreciated the efforts of the Satyam Vasanamsetti Foundation for providing BS-6 technical training worth Rs. 4.29 lakh to members of the Sri Bhimeswara Swamy Motorcycle Mechanics Workers Union.

He also praised the foundation for supporting a talented underprivileged kickboxing student, Karumuri Lekha Niharika, with financial assistance of Rs. 1.30 lakh. Additionally, the foundation has adopted 127 underprivileged students, contributing to their education and aligning with the Chief Minister's vision.

Foundation Chairman Vasanamsetti Satyam stated that the P4 initiative is providing support and confidence to thousands of families and assured that more social service programs will be undertaken in the future. AMC Chairman Akkala Rishwanth Roy also noted that eliminating economic disparities is key to the state's development and praised the government for launching such an initiative.

During the event, mentors who supported Bangaru families were felicitated by the minister. Among them were N. Vasantha Harini, Nemani Satyanarayana, and Nemani Harikrishna. Vasantha Harini was specially appreciated for extending financial support of Rs. 3.40 lakh to an underprivileged family in Jagannathagiri village.

The minister also felicitated senior TDP leader Garikapati Suryanarayana, recognizing his long-standing association with the party since its inception. The event was attended by several public representatives, officials, mentors, and beneficiary families.

## TIDCO Housing Units Handed Over to Beneficiaries in Chittoor

Chittoor, March 30 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Sumit Kumar and Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jagannathan distributed keys to beneficiaries of TIDCO housing units constructed at Poonepalli under the Chittoor Municipal Corporation limits. The program was part of a statewide initiative in which Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated and distributed housing units to beneficiaries.

Addressing the gathering, the District Collector stated that the TIDCO project, which began several years ago, has finally been completed and handed over to the beneficiaries, bringing great satisfaction. He recalled his earlier experience as Rajahmundry Municipal Commissioner, where he had personally reviewed a similar project, and appreciated the continuous efforts of public representatives and officials in completing the initiative. The housing project has been developed over 35.49 acres, with Rs. 184.08 crore spent on infrastructure development. The Collector assured that basic amenities such as sanitation, drinking water, and electricity would be provided without interruption. He instructed the Municipal Commissioner to ensure proper sanitation management and mentioned that steps are being taken to appoint sanitation workers. He urged residents to maintain cleanliness in the colony, stating that while the government will take responsibility, the beneficiaries must also contribute equally to keep



the surroundings clean. He emphasized the vision of developing the colony into a model residential area and announced that monthly review meetings would be conducted to monitor progress. The Collector further stated that grievances can be reported through the PGRS system or directly at the Municipal Commissioner's office, assuring prompt action. He also highlighted that development works worth Rs. 47 crore have already been undertaken in Chittoor and additional projects such as road widening, drainage systems, and completion of pending primary health center works will be taken up soon. MLA Gurajala Jagannathan said that the TIDCO housing complexes are designed similar to gated communities, ensuring all necessary facilities for residents. He added that steps will be taken to provide amenities such as drinking water, sanitation, and basic services like medical stores and provision shops. Beneficiaries expressed their happiness and gratitude towards the government for fulfilling their long-awaited dream of owning a home. Several public representatives, officials, and local leaders attended the program.

## Proposal for New Assembly Constituency at Ontimitta: MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy

Kadapa March 30 | TPN Bureau

Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy made a significant statement suggesting the formation of a new Assembly constituency with Ontimitta as its center, citing its historical and cultural importance. His remarks come in the backdrop of discussions on constituency reorganization in Kadapa district.

On Monday, the MP visited the renowned Kodanda Rama Temple in Ontimitta along with Rajampet MLA Akepati Amarnath Reddy, Badvel MLA Dr. Dasari Sudha, former Deputy Chief Minister Amjad Basha, MLC Ramesh Yadav, and for-

mer Mayor Suresh Babu. The leaders offered special prayers to Lord Sri Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana. Temple priests and TTD officials extended a traditional welcome and presented them with sacred offerings after the darshan.

Speaking on the occasion, Avinash Reddy expressed happiness over performing prayers at the temple and said that Lord Sri Rama's life continues to inspire people. Referring to the upcoming Kalyana Mahotsavam scheduled on the 1st of next month, he noted that thousands of devotees are expected to attend. He urged the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and the state government to make proper arrange-

ments to ensure the convenience of devotees.

The MP also raised the issue of railway connectivity, demanding that all trains should have a halt at Ontimitta Railway Station to facilitate pilgrims. He stated that he has already submitted representations to the Union Railway Minister on multiple occasions. He further called for the appointment of sufficient staff at the station throughout the year, not just during festival seasons. His proposal for a new Assembly constituency at Ontimitta has gained attention, highlighting the region's growing political and spiritual significance.



## State-Level Engineers Review 'Jaladhara' Project Implementation in Annamayya District

Madanapalle, March 30 | TPN Bureau

A state-level team of engineers conducted an extensive field visit in Annamayya district to review the implementation of the "Jaladhara" project, which has been successfully executed on a pilot basis under the leadership of District Collector Nishanth Kumar and the Water Resources Department. Impressed by its outcomes, the state government is now considering expanding the project across Andhra Pradesh.

The team, led by the Commissioner of the Catchment Area Development Authority (CADA), began its journey from Vijayawada and reached Tirupati before proceeding to

Railway Koduru, Chitvel, and Pullampeta regions. They examined various water conservation and resource development works undertaken in these areas.

Later, the team visited Rajampet, Nandalur, and Ramapuram mandals, where they closely assessed key components of the Jaladhara initiative. These included groundwater recharge measures, restoration of tanks, rainwater harvesting systems, canal desilting, and water diversion mechanisms. The engineers interacted with local officials to understand the quality of work, implementation strategies, and the benefits delivered to the citizens.

The team appreciated the district's efforts in improving



groundwater levels and enhancing water availability for agriculture through effective restoration of water bodies. They noted that the measures implemented in the district could serve as a model for other districts.

By evening, the team reached Madanapalle and expressed satisfaction with the overall progress of the Jaladhara project. They described it as a successful and scalable model suitable for statewide implementation.

# Why Target the Poor While Ignoring the Wealthy?": All-Party Leaders Warn of Protest in Kadapa

Kadapa, March 30 TPN Bureau

Strong criticism was voiced by all-party leaders in Kadapa against the alleged discriminatory tax collection practices by municipal authorities. They warned that if officials continue to harass poor and middle-class citizens while ignoring wealthy defaulters, a public agitation is inevitable.

At a round-table meeting held at the Kadapa Press Club under the of CPI district secretary Gali Chandra, former Mayor Paka Suresh, CPM city secretary Rammohan Reddy, and other leaders expressed serious concern over the is-

sue. They alleged that while there are hundreds of crores in pending taxes from affluent individuals, institutions, and businesses, officials are targeting ordinary citizens for minor delays in tax payments.

Leaders claimed that even a week's delay in payment by common people leads to harsh actions such as issuing notices at their homes, cutting water connections, and creating public embarrassment. In contrast, large defaulters, including political leaders, private institutions, industries, educational and medical establishments, have reportedly not paid taxes for years—some dating back to

2005.

They presented data stating that in municipalities like Kadapa, Proddatur, Jammalamadugu, Pulivendula, Yerraguntla, Mydukur, Kamalapuram, and Badvel, tax dues range from lakhs to over Rs. 1.85 crore per entity, amounting to hundreds of crores district-wide. Despite this, no strict action is being taken against major defaulters, they alleged. The leaders also accused the government of failing to release statutory dues such as BPS funds, stamp duty share, AMRUT scheme funds, and mutation charges to local bodies, further worsening the financial situation of municipalities.

They demanded a complete waiver of interest on pending taxes and an extension of deadlines, stating that many poor families are forced to borrow money at high interest rates to clear dues. They also alleged misuse of public funds, claiming that collected revenues are being diverted for political and administrative luxuries instead of improving basic civic infrastructure. Highlighting poor living conditions, they pointed out the lack of roads, drainage, street lighting, and drinking water in many areas, leading to health issues such as dengue, malaria, and other viral diseases. Calling for accountability, the leaders



demanding the appointment of an IAS officer for Kadapa Municipal Corporation and

warned that a district-wide protest will be organized on April 7 under the leadership

of all parties if corrective measures are not taken immediately



## P4 as a Social Revolution: CM Chandrababu Calls for Collective Action to Eradicate Poverty

Tirupati, March 30, 2026 TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu described the P4 initiative as a "social revolution" aimed at reducing economic inequalities and uplifting the poor. Addressing the P4 annual celebrations held at Sri Padmavati Women's University in Tirupati, he emphasized the need for collective responsibility to ensure equal opportunities for all sections of society.

The event showcased the impact of the P4 programme through a video presentation highlighting how "Bangaru Families" (beneficiary families) have improved their livelihoods with the support of mentors. The initiative goes beyond financial aid, providing skill development, education support, housing assistance, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The Chief Minister interacted virtually with mentors and beneficiary families from across the state, appreciating those who stepped forward to support the underprivileged. He said the programme, launched on Ugadi last year, has already benefited over two lakh families within a year, marking a significant step towards poverty eradication.

Highlighting public participation, he noted that over 1.06 lakh mentors have come forward to adopt nearly 10.97 lakh families. "No one in the state is

alone. There will always be someone to share their struggles," he said, reinforcing the spirit of social support.

Chandrababu also underlined that welfare and development must go hand in hand. He cited various government initiatives and reiterated that increasing wealth should also lead to reduced disparities. Drawing inspiration from past programmes like Janmahoomi, he said P4 is designed as a people-driven movement for long-term social transformation.

Calling it a "Give Back to Society" mission, the Chief Minister urged mentors not to limit their role to financial assistance but to guide families towards self-reliance. He stressed the importance of continuous engagement to achieve meaningful outcomes and cautioned against potential misuse in large-scale programmes.

To recognize contributions, the government announced awards at state, district, and constituency levels for outstanding mentors. He expressed hope that today's beneficiary families would become tomorrow's mentors, creating a cycle of empowerment.

The Chief Minister concluded by calling on citizens to join hands in building a "Swarna Andhra 2047," ensuring inclusive growth and a poverty-free society.

## Grand Start to Sri Kodandarama Swamy Teppotsavam in Tirupati

Tirupati, March 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The annual Teppotsavam of Lord Sri Kodandarama Swamy commenced with great grandeur on Monday at the Sri Ramachandra Pushkarini in Tirupati, drawing a large number of devotees.

The beautifully decorated float, illuminated with colorful electric lights, carried the idols of the Lord along with Goddess Sita and Lakshmana. The deities were taken around the sacred tank in five rounds, blessing devotees who gathered in large numbers to witness the divine spectacle and offer camphor harathi.

As part of the celebrations, the Snapana Tirumanjanam ritual was performed in a traditional manner between 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM. The Utsava idols of Sri Sita, Lakshmana, and Sri Kodandarama Swamy were ceremonially bathed with milk, curd, honey, sandalwood paste, and coconut water, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.



Following the ritual, the deities were taken in a ceremonial procession to the Ramachandra Pushkarini. In the evening, between 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM, the Teppotsavam was conducted amid devotional fervour. Seated on the magnificently adorned float, the deities circled the Pushkarini, offering

divine blessings to the devotees. The event was attended by temple Deputy Executive Officer Smt. Nagarathna, Temple Inspector Suresh, other officials, and a large gathering of devotees. The marked a vibrant beginning to the festivities, reflecting the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Tirupati.



## P4 Programme Gains Momentum in Madanapalle: Minister BC Janardhan Reddy Felicitates Donors and Beneficiaries

Madanapalle, March 30, 2026 TPN Bureau

The P4 programme received an encouraging response in Madanapalle as Minister BC Janardhan Reddy, District Collector Nishanth Kumar, Joint Collector Challa Kalyani, and MLA Shahjahan Basha participated in a large-scale event aimed at strengthening the initiative. The programme witnessed the presence of P4 representatives, donors, beneficiary families, and women from various parts of the district.

During the event, the Minister and the District Collector jointly presented appreciation certificates to donors who have extended support to underprivileged families. Certificates were also awarded to individuals who rendered exceptional services as part of the P4 programme. The event highlighted the growing participation of society in supporting poverty eradication efforts.

The dignitaries also virtually attended the P4 programme conducted in Tirupati, where Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu addressed the gathering. His speech emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in uplifting economically weaker sections and building a balanced society.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister BC Janardhan Reddy stated that the P4 pro-

gramme was launched with a strong vision to eliminate poverty in the state. He noted that despite initial challenges, the government is moving forward with determination to implement the programme effectively. He expressed confidence that P4 would bring significant and positive changes in society.

The Minister appreciated the donors who voluntarily came forward to support the initiative, describing their contribution as a reflection of social responsibility and compassion. He emphasized that true development is achieved when communities work together to uplift those in need.

He further added that financial assistance alone is not enough, and mentors should ensure that beneficiary families utilize the support effectively. At the same time, he cautioned about the possibility of misuse in large-scale programmes and urged all stakeholders to remain vigilant.

According to officials, in Annamayya district, 61,794 families have been identified under the P4 programme, and 30,972 families have already been adopted. Authorities expressed confidence that with continued public participation, the programme would achieve its goal of creating a poverty-free society.

## Dr. Adari Kishore Kumar Launches Book on Women Empowerment

A grand book launch event was held at Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU) in Sabbavaram, coinciding with the successful conclusion of the D.V. Subbarao National Mediation Competitions held from March 21 to 29. The event was presided over by the University Vice-Chancellor, Professor D. Surya Prakash Rao. During the ceremony, eminent scholar Dr. Adari Kishore Kumar released his book titled "Women Empowerment through Constitutional and Other Laws - A Socio-Legal Study with Special Reference to Anakapalli District, Andhra Pradesh". The book was jointly inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh High Court Judges Justice Vijay, Justice Challa Gunarajan, and Vice-Chancellor R. Venkata Rao of

Goa International Law University.

Speakers at the event praised the book for providing a comprehensive study on women empowerment and its legal framework, describing it as a valuable guide for society and the legal fraternity. The event was attended by a large number of law students, professors, and legal professionals.

The book highlights key areas including:

- Constitutional protections for women
- The impact of various laws on women's safety and rights
- Women empowerment through legal and personal awareness
- Historical and modern perspectives on women's status in India
- Legal avenues to promote

women empowerment through constitutional and statutory provisions

• Judicial perspectives on women empowerment

• Socio-legal study with a special focus on Anakapalli district. The publication has been widely appreciated for its contribution to legal scholarship and its practical guidance for promoting women's rights and empowerment. Experts noted that this work will serve as an essential reference for policymakers, legal practitioners, and students in the pursuit of gender equality and justice.

The launch not only marked an important academic achievement but also emphasized the role of research in advancing social change and women's empowerment in Andhra Pradesh.

# Use Education for Social Service: Governor S. Abdul Nazeer Urges Youth

Tirupati, March 30, 2026 TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer called upon students to use their education and knowledge for the service of society, emphasizing that youth are the backbone of the nation's future. He was addressing the 13th convocation ceremony of Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University held in Tirupati on Monday evening.

The convocation was conducted in a grand and pleasant atmosphere at the university auditorium. Governor Nazeer, who is also the Chancellor of the university, attended as the chief guest. Other dignitaries

present included Dr. Nitin V. Patil, Vice-Chancellor of Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University, Nagpur, and Dr. J.V. Ramana, Vice-Chancellor of Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University.

With the Governor's permission, the convocation ceremony formally commenced, and degrees were awarded to graduating students. A total of 38 meritorious students were honored with gold medals by the Governor in recognition of their academic excellence.

In his address, Governor Nazeer stated that a convocation is not just a ceremonial event but a significant milestone in a student's life. He congratulated the

graduates for their hard work and acknowledged the invaluable contributions of parents and teachers in their success.

Highlighting the importance of youth, he said their energy and creativity are crucial for the nation's development. He advised students to uphold ethical values and pursue their careers with dedication and responsibility. He also urged them to use their skills and knowledge in ways that benefit society.

The Governor noted that India, with its large youth population, has a unique advantage and opportunity to emerge as a developed nation. He encouraged students to play a key role

in nation-building.

Emphasizing environmental responsibility, he reminded citizens to protect nature and follow their fundamental duties as enshrined in the Constitution. He also advised students to adapt to rapidly advancing technologies and continuously upgrade their skills.

Speaking about the livestock sector, he highlighted its importance in the country's economy and rural livelihoods, urging the adoption of modern technologies for its growth. Quoting former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, he said that with confidence, determination, and ambition, any goal can be achieved.



## Bastar Emerging from Red Terror, Development Picks Up Pace: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed Parliament that the long-standing impact of Maoist or Naxal violence in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh is steadily diminishing, signaling a major shift in the fight against left-wing extremism.

He stated that Bastar, once known as the stronghold of Maoist activity, is now witnessing a gradual return to peace, improved governance, and accelerated development. The Union government's consistent efforts, combining security measures with welfare initiatives, have significantly weakened the influence of extremist groups in the region. According to the Home

Minister, a dual strategy has been effectively implemented—intensive security operations along with infrastructure and social development. This approach has not only reduced incidents of violence but has also encouraged many Maoists to surrender and reintegrate into mainstream society. In recent years, a considerable number of insurgents have laid down arms, indicating a decline in their operational strength.

Shah further highlighted that several remote and previously inaccessible areas of Bastar are now connected through improved road networks and communication systems. Government institutions, including schools and

healthcare facilities that had remained closed for decades due to insurgency, are being revived. These developments are bringing essential services closer to the people and improving their quality of life.

The government has also introduced rehabilitation schemes for surrendered Maoists, providing financial support, housing, and employment opportunities. These initiatives aim to ensure long-term peace by addressing the socio-economic challenges that once fueled the insurgency.

Expressing confidence in the progress made so far, Amit Shah said that Naxalism in Chhattisgarh is on the verge of complete eradica-

tion. He reiterated the Centre's commitment to eliminating left-wing extremism entirely and emphasized that sustained efforts would continue until the goal is achieved.

The transformation of Bastar is now being viewed as a significant milestone in India's internal security landscape. With violence declining and development gaining momentum, the region is gradually moving away from decades of conflict towards stability and growth.

Shah concluded that the era of "red terror" is nearing its end, and Bastar is firmly on the path to a peaceful and prosperous future.



## Lok Sabha Clears IBC Amendment Bill 2025, Focus on Faster Resolutions

The Lok Sabha has passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment Bill, 2025, marking a significant step toward strengthening India's insolvency framework and improving the efficiency of debt resolution processes. Introducing and replying to the debate on the Bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasized that the IBC was never intended to function merely as a debt recovery mechanism. Instead, it was designed to preserve viable businesses, resolve financial stress, and maximize value for all stakeholders. The amendment Bill incorporates a total of 12 changes, most of which were recommended by a Select Committee that reviewed the legislation. These changes aim to address long-standing procedural delays, remove ambiguities in interpretation, and align the law with evolving economic needs and global practices. One of the key highlights of the reform is the push for faster admission and resolution of insolvency cases. The government has intro-



duced stricter timelines, including provisions to ensure that insolvency applications are admitted within a fixed period once a default is established. This is expected to significantly reduce delays that have long plagued the system. The Bill also aims to prevent misuse of the insolvency process by introducing safeguards and penalties. Additionally, it promotes a more structured and trust-based system, shift-

ing away from excessive litigation and procedural bottlenecks. Sitharaman highlighted that over the past decade, the IBC has played a crucial role in improving the health of India's banking sector by enabling the resolution of stressed assets and recovery of bad loans. The new amendments are expected to build on this success by further strengthening the insolvency ecosystem and boosting investor confidence. The re-

forms also focus on enhancing ease of doing business by streamlining processes, encouraging quicker turnaround for distressed companies, and ensuring better outcomes for creditors and stakeholders. With the passage of the Bill, the government aims to create a more efficient, transparent, and time-bound insolvency framework, reinforcing India's financial stability and supporting economic growth.

## "False Narrative by Opposition": Rijiju Defends FCRA Amendment Bill

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has strongly countered criticism from the Congress and Left parties over the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), stating that the opposition is spreading a "false narrative" regarding the intent of the legislation.

The row over the FCRA Amendment Bill has emerged as a major political flashpoint, with opposition parties alleging that the proposed changes could target minority institutions and restrict the functioning of NGOs. However, Rijiju dismissed these claims, asserting that the government's objective is solely to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of foreign funds.

He emphasized that the amendments are designed to prevent misuse of foreign contributions and to safeguard national interests. According to the government, stricter regulations are necessary to ensure that funds received from abroad are not diverted for unlawful activities or personal



gains.

Rijiju further clarified that the provisions in the Bill are not aimed at any particular community or organization. Instead, they seek to establish a robust framework for monitoring and regulating foreign funding, which has long been a sensitive issue in India's governance and security landscape.

A key feature of the proposed amendment is the creation of a mechanism that allows authorities to manage assets of organizations whose FCRA licences are cancelled. This step, according to the government, will ensure that such assets are not misused and are

utilized in the public interest.

Opposition parties, however, have voiced strong concerns, arguing that the Bill grants excessive powers to the government and could adversely impact civil society organizations. They have also questioned the timing and intent of the amendments, suggesting that it could lead to undue interference in the functioning of NGOs and institutions receiving foreign aid.

Despite the criticism, Rijiju maintained that the opposition's objections are politically motivated and not based on facts. He reiterated that the government remains committed to ensuring that foreign contributions are used responsibly and in alignment with national priorities.

The FCRA Amendment Bill is expected to witness intense debate in Parliament, as both the government and opposition continue to clash over its implications. With strong views on both sides, the legislation is likely to remain a key issue in the ongoing political discourse.



## BJP's Assam Manifesto Likely to Focus on Jobs, Youth Support and Land Reforms

Ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections in Assam, the Bharatiya Janata Party is expected to unveil a manifesto centered on employment generation, youth empowerment, education reforms, and land policy changes.

One of the key focus areas is job creation, particularly targeting the state's large youth population. The party is likely to promise new employment opportunities through skill development initiatives and expansion of industrial and service sectors. Strengthening employability and creating sustainable livelihoods are expected to be major highlights of the poll document.

In a significant move aimed at empowering young people, the manifesto may include financial assistance schemes for youth. These could involve funding support for startups, entrepreneurship initiatives, and self-employment ventures, helping young individuals become job creators rather than job seekers.

Education is another critical pillar of the proposed manifesto. The BJP is expected to promise free education and improved access to academic institutions across the state. Additionally, there may be provisions to support teachers in private institutions, addressing long-standing con-

cerns related to salaries and job security in the sector.

Land policy reforms are also likely to feature prominently. The party may introduce measures to regulate land use, protect indigenous land rights, and streamline land ownership systems. These steps are expected to balance development needs with the preservation of local identity—an issue that holds strong political and social significance in Assam.

The manifesto is expected to reflect a broader strategy combining economic development with social welfare. Alongside jobs and education, the BJP is likely to emphasize infrastructure growth, investment promotion, and governance reforms to strengthen the state's economy.

Political observers note that the party's campaign in Assam is built around themes of development and safeguarding regional identity. The upcoming manifesto is expected to align with these priorities, offering a mix of welfare schemes and structural reforms aimed at securing voter support.

With elections approaching, the BJP's promises on jobs, youth funding, and land reforms are set to play a crucial role in shaping the political narrative in Assam, as the party aims to retain power for another term.

## BJP Seeks EC Action Against Mamata Banerjee Over Poll Code Violations

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has approached the Election Commission of India, demanding strict action against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for alleged violations of the Model Code of Conduct during the ongoing election period.

A BJP delegation, including senior Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Kiren Rijiju, submitted a memorandum to the poll body accusing Banerjee of "malicious and repeated violations" of electoral rules and laws. The party urged the Election Commission to use its constitutional powers to ensure free and fair elections in West Bengal.

In its complaint, the BJP specifically sought Banerjee's debarment from campaigning, alleging that her statements



during public rallies amounted to voter intimidation and incitement. The party also re-

quested increased deployment of central forces in sensitive areas, claiming that the state

police machinery is ineffective and biased.

The BJP cited several instances to support its allegations. According to the complaint, Banerjee allegedly made remarks suggesting that people would be compelled to publicly declare their political preferences after the elections, which the party described as a threat to voter freedom. It also pointed to statements where she reportedly urged supporters to "come out with whatever you have at home," interpreting it as an indirect call for confrontation.

Additionally, the BJP claimed that such statements were followed by incidents of violence against its workers, alleging that party members engaged in peaceful campaigning were attacked. The memorandum described a "pattern

of provocation and intimidation" that could undermine the integrity of the electoral process.

The party further demanded legal action against Trinamool Congress leaders under relevant laws and called for closer monitoring of polling and counting processes to ensure transparency and fairness.

The issue comes amid heightened political tensions ahead of the 2026 West Bengal Legislative Assembly election, where both the BJP and Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress are engaged in an intense electoral battle. The Election Commission has acknowledged the complaint and is expected to review the allegations. The matter is likely to add to the already charged political atmosphere in the state as campaigning continues.

## Stalin, Vijay File Nominations; High-Stakes Battle Begins in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin and actor-turned-politician Vijay formally filed their nominations for the upcoming Assembly elections, setting the stage for a high-voltage political contest in the state.

Stalin submitted his nomination from the Kolathur constituency, a seat he has represented multiple times, reinforcing his stronghold in Chennai. Shortly after filing his papers, he conducted a roadshow, greeting supporters and expressing confidence about a decisive victory in the elections.

On the other hand, Vijay, making a significant electoral debut through his party Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK), filed his nomination from Perambur. His entry into active politics has added a new dimension to the Tamil Nadu electoral landscape, turning



the contest into a direct and closely watched battle between the ruling DMK and the emerging TVK.

The simultaneous filing of nominations by both leaders

has intensified the political atmosphere, particularly in Chennai, which is emerging as a key battleground. Massive crowds, energetic campaigns, and strong messaging from

both sides indicate the importance of this election for the future political direction of the state.

Vijay has positioned himself as an alternative voice, focus-

ing on governance issues such as law and order, while also attempting to connect with younger voters and first-time participants in the electoral process. His campaign launch has been marked by sharp criticism of the ruling government and a call for change.

Meanwhile, Stalin is relying on his government's track record, welfare schemes, and established political network to retain power. The DMK is aiming to consolidate its voter base while countering the challenge posed by Vijay's growing popularity.

With both leaders entering the fray, the Tamil Nadu elections are shaping up as a high-stakes political showdown. The contest is expected to be closely fought, with Chennai at the center of attention as voters prepare to decide the state's next government.

# US Deploys 57,000 Troops To Middle East, Raising Fears Of Ground War With Iran

The United States has significantly increased its military presence in the Middle East, fuelling concerns about a possible ground war with Iran as tensions continue to escalate. Reports indicate that American troop deployment in the region has crossed 57,000, marking one of the largest military buildups in recent years.

The latest deployment includes thousands of additional troops, including Marines and airborne forces. Among them are around 3,500 Marines aboard the USS Tripoli, along with personnel from the 82nd Airborne Division. These forces are being positioned as part of contingency planning for potential ground operations if the conflict escalates further.

Growing Military Presence Across Region

American forces are already stationed across multiple bases in the Gulf region, including locations in Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain. Additional air and naval assets have also been deployed, signalling Washington's readiness to respond to any further escalation.



The troop movement comes amid rising tensions and ongoing hostilities in the region. Military analysts note that the positioning of Marine Expeditionary Units and airborne forces closer to potential conflict zones increases the possibility of ground operations.

Strategic Targets Under Watch

One of the key locations reportedly under consideration is Kharg Island, a major hub for Iran's oil exports. Any at-

tempt to seize or neutralise this facility could significantly impact Iran's economy but also risks triggering a broader conflict.

Other potential targets include military installations, coastal defence systems, and strategic infrastructure that could influence shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil transit corridors.

No Decision On Ground In-

vasion Yet Despite the growing military presence, officials have not confirmed any final decision regarding a ground invasion. The deployments are being described as precautionary measures aimed at maintaining strategic flexibility.

However, analysts warn that large-scale troop deployments often increase the chances of escalation. Once forces are positioned in the region, even minor incidents can trigger a wider conflict.

## Rising Regional Tensions

Iran has responded strongly to the buildup, warning that any ground invasion would lead to retaliation across the region. The situation has also raised concerns among regional allies and global powers, increasing fears of a wider Middle East conflict. The developments have also impacted global markets, particularly oil prices, as investors worry about potential supply disruptions and instability in the region.

## A Dangerous Phase

Experts say the current situation represents one of the most volatile phases of the ongoing tensions. While airstrikes and naval deployments allow limited engagement, the introduction of ground forces significantly raises the stakes.

With tens of thousands of US troops now positioned across the Middle East and additional forces on standby, the possibility of American "boots on the ground" appears closer than at any point in recent months.



# How Donald Trump's Iran War Could Trigger A Global Nuclear Race

The ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran under President Donald Trump has raised serious concerns among experts, who warn that the war could push more countries to acquire nuclear weapons. The growing tensions, uncertainty, and breakdown of diplomatic norms risk accelerating nuclear proliferation worldwide.

## War Increasing Global Nuclear Anxiety

The conflict has intensified fears among countries that rely on security guarantees from larger powers. When military conflict escalates between major players, smaller nations often feel vulnerable and begin considering nuclear weapons as a deterrent. Experts warn that such anxieties could lead to more countries pursuing nuclear capabilities, increasing the risk of catastrophic miscalculations. The war has also weakened trust in diplomatic agreements and international institutions designed to prevent nuclear proliferation. When countries see military force used instead of negotiations, they may conclude that nuclear weapons are the only reliable means of protection.

## Iran's Nuclear Ambitions Could Accelerate

Another concern is that military strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities may actually strengthen Tehran's determination to pursue nuclear weapons. Historically, countries facing external threats often accelerate their nuclear programs as a form of deterrence.

Iran has long maintained that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. However, continued military pressure may push Iranian leadership to reconsider its stance. If Iran moves closer to acquiring nuclear weapons, it could trigger a domino effect across the region.

## Regional Nuclear Domino Effect

A nuclear-armed Iran could lead to a cascade of nuclear ambitions in the Middle East. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt may seek their own nuclear capabilities to maintain strategic balance.

Such a development would dramatically increase global nuclear risks. The Middle East is already a volatile region, and adding nuclear weapons into the mix would significantly raise the stakes of any future conflict.

## Allies Losing Faith In Security Guarantees

The conflict may also affect countries outside the Middle

East. Allies of the United States in regions such as Japan and South Korea could begin reconsidering their reliance on US security guarantees.

If these countries feel that Washington's focus is shifting or that global stability is weakening, they may consider developing independent nuclear deterrents. Such moves would mark a major shift in global security architecture.

## Risk Of Miscalculation And Escalation

Experts warn that the spread of nuclear weapons increases the likelihood of accidental or unintended conflict. More nuclear-armed states mean more complex security dynamics and greater chances of miscalculation or escalation.

Even small regional conflicts could escalate into nuclear confrontations if multiple countries possess nuclear capabilities. The growing uncertainty created by the Iran conflict increases these risks.

## Breakdown Of Non-Proliferation Norms

The war also threatens longstanding nuclear non-proliferation efforts. The global system built around limiting nuclear weapons depends heavily on diplomatic cooperation and trust. If countries believe that nuclear weapons are essential for survival, they may withdraw from treaties and pursue independent nuclear programs. This would weaken decades of international efforts to limit nuclear arms.

## A New Nuclear Era?

Some analysts believe the conflict could push the world toward a new nuclear era. As tensions rise and trust declines, countries may prioritise deterrence over diplomacy. This shift could result in a world with more nuclear weapons and higher risks of conflict. The possibility of multiple countries acquiring nuclear capabilities would significantly increase global instability. Experts warn that once the nuclear race begins, reversing it becomes extremely difficult.

## A Dangerous Turning Point

The ongoing war between the United States and Iran is not just a regional conflict — it has global implications. The risk of nuclear proliferation, rising tensions, and weakening diplomatic frameworks all point to a dangerous turning point. If the conflict continues or escalates, the world could witness a surge in nuclear ambitions, increasing the chances of future crises. The situation underscores how regional wars can reshape global security and push the world toward a more dangerous nuclear future.

# Hezbollah Seeks India's Help To Stop Israel's War In Lebanon

The Hezbollah has urged India to play a diplomatic role in stopping Israel's ongoing military operations in Lebanon, as the conflict in the Middle East continues to escalate.

In an exclusive interaction, a senior Hezbollah leader called on India to use its diplomatic influence to help bring an end to the fighting. The appeal comes as violence intensifies in Lebanon following the broader regional conflict linked to the war involving Iran, Israel, and the United States.

## Why Hezbollah Wants India's Role

Hezbollah leaders said India has historically maintained balanced relations across the Middle East and therefore could play a constructive role in reducing tensions. They emphasised that India's diplomatic outreach and global standing could help initiate dialogue and push for a ceasefire.

The group claimed that Israel had continued military operations despite earlier ceasefire efforts and accused Israeli forces of carrying out strikes and occupying territories. Hezbollah also alleged that hundreds of people were killed and thousands injured during this period, along with damage to homes and villages.

## How Lebanon Was Drawn Into The Conflict

Lebanon was pulled into the wider regional conflict earlier this month after Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel. The group said the move was in response to developments in the broader Iran-Israel confrontation, which triggered escalating hostilities across the region.

Since then, cross-border attacks and airstrikes have intensified, raising fears of a wider war. The fighting has also increased humanitarian concerns, with civilians caught in the crossfire and infrastructure suffering heavy damage.

## India's Strategic Position

India maintains diplomatic ties with Israel, Iran, and several Arab nations, placing it in a unique position to potentially mediate tensions. India has also been involved in peacekeeping efforts in Lebanon through United Nations missions, strengthening its diplomatic credibility in the region.

Hezbollah's appeal reflects growing international pressure for diplomatic intervention as the conflict risks expanding beyond Lebanon. With tensions already rising across the Middle East, experts warn that continued escalation could trigger a broader regional crisis.

## Rising Regional Tensions

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has intensified alongside wider Middle East tensions. Military activity has increased, and fears of ground operations continue to grow. The situation has also impacted global markets and raised concerns about regional stability. As violence continues, calls for diplomatic intervention are increasing. Hezbollah's appeal to India highlights the urgency of finding a political solution before the conflict escalates further.

With tensions mounting, India's potential role as a diplomatic bridge is gaining attention, even as the region faces one of its most volatile phases in recent months.

# Donald Trump Hints At Seizing Iran's Oil Hub Kharg Island Amid War



Donald Trump has hinted at seizing Iran's key oil export hub, Kharg Island, saying his "favourite thing" would be to take oil in Iran. The remarks have raised concerns about a major escalation in the ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran.

Trump suggested that capturing Kharg Island could give the United States strategic leverage over Iran. He also claimed that Tehran was witnessing signs of "regime change," while signalling that military options were being considered as part of broader war planning. Experts have warned that any attempt to seize the island could expose US troops to significant risk and potentially prolong the conflict.

## Why Kharg Island Matters

Kharg Island is one of the most strategically important locations in Iran's energy infrastructure. The island serves as the country's main oil export terminal, with the majority of Iranian crude shipments passing through it. Control of the island would significantly

impact Iran's economy and global oil supply.

Analysts say seizing the island could disrupt Iranian oil exports and increase pressure on Tehran. However, they also caution that such a move could trigger retaliation and escalate the war further. The island's proximity to mainland Iran also makes it difficult to defend if foreign troops attempt to occupy it.

## Military And Strategic Risks

Military experts have warned that a ground operation to seize Kharg Island would be extremely risky. The island lies within range of Iranian missiles, drones, and artillery, making any occupying force vulnerable to attacks.

In addition, a ground operation could drag the United States into a prolonged conflict, especially if Iran decides to defend the island aggressively. Analysts also warn that damage to oil infrastructure could push global crude prices sharply higher.

## Rising Tensions In The Region

Trump's remarks come amid escalating hostilities and

increasing military deployments in the Middle East. Reports indicate that US military planning includes multiple scenarios, including potential ground operations and efforts to secure strategic energy infrastructure.

The situation has heightened fears of a wider regional conflict, with oil markets reacting to the uncertainty and geopolitical tensions.

Experts warn that targeting key oil infrastructure could disrupt global energy supplies and worsen economic volatility.

## A High-Stakes Strategy

While seizing Kharg Island could provide leverage over Iran, it also carries significant risks. A ground operation would mark a major escalation and could draw in additional regional players.

As tensions continue to rise, Trump's remarks have added to uncertainty about the next phase of the conflict. Analysts say the coming days will be crucial in determining whether the situation moves toward negotiation or further escalation.

# Donald Trump Plans Ground Operation To Extract Iran's Uranium, Risks Escalation

The United States is reportedly considering a high-risk ground operation in Iran to extract nearly 400 kilograms of highly enriched uranium, a move that could significantly escalate the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. According to reports, the proposed mission aims to seize nuclear material believed to be close to weapons-grade quality. The uranium, estimated at about 400 kg, is considered enough to potentially support the development of nuclear weapons. The plan is being discussed even as diplomatic efforts continue to de-escalate tensions between the two countries.

## Why The Uranium Matters

Before recent airstrikes, Iran was believed to possess more than 400 kilograms of uranium enriched to about 60 percent purity, along with additional fissile material enriched to lower lev-

els. Experts say this level of enrichment is close to weapons-grade uranium and could be further processed for nuclear weapons.

The uranium is reportedly stored at underground facilities, some of which were previously targeted by US strikes. Extracting the material would likely require ground forces to enter hostile territory, secure the facilities, and transport the radioactive material safely — a complex and risky operation.

## Trump's Hardline Strategy

Trump has reportedly told advisers that Iran should surrender the nuclear material as a condition for ending the war. He has also indicated that the United States could seize the uranium by force if diplomatic negotiations fail.

Despite the aggressive stance, Trump also suggested that indirect negotiations between the two sides are ongoing and that a

deal could still be reached quickly. However, the possibility of military action remains on the table.

## Troop Deployment Raises Concerns

Reports indicate that the Pentagon is considering sending additional ground troops to the Gulf region as part of contingency planning. Thousands of American troops, including Marines and special forces, have already been deployed across the Middle East, raising fears of a broader conflict.

Military experts warn that any ground operation inside Iran would be extremely dangerous. The mission could take days, expose troops to missile and drone attacks, and risk dragging the United States into a prolonged war.

## High-Risk Military Move

Analysts say extracting uranium from fortified underground sites would require care-

ful planning and specialised equipment. The operation could involve securing nuclear facilities, transporting hazardous materials, and defending troops against potential Iranian retaliation.

Such a move would mark a significant escalation in the conflict and could trigger wider regional tensions, involving other Middle Eastern countries.

## A Critical Moment In The Conflict

The potential ground operation highlights how the conflict is entering a more dangerous phase. While negotiations continue, the consideration of boots-on-the-ground operations signals that military escalation remains a real possibility. With uranium extraction now part of the discussion, the coming days could prove crucial in determining whether the conflict moves toward diplomacy or deeper confrontation.



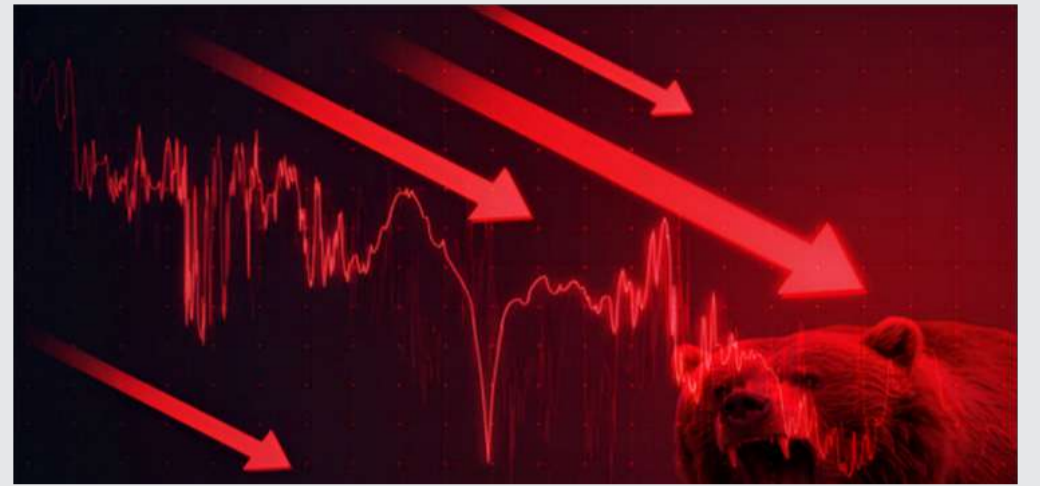
# Bears Tighten Grip As Sensex Slides 1,636 Points, Nifty 50 Falls Below 22,350

Indian equity markets ended sharply lower on Monday, with heavy selling pressure dragging benchmark indices deep into the red. Weak global cues, rising crude oil prices, and regulatory developments weighed on investor sentiment, leading to broad-based declines across sectors. The Bombay Stock Exchange benchmark Sensex plunged 1,635.67 points, or 2.22 percent, to close at 71,947.55. Meanwhile, the National Stock Exchange Nifty 50 dropped 488.20 points, or 2.14 percent, to settle at 22,331.40, slipping below the crucial 22,350 level. The Nifty also touched an intraday low of 22,283.85, reflecting sus-

tained selling throughout the session. **Broad-Based Selling Across Sectors** The decline was widespread, with almost all sectoral indices ending lower. Auto, FMCG, consumer durables, capital goods, telecom, realty, and banking stocks were among the biggest losers, falling between 2 and 4 percent. The across-the-board decline indicated strong bearish sentiment rather than selective profit booking. Banking and financial stocks faced significant pressure after tighter dollar position limits announced by the Reserve Bank of India. The move triggered selling in financial stocks, which con-

tributed heavily to the overall market decline. Broader markets also mirrored the weakness. Midcap and smallcap indices fell around 2.6 percent each, showing increased risk aversion among investors. **Global Cues Weigh On Markets** Weak global signals also impacted domestic markets. Rising crude oil prices and ongoing geopolitical tensions increased concerns about inflation and economic growth. These factors prompted investors to reduce exposure, leading to continued selling pressure. Market participants also remained cautious ahead of key global and domestic de-

velopments. The uncertainty encouraged traders to book profits and shift to safer assets. **Weak End To Financial Year** The fall came on the final trading day of the financial year, adding to the cautious sentiment. March witnessed heightened volatility, with markets experiencing sharp swings. The recent decline reflects growing concerns over global uncertainties and domestic economic factors. **Market Outlook** Analysts believe volatility may continue in the near term, with investors closely tracking global cues, crude oil prices, and policy developments. The broad-based sell-



off and weak closing suggest that bearish sentiment currently dominates the market. With indices ending near the day's lows and selling seen across sectors, bears appear to have tightened their grip. Investors are likely to remain cautious as markets head into the new financial year amid ongoing global and domestic uncertainties.

## Reserve Bank of India Data Shows Credit To Industry Rises 13.5% In February

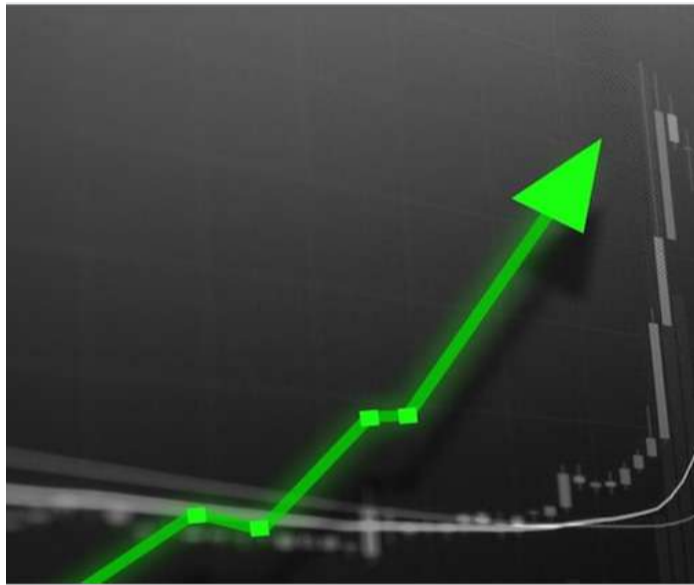
Bank credit to industry recorded a strong growth of 13.5 percent in February, reflecting improving demand for loans across industrial segments, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India. The growth marks a significant increase compared with 7.5 percent recorded during the same period last year.

The central bank's sectoral deployment data, based on information from 41 select scheduled commercial banks accounting for nearly 95 percent of total non-food credit, showed that lending to industries gathered pace during the month. The data also indicated that credit growth remained broad-based across different industrial categories.

Loans to micro and small industries as well as medium-sized enterprises continued to show double-digit growth. Credit to large industries also recorded an improvement, suggesting strengthening business activity and higher borrowing demand from corporates.

Overall non-food bank credit also expanded at a faster pace. On a year-on-year basis, non-food credit grew by 14.3 percent as of the fortnight ending February 28, compared with 11.1 percent during the corresponding period last year. This indicates sustained momentum in lending activity across sectors of the economy.

The increase in industrial credit comes amid signs of improving economic activity and stronger investment demand.



Rising credit flow to micro, small and medium enterprises is particularly significant, as these sectors are often seen as key drivers of employment and industrial growth.

Higher lending to large industries also points to renewed capital expenditure plans and business expansion efforts. Increased borrowing by companies typically reflects improving confidence in economic conditions and demand outlook.

The data also suggests that banks are gradually increasing their exposure to industrial sectors, supported by stable asset quality and improved balance sheets. In recent months, credit growth has remained steady, driven by demand from industries, services, and retail borrowers.

The steady expansion in credit to industry is expected to support manufacturing activity, infrastructure development, and overall economic growth. Economists often view rising industrial credit as a positive signal for future investment and production.

However, analysts remain cautious about global uncertainties, interest rate movements, and inflation trends, which could influence borrowing costs and credit demand going forward. Overall, the RBI data indicates that industrial credit growth remained strong in February, with lending expanding across segments. The continued rise in credit to industry suggests improving business sentiment and strengthening economic momentum.

## Rupee Breaches 95 Per Dollar Despite RBI Move To Curb Volatility

The Indian rupee fell to a fresh record low on March 30, breaching the psychologically significant 95-per-dollar mark despite regulatory measures by the Reserve Bank of India aimed at stabilising the currency. The decline highlights continued pressure on the domestic currency amid global uncertainties and persistent dollar demand.

The rupee touched an intraday low of 95.23 against the US dollar before recovering slightly to close at 94.83. The fall came even after the Reserve Bank of India capped banks' net open foreign exchange positions at \$100 million per day, a move intended to reduce speculation and limit excessive volatility in the currency market. However, the impact of the central bank's intervention appeared short-lived, with the rupee weakening again during the session.

The currency initially opened stronger following the RBI's directive, but quickly erased gains as demand for dollars from importers increased. Market participants rushed to cover their positions, leading to renewed pressure on the rupee. The move by banks to unwind their currency bets also added to market volatility.

The depreciation comes amid broader global concerns, including rising crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions, which have weighed on emerg-



ing market currencies. As India is a major importer of crude oil, higher oil prices tend to increase dollar demand, putting downward pressure on the rupee. The RBI's decision to cap banks' foreign exchange exposure was introduced after the rupee hit previous record lows earlier in the week. The central bank's directive requires banks to limit their currency exposure and unwind large positions, which may also result in losses for some lenders. Despite these measures, the rupee's weakness persisted, reflecting underlying

macroeconomic pressures. Currency markets also remained cautious due to foreign capital outflows and a stronger US dollar globally. These factors have continued to weigh on investor sentiment, leading to increased volatility in the domestic currency. The decline also came on the final trading day of the financial year, when demand for dollars typically rises due to import payments and balance sheet adjustments by companies. This seasonal demand further contributed to the rupee's fall. Analysts believe that while

the RBI's intervention may help limit sharp fluctuations, the broader direction of the rupee will depend on global developments, oil prices, and capital flows. If external pressures persist, the domestic currency may continue to face volatility in the near term. The rupee's fall below the 95 mark marks a significant milestone and underscores the challenges facing emerging market currencies amid global uncertainty. Market participants are now closely watching policy measures and global trends for further direction.

## PC Jeweller Stock In Focus After MoU With National Skill Development Corporation

Shares of smallcap jewellery company PC Jeweller remained in focus after the firm announced signing a memorandum of understanding with the National Skill Development Corporation, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

The company said it has been selected as an industry and franchise partner for the gems and jewellery sector under the agreement. As part of the initiative, PC Jeweller plans to develop and onboard up to two lakh micro-entrepreneurs across India over the next five years. The programme aims to promote entrepreneurship, generate employment, and strengthen local economic development.

The initiative is part of a broader entrepreneurship programme covering multiple sectors, with one lead industry partner identified for each segment. Under this framework, PC Jeweller will help build a network of entrepreneurs in the gems and jewellery space while expanding skill development opportunities across the country.

**Stock Movement** Following the announcement, the stock saw volatility during the trading session. The shares opened slightly lower compared to the previous close but later moved higher before witnessing profit booking. The



stock also touched its 52-week low during the session, reflecting continued fluctuations in investor sentiment.

The counter has remained under pressure in recent months, with investors closely tracking company developments and broader market trends.

**Additional Corporate Development**

In a separate update, the company announced that its board allotted more than 20 crore equity shares following the conversion of warrants to select investors. The move is expected to strengthen the company's capital base and support future expansion

plans.

**Growth Outlook** The partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation is expected to support employment generation and entrepreneurship development across India. By onboarding micro-entrepreneurs, PC Jeweller aims to expand its reach and create new business opportunities in the gems and jewellery segment. The development has kept the smallcap jewellery stock on investors' radar, with market participants watching for further updates regarding the rollout of the initiative and its potential impact on the company's long-term growth strategy.

## Pioneer Fil Med Files Draft Papers For 500 Crore IPO

Railway and metro equipment manufacturer Pioneer Fil Med has filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India to raise 500 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The move marks the company's plan to expand its manufacturing capacity and strengthen its presence in the growing railway and metro infrastructure sector. The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of shares worth 250 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 250 crore by existing promoters and shareholders. Promoter entities Pioneer Factor IT Infra Developers and Aztech India are expected to sell shares worth 125 crore each under the offer-for-sale component.

The company may also consider a pre-IPO placement of up to 50 crore before filing the red herring prospectus. If completed, this amount will be deducted from the fresh issue portion of the IPO.

**Expansion And Utilisation Of Funds**

Pioneer Fil-Med plans to use the proceeds from the fresh issue to expand its manufacturing capabilities. A significant portion of the funds will be allocated to setting up a new gearbox manufacturing facility. The company also intends to invest in establishing a wind generator components manufacturing unit in Salarpur. The remaining funds will be used for general corporate purposes.



The expansion is aimed at strengthening the company's product portfolio and tapping into growing opportunities in railway, metro, and renewable energy segments.

**Company Background**

Founded in 2001, Pioneer Fil-Med initially started with manufacturing filters for railway and automotive applications. Over the years, the company diversified its offerings to include traction motors, alternators, brake discs, gangways, stators and rotors for locomotives, and platform screen doors for metro systems. It also manufactures components for wind energy equipment. The company supplies equip-

ment for railway and metro infrastructure projects, sectors that have seen strong growth due to increasing investments in transportation infrastructure across India.

**Growth Strategy**

The IPO is expected to help the company scale operations and strengthen its market position. With rising investments in railway modernisation and metro rail expansion, demand for specialised equipment is expected to grow steadily. The capital raised will also help improve the company's financial position, enhance operational capacity, and support long-term growth plans.

**Sector Outlook**

India's railway and metro infrastructure sectors continue to expand, driven by urbanisation, government initiatives, and increasing demand for efficient public transport systems. Companies operating in this space are witnessing strong growth opportunities.

Pioneer Fil-Med's decision to tap the capital markets comes at a time when engineering and manufacturing firms are seeking funds to expand operations and capture infrastructure-led growth. With its diversified product range and expansion plans, the company aims to strengthen its footprint in the railway and metro equipment segment.

## “Inform Family Twice”: Woman’s Joke About Bengaluru Airport Distance Goes Viral

A humorous social media post about Bengaluru’s airport distance has gone viral, leaving many travellers amused and nodding in agreement. The post, shared by a woman named Megha, highlighted the long journey passengers often face after landing at Bengaluru’s airport. Her witty remark suggested that travellers in Bengaluru should inform their families twice — once after landing and again after finally reaching home. Megha shared a photo from the airport along with her light-hearted observation. She joked that Bengaluru might be the only place where landing at the airport

doesn’t really mean you’re close to home. According to her, it often takes around two hours to reach different parts of the city, depending on traffic conditions and distance. Her relatable comment quickly caught attention online and sparked a wave of reactions. Social media users found the remark both funny and accurate. Many shared their own experiences of long airport commutes, agreeing that the journey from the airport can sometimes feel longer than the flight itself. Some users mentioned that during peak traffic hours, the travel time can extend even further, occasionally reaching three to four

hours. Others added that they often plan their airport pickups carefully because of the unpredictable traffic. While many agreed with the observation, a few users pointed out that Bengaluru is not alone in this situation. They noted that several major cities around the world also have airports located far from the main urban areas. However, most commenters still felt that Bengaluru’s traffic congestion makes the journey particularly challenging. Bengaluru’s airport is situated on the outskirts of the city, which contributes to the extended travel time. With the city’s rapid growth

and increasing traffic, commuting from the airport has become a common concern for both residents and visitors. Although infrastructure improvements and connectivity options continue to develop, the journey remains time-consuming for many travellers. Despite being a simple joke, Megha’s post struck a chord with countless people who have experienced the same situation. Her humorous take turned a daily travel frustration into an entertaining conversation online. The viral post not only brought laughter but also highlighted a shared reality faced by those travelling to and from Bengaluru.



## Bengaluru Woman Alleges Phone Theft at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Calls It “Organised Crime”

A Bengaluru woman has alleged that her mobile phone was stolen during a cricket match at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, claiming the incident appeared to be part of an organised operation. Her post on social media quickly gained attention, sparking concerns about security arrangements at the venue.



According to the woman, the incident took place while she was attending a match at the stadium. She claimed that her phone was stolen amid heavy crowd movement and later suggested that the theft did not appear to be an isolated incident. In her post, she described the situation as “organised crime,” raising concerns about the presence of coordinated groups targeting spectators. The woman further alleged that the individuals involved were wearing Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) jerseys and were carrying complimentary match tickets. This detail led her to suspect that the thefts may have been carried out by a group working together

inside the stadium. Her claims quickly gained traction online, with many users sharing similar experiences and concerns about security during crowded events. Her post triggered widespread reactions on social media. Several users supported her claims, stating that large gatherings at stadiums often create opportunities for pickpocketing and theft. Others urged authorities to strengthen security measures and improve crowd monitoring during matches. The allegations come at a

time when multiple fans have reported losing their phones during a recent match at the same venue. Around a dozen phones were reportedly lost during a game, with several complaints filed with police. Authorities have since begun reviewing CCTV footage to determine whether the phones were misplaced or stolen. While the woman’s claims have not been officially confirmed, the incident has raised concerns about spectator safety and security at major sporting events. Large crowds, lim-

ited movement space, and excitement during matches often create conditions where theft incidents can occur unnoticed. The viral post has also sparked a broader discussion about the need for improved security protocols, including better surveillance, crowd management, and quicker response systems for reporting lost items. As the conversation continues online, many fans are calling for stricter measures to ensure a safer match-day experience at the stadium.

## Mother’s Tribute: Chinese Woman Makes Shoe Pads for Soldiers for 20 Years After Son’s Heroic Death

A grieving mother in China has spent more than two decades honouring her late son in a deeply moving way — by handcrafting shoe pads for soldiers serving in difficult conditions. Her story of love, loss and dedication has touched many, turning personal tragedy into a lifelong mission of compassion. Zhang Xinghui from Chongqing lost her son, Gu Nu, in 2005. The 19-year-old soldier died during a rescue operation in Tibet after a landslide struck. While trying to save a fellow soldier, he sacrificed his life — a moment that left his family devastated. Before receiving the tragic news, Zhang had already prepared 20 pairs of handmade shoe pads and planned to visit her son. When she later travelled to meet his fellow soldiers, she was deeply moved by their challenging working conditions. Many of them had to patrol long distances on rugged mountain paths in harsh weather, often for extended periods. Zhang distributed the shoe pads she had made and decided to continue supporting soldiers in memory of her son. What began as a small gesture



soon turned into a long-term commitment. Over the past 20 years, she has hand-stitched more than 1,000 pairs of shoe pads, each carefully crafted with patience and care. She believes the long threads she uses while sewing represent her love and memories of her son. Despite growing older and facing health concerns, Zhang continues her work, saying she will keep making shoe pads as long as she is physically able. Over the years, Zhang has travelled to Tibet multiple times to personally deliver the shoe pads. During her visits, she also brings local specialties from her hometown and offers encouragement to soldiers, re-

mind them to stay safe while performing their duties. Her dedication has helped her form close bonds with many soldiers, especially those who served alongside her son. Many now call her “Mother” and remain in touch with her. She also attends family gatherings and celebrations with them, treating their children like her own. Though she lost one son, Zhang says she feels she has gained many more through her continued support for soldiers. Her heartfelt tribute stands as a powerful reminder of how grief can be transformed into kindness, and how one mother’s love can continue to inspire even after loss.



## Viral Yellow Plastic Bag Isn’t Balenciaga Trash Bag — Here’s The Real Story

A simple yellow plastic bag recently went viral online after many social media users mistakenly believed it was an expensive designer item from Balenciaga. However, the truth behind the buzz turned out to be far more meaningful than a high-fashion accessory. The confusion began when Chinese actress Zhang Jingyi appeared at the Beijing International Film Festival carrying what looked like an ordinary yellow plastic bag. The unexpected accessory quickly caught attention, with many social media users joking that it resembled one of Balenciaga’s unconventional fashion pieces.

significance and plays an important role in the storyline. According to reports, the bag is used by Zhang Jingyi’s character as a communication tool with her hearing-impaired parents. The object becomes a symbol of love, connection, and understanding within the film’s narrative. By carrying the bag at the film festival, the actress appeared to be paying tribute to her character and the story’s emotional theme.

Given the brand’s reputation for launching unusual and sometimes controversial designs, many assumed the bag was a luxury item. The speculation gained momentum, with several users claiming the plastic bag could be an expensive designer product similar to the brand’s previously discussed “trash bag”-style accessories. However, the viral claims were soon clarified. The yellow plastic bag was not a designer item at all. Instead, it was a simple prop connected to Zhang Jingyi’s film, The One. In the movie, the yellow plastic bag carries emotional

Once the real reason behind the bag became known, reactions online quickly shifted. Many users who initially joked about the “designer trash bag” appreciated the deeper meaning behind the simple accessory. Others praised Zhang Jingyi for using a modest object to highlight the emotional essence of her film. The incident also sparked broader conversations about how quickly assumptions can spread on social media, particularly when luxury brands are involved. A simple plastic bag, initially mistaken for a high-end fashion statement, ultimately turned out to represent a heartfelt story. In the end, what began as a viral fashion mystery became a touching reminder that sometimes the simplest items carry the most powerful meaning.

## Michael Vaughan Shares Mumbai Gully Cricket Moment, Wins Hearts Online

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has delighted cricket fans after sharing a heartwarming glimpse of gully cricket from the streets of Mumbai. The video, posted on X, showed children playing cricket in a narrow lane — a familiar and nostalgic sight for millions across India.



Vaughan captioned the clip as a “Monday morning in Mumbai,” but what truly caught his attention was a young boy patiently waiting for his turn to bat. Highlighting the moment, Vaughan wrote, “Check out the young lad waiting to bat,” a simple observation that quickly resonated with cricket lovers online.

The short video captured children enthusiastically playing cricket in a cramped street, turning the narrow lane into their playground. Despite limited space, the excitement and passion of the young players were evident. The boy waiting eagerly for his chance became the highlight of the video, symbolising the dreams many youngsters carry while playing

gully cricket. The post quickly gained traction, especially amid the excitement surrounding the Indian Premier League season. Many users praised the inno-

cence and simplicity of the moment, saying it reminded them of their own childhood memories of playing cricket in neighbourhood streets. Social media users flooded

the comments section with warm reactions. Some described the video as capturing the true spirit of Mumbai, while others said the children could be future cricket stars. A few even mentioned that such street games often produce legends like Sachin Tendulkar or Rohit Sharma.

The viral clip once again highlighted India’s deep-rooted love for cricket, where the sport thrives not only in stadiums but also in small streets and neighbourhoods. For many young players, gully cricket is where their journey begins, and Vaughan’s post served as a reminder of how the game connects people across cultures.

The charming moment quickly became a talking point online, with fans celebrating the enthusiasm of young cricketers and the universal appeal of the sport.

## US Woman Praises India’s Fast, Affordable Healthcare, Internet Reacts

A woman from the United States has gone viral after praising India’s healthcare system, calling it fast, accessible, and surprisingly affordable. The woman, identified as Liz, shared her experience in a video posted on Instagram, which quickly caught the attention of users online.



In the video, Liz initially described Indian healthcare as “really annoying,” but soon clarified that she was being sarcastic. She explained that what she actually found surprising was how quick and easy it was to receive medical care. According to her, she could walk into a hospital, consult a doctor on the same day, and receive treatment without long waiting times.

Comparing her experience with healthcare in the United States, Liz pointed out that getting a doctor’s appointment there often involves contacting multiple clinics, waiting for weeks, and paying significantly higher costs. She jokingly

remarked that India makes healthcare “too easy,” highlighting the stark difference between the two systems. Her video quickly drew widespread reactions online. Many users agreed with her observations and shared their

own experiences. Some said they were able to get blood tests, scans, and medical reports within hours in India. Others noted that many services are available at relatively low costs, making healthcare more accessible to a larger

population. The viral post also sparked broader discussions about healthcare accessibility in different countries. Several users praised India’s system for its speed and affordability, while others pointed out that experiences can vary depending on location and facility.

Liz’s video resonated with viewers, especially those who have experienced healthcare systems in multiple countries. Her light-hearted yet meaningful comparison highlighted how everyday services like healthcare can differ greatly across the world. The clip quickly became a talking point online, with many people appreciating India’s healthcare accessibility and sharing their own positive experiences.

# Sachin Tendulkar Hails Rohit Sharma, Shardul Thakur As Mumbai Indians Break 13-Year-Old Jinx

Sachin Tendulkar praised Rohit Sharma and Shardul Thakur after Mumbai Indians secured a thrilling victory over Kolkata Knight Riders to break a 13-year jinx in their opening match of the Indian Premier League 2026 season.

Playing at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai Indians chased down a massive 221-run target with six wickets in hand and five balls to spare, registering their first opening-match victory since 2012. Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton laid the foundation with a brilliant 148-run opening partnership that put the team firmly in control of the chase.

Following the win, Tendulkar took to social media to praise the performances, applauding Rohit's attacking approach and Shardul Thakur's crucial contribution with the ball. His message celebrated



Mumbai Indians' strong start and highlighted the importance of the team effort in achieving the milestone victory. Rohit Sharma's aggressive knock set the tone early in the chase, while Shardul Thakur played a key role in restricting

Kolkata Knight Riders earlier in the innings. Their combined efforts helped Mumbai Indians overcome the long-standing opening-game jinx.

The victory marked a significant morale boost for Mumbai Indians as they began their IPL 2026 campaign on a positive note. Breaking the 13-year drought also raised expectations among fans, with the team aiming for a strong season ahead.

Mumbai Indians, five-time IPL champions, had struggled in their opening matches for more than a decade. The emphatic win not only ended that run but also showcased the team's strong batting depth and improved bowling performance.

With momentum on their side, Mumbai Indians will now look to build on this impressive start as the tournament progresses.



## "Want You Here For Rest Of Your Career": Hardik Pandya's Gesture For MI Star Wins Hearts

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya won hearts with a warm gesture for teammate Shardul Thakur after the team's impressive victory over Kolkata Knight Riders in their IPL 2026 opener.

Following Mumbai Indians' six-wicket win, Pandya heaped praise on Shardul Thakur for his crucial performance with the ball. The captain highlighted how the all-rounder played an important role in helping the team restrict the opposition and maintain control of the game.

Speaking after the match, Pandya revealed that he had a heartfelt message for Thakur. He said he wanted the all-rounder to remain with Mumbai Indians for the rest of his career, jokingly referring to Thakur's history of moving between multiple IPL franchises. The comment quickly gained attention and was widely appreciated by fans for its warmth and team spirit.

Shardul Thakur delivered a strong performance during the match, using his variations effectively and troubling the Kolkata Knight Riders batters. His contribution helped Mumbai Indians put pressure on the opposition and set up the victory.

Pandya acknowledged Thakur's ability to outsmart batters and praised his bowling intelligence.

The match also saw Mumbai Indians produce a strong batting display while chasing a challenging total. The team's solid start and composed middle-order effort ensured that they crossed the finish line comfortably, marking a positive beginning to their IPL 2026 campaign.

Pandya's comments reflected the growing camaraderie within the Mumbai Indians squad. His public praise for Thakur highlighted the importance of team unity and confidence early in the tournament.

Fans on social media appreciated the captain's gesture, calling it a sign of strong leadership and a supportive team environment. Many also pointed out that such encouragement could boost player morale and help Mumbai Indians maintain momentum in the tournament.

With the win, Mumbai Indians began their IPL 2026 campaign on a high note. The performance, along with Pandya's heartfelt gesture, added to the positive atmosphere within the squad as they look ahead to the rest of the season.



## Hardik Pandya Gifts Girlfriend Mahika Sharma 1.7 Crore Luxury Car, Internet In Awe

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya once again grabbed headlines, this time for a grand romantic gesture. The Mumbai Indians captain gifted his girlfriend Mahika Sharma a luxury car worth approximately 1.7 crore, leaving fans impressed and social media buzzing. Pandya reportedly presented Sharma with India's first Mercedes-Benz V-Class, one of the most premium and spacious luxury vehicles currently available in the country. The gesture came amid the ongoing IPL 2026 season, adding to the buzz around the star cricketer both on and off the field. Pictures of the couple posing with the luxury vehicle quickly went viral online. Fans flooded social media with reactions, with many praising Pandya's romantic gesture and extravagant lifestyle. Several users described the gift as "grand" and "heart-winning," while others admired the cricketer's fondness for luxury cars.

The gift also comes shortly after Pandya treated himself to an ultra-luxury Ferrari reportedly worth around 12 crore,

highlighting his growing collection of high-end vehicles. The Indian star has often made headlines for his lavish purchases, expensive watches, and premium lifestyle choices.

Pandya has frequently been spotted with Mahika Sharma in recent months. The cricketer has also credited her for providing support and positivity during key moments in his career. Their public appearances and social media moments have attracted significant attention from fans. On the cricketing front, Pandya recently led Mumbai Indians to a strong start in IPL 2026 with a convincing victory over Kolkata Knight Riders. While his leadership and performance drew praise, his latest off-field gesture quickly became another talking point among fans.

The luxury gift has once again highlighted Pandya's flair for grand gestures and his high-profile lifestyle. As photos continue to circulate online, fans remain in awe of the cricketer's romantic move and his ever-growing collection of luxury vehicles.

## No IPL 2026 Broadcast In Bangladesh Even If Government Lifts Ban – Here's Why

Cricket fans in Bangladesh are set to miss the Indian Premier League 2026 season, even if the government lifts its broadcast ban. The reason lies in a terminated broadcast agreement that has left the tournament without an official broadcaster in the country. Reports indicate that there will be no official telecast of IPL 2026 in Bangladesh after JioStar ended its broadcasting agreement with local partner T Sports. The termination came after what was described as continued failure to meet payment deadlines under the contract. With the deal cancelled, there is currently no broadcaster available to air the matches in Bangladesh.

**Government's U-Turn Not Enough**  
The Bangladesh govern-

ment had earlier imposed a ban on IPL broadcasts following controversy surrounding Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman. The decision sparked debate among fans and officials, given the IPL's massive popularity in the country. Recently, authorities indicated a softer stance, stating they would not stop any broadcaster from airing the matches if a partner came forward. However, despite this apparent U-turn, the termination of the broadcast deal means no channel currently holds the rights to telecast the tournament.

**Impact Beyond IPL**  
The cancelled agreement also affects the Women's Premier League, which was part of the same sublicensing arrangement covering multiple seasons. With the deal

scrapped, both tournaments now lack official broadcasting partners in Bangladesh.

**Fans Left Disappointed**  
The IPL enjoys a massive following in Bangladesh, with fans closely tracking performances of international stars and local players. The absence of official broadcasts is expected to disappoint millions of viewers who traditionally tune in to the tournament every year.

**Uncertain Future**  
While the Bangladesh government is still reviewing its position, the lack of a broadcasting partner means IPL 2026 will likely remain unavailable on television in the country. Unless a new deal is struck quickly, Bangladeshi fans may have to wait until future seasons to watch the tournament through official channels.



## Rohit Sharma's Banter With Umpire After Bat Nearly Fails Test During MI vs KKR

Rohit Sharma grabbed attention during the Indian Premier League 2026 clash between Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders after a light-hearted moment with the umpire during a routine bat inspection.

As Rohit walked out to bat at Wankhede Stadium, his bat was checked using the standard gauge to ensure it complied with size regulations. During the inspection, the bat appeared to get stuck and almost failed the test, prompting a brief discussion between Rohit and the umpire.

However, after a second check, the bat successfully passed the test. Rohit then shared a playful "told you so" expression with the umpire, leading to a moment of banter that quickly went viral on social media.

The light-hearted exchange didn't distract Rohit, who went on to deliver a brilliant performance. The star batter smashed 78 runs off just 38 balls while chasing a daunting 221-run target, helping Mumbai Indians secure a memorable victory.

The knock also saw Rohit achieve a notable milestone. He became the player with the most runs against a single



team in IPL history, surpassing previous records with his consistent performances against Kolkata Knight Riders.

The amusing bat-check moment added to an eventful evening, with fans enjoying both Rohit's batting masterclass and his humorous interaction with the umpire. The clip quickly circulated online, with many praising Rohit's calm attitude and sense of humour.

Mumbai Indians' strong start to IPL 2026, combined with Rohit Sharma's entertaining moment, made the match one of the most talked-about fixtures early in the tournament.

## Pakistan Super League Rocked By Ball-Tampering Controversy, Incident Caught On Camera

The Pakistan Super League (PSL) has been hit by a major controversy after an alleged ball-tampering incident during a match between Lahore Qalandars and Karachi Kings. The moment, caught on camera, quickly sparked debate among fans and experts.

The controversy unfolded during the final over of the match when Karachi Kings needed 14 runs to win. Just before the over began, cameras captured a brief discussion between Lahore Qalandars players, including Fakhar Zaman,

Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf. Soon after, umpires inspected the ball and concluded that its condition had been deliberately altered.

Following the inspection, the match officials awarded Karachi Kings five penalty runs and replaced the ball. The decision significantly impacted the match, reducing Karachi's target and shifting momentum in their favour. Karachi Kings eventually chased down the revised target and secured victory with balls to spare.

**Fakhar Zaman Faces Charges**  
After the incident, Fakhar

Zaman was charged with ball-tampering. The Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed that the matter had been referred to match referee Roshan Mahanama, and a hearing was conducted. Fakhar denied the allegations during the proceedings, and another hearing is expected before a final decision is taken.

The controversy gained further attention after visuals of the incident circulated widely on social media, prompting strong reactions from fans and former players.

**Shaheen Afridi Under Spotlight**

Lahore Qalandars captain Shaheen Shah Afridi also came under scrutiny following the incident. During a post-match interaction, former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja questioned Afridi about the episode. Afridi said he would need to review the footage before making any comments, which further fuelled speculation.

**Debate Over Spirit Of Cricket**

The incident has reignited discussions about fair play and the spirit of the game. Ball-tampering is considered a serious offence in cricket and can result in penalties, suspen-

sions, or fines depending on the severity.

The controversy has also drawn comparisons with past ball-tampering incidents in international cricket, with critics calling for strict action if wrongdoing is confirmed.

**PSL Faces Fresh Controversy**

The episode has put the PSL under the spotlight, with fans and analysts calling for clarity and transparency. As investigations continue, the cricketing world now awaits the final verdict, which could have implications for players and the tournament moving forward.



## Pradeep Ranganathan-Krithi Shetty's 'LIK' Postponed Again, New Release Date Announced

The much-awaited Tamil film Love Insurance Kompany (LIK), starring Pradeep Ranganathan and Krithi Shetty, has once again been postponed, continuing its long run of release delays.

Initially scheduled to hit theatres on April 3, the makers have now officially pushed the release date to April 10. This marks yet another postponement for the film, which has already faced multiple delays over the past several months.

Directed by Vignesh Shivan, the film has generated significant buzz due to its unique concept and strong cast. However, despite the anticipation, repeated postponements have left fans waiting longer than expected.

According to reports, the film's delays are attributed to various issues, including financial and technical factors. Industry sources suggest that ongoing financial settlements and other pro-

duction-related challenges have contributed to the repeated changes in release schedule.

The film, produced by Nayanthara along with S.S. Lalit Kumar, features a notable ensemble cast including S. J. Suryah, Yogi Babu, and Gouri Kishan. Music for the film is composed by Anirudh Ravichander, adding to the overall hype.

Despite the delays, the makers have reassured fans that the film will now release on April 10, aiming to finally bring the long-awaited project to theatres.

Love Insurance Kompany is also being dubbed into Telugu and is expected to release simultaneously across multiple languages, expanding its reach among audiences.

With continuous postponements creating uncertainty, fans are hoping that this new date will remain final and that the film will live up to expectations upon release.

## 'Project Hail Mary' Storms Box Office: 17 Crore India Weekend, \$300M Global in 10 Days

The sci-fi spectacle Project Hail Mary, starring Ryan Gosling, has taken the global box office by storm, emerging as one of the biggest theatrical successes of the year. Within just 10 days of release, the film has crossed an impressive \$300 million worldwide, signaling massive audience acceptance across markets.

In India, the film has delivered a powerful extended opening weekend, collecting 17.28 crore. This marks one of the strongest debuts for a Hollywood science-fiction film in recent times, positioning India as a key contributor to its global success.

A major factor behind this performance is the overwhelming demand for premium viewing formats. IMAX and 4DX screenings have witnessed unprecedented occupancy levels, with shows selling out within hours in major cities.

In a rare phenomenon, theatres introduced ultra-early morning shows—at 3:45 AM, 5:00 AM, and 7:00 AM—which also ran housefull, reflecting extraordinary audience enthusiasm. The film, directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, released in India on March 26 and showed consistent growth over the extended weekend.

Strong word of mouth and repeat viewership, particularly in premium formats, have driven its steady



rise in collections.

Day-wise India Box Office (Gross):

- Day 1 (Thursday): 2.8 crore
- Day 2 (Friday): 3.33 crore
- Day 3 (Saturday): 5.35 crore
- Day 4 (Sunday): 5.8 crore
- Extended Weekend Total: 17.28 crore

The film has also outperformed several iconic Hollywood sci-fi releases in India. It has recorded significantly higher opening numbers compared to films like Interstellar, Dune: Part Two, The Martian, and Gravity, highlighting its exceptional start.

Further underscoring its success, Project Hail Mary has already surpassed the lifetime collections of all Hollywood releases in India this year. It is also the first international

film since Avatar: Fire & Ash to create such a strong impact at the Indian box office.

The film follows astronaut Ryland Grace, who wakes up alone on a spacecraft with no memory, only to discover he holds the key to saving humanity. Backed by Amazon MGM Studios and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing International, the movie is currently playing in multiple languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

With exceptional word of mouth, surging demand for premium formats, and strong global momentum, Project Hail Mary is well on track to become one of the biggest Hollywood blockbusters of the year.

## Ram Charan Resumes 'Peddi' Shoot Soon After Minor Eye Surgery

Ram Charan has once again showcased his dedication to work by returning to the sets of his upcoming film Peddi shortly after undergoing a minor eye surgery.

The actor had recently sustained a small injury near his eye while shooting an action sequence for the film. Following the incident, doctors performed a minor surgical procedure to treat the injury. Though the situation initially caused concern among fans and family members, it was later clarified that the injury was not serious and required only minimal medical intervention.

Soon after completing treatment and taking brief rest, Ram Charan made a quick recovery and resumed shooting, highlighting his professionalism and commitment. His swift return to work has impressed both the film's team and fans, especially given the physically demanding nature of his role.

Megastar Chiranjeevi also expressed gratitude to the doctors who treated Charan. He acknowledged their timely care and expertise, stating that the family was relieved after initial concerns and thankful for the successful procedure.



Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, is one of the most anticipated Telugu films. The movie features Ram Charan in a rugged and physically intense role, reportedly that of a wrestler, requiring extensive training and transformation. Actress Janhvi Kapoor plays the female lead in the film.

Despite the temporary setback, the film's production continues without major delays, with Charan actively participating in the shoot again. His quick comeback has reassured fans and reinforced his reputation as a dedicated performer who prioritizes his craft even in challenging situations. With shooting progressing steadily, Peddi remains one of the most awaited releases, and Ram Charan's commitment is expected to add further excitement around the project.



## Actress Honey Rose Faces Misbehaviour at Kerala Event, Video Sparks Outrage

Malayalam actress Honey Rose had an unpleasant experience during a public event in Kerala, after some individuals allegedly behaved inappropriately while trying to take selfies with her.

The incident occurred during the inauguration of a jewellery store in Kozhikode, where the actress attended as a chief guest. A large crowd had gathered to catch a glimpse of her, and the situation soon turned chaotic as fans rushed forward for selfies. According to reports, a few individuals crossed the line under the pretext of taking pictures and allegedly touched the actress inappropriately, causing discomfort. Despite being in a crowded public setting, Honey Rose maintained her composure. However, visibly uncomfortable with the situation, she quickly moved away from the crowd and left the spot.

Videos of the incident have since gone viral on social media, drawing widespread criticism. Netizens and members of the film fraternity have

strongly condemned the behaviour, calling for stricter security arrangements at such public events, especially when celebrities are involved.

The episode has once again highlighted concerns over the safety of actresses at crowded promotional and inauguration events. Similar incidents involving female celebrities have been reported in the past, raising questions about crowd control and event management.

As outrage grows online, many are demanding strict action against those responsible and urging organisers to ensure better protection for celebrities in future events.

The incident serves as a reminder that admiration for public figures should not cross boundaries, and maintaining dignity and respect in public spaces is essential.



## "Chennai Love Story Will Be One of India's Greatest Love Stories" – Kiran Abbavaram

Chennai Love Story is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated romantic dramas, with hero Kiran Abbavaram expressing strong confidence that the film will stand among the greatest love stories in Indian cinema.

Speaking at the grand launch of the song "Gurthundha" in Hyderabad, Kiran said the entire team has poured immense effort into the film, promising an emotional and memorable experience for audiences. He highlighted that the story by Sai Rajesh itself gave him complete confidence to accept the project instantly.

The film stars Sri Gouri Priya as the female lead and is directed by Ravi Namburii. It is produced under Amrutha Productions and Mass Movie Makers by SKN and Sai Rajesh, the makers known for cult hits like Colour Photo and Baby.

Music is composed by Mani Sharma, and the film features seven songs, all expected to be major highlights. Kiran revealed that the film will feel like a "music concert" in theatres, with every song designed to leave a lasting impact.

Director Sai Rajesh shared that the film was made with pure passion rather than commercial pressure. He praised Ravi Namburii for elevating

the story beyond his expectations and said the emotional depth of the film even brought him to tears during editing.

Heroine Sri Gouri Priya expressed happiness over the growing expectations and thanked the makers for trusting her with such an important role, noting that her character holds equal weight to the hero's. Technicians and team members also lauded the film's content and working environment. Lyricist Ananta Sriram emphasized that the team worked without ego, focusing only on delivering a quality film. DOP Vishwas Daniel and choreographer Vijay Polaki highlighted the dedication of the actors and the uniqueness of the film's presentation.

Producer SKN stated that the film is being made with high technical standards, including Dolby sound, and assured audiences that it will offer "double the value" for their money. He also hinted that the initially planned June 26 release date may be rescheduled due to a clash with a major release.

With shooting nearing completion and strong buzz around its music and emotional storytelling, Chennai Love Story is expected to emerge as a memorable romantic film that resonates deeply with audiences.



## Murugadoss Faces Trouble After 'Madharaasi' Losses, Producer Seeks Compensation

Tamil filmmaker A. R. Murugadoss has landed in controversy following financial losses related to his film Madharaasi, starring Sivakarthikeyan.

According to reports, the film's producer has filed a complaint against Murugadoss, alleging heavy financial losses due to a significant budget overrun. The project was initially planned with a budget of around 115 crore, but production costs reportedly escalated to nearly 170-180 crore, leading to major losses.

Despite the film's release, it failed to perform up to expectations at the box office, worsening the financial situation for the



producer. As a result, the producer has demanded 10 crore in compensation and approached the Directors' and Producers' Council seeking resolution.

The issue was reviewed by the council, which intervened to settle the dispute. Instead of direct financial compensation, Murugadoss has reportedly agreed to provide the sto-

ry for Ramana 2 free of cost as part of the settlement.

Industry sources also suggest that delays in production and the director simultaneously working on other projects contributed to the budget escalation. These factors reportedly led to poor planning and increased costs during the film's making. This controversy has added to the challenges faced by Murugadoss in recent years, as some of his recent films have not performed as expected commercially. The Madharaasi issue has now become a major talking point in the Tamil film industry. With the settlement in place, attention will now shift to Murugadoss' upcoming projects and whether he can bounce back strongly after this setback.