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Chandrababu Naidu Congratulates Team India on Historic T20 World Cup Win

Amaravati, March 8 | TPN Bureau

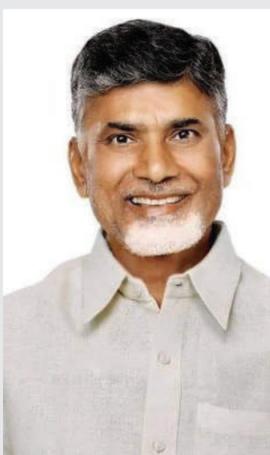
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu congratulated Team India for winning the ICC T20 World Cup 2026, describing the victory as a historic moment for the nation and a proud achievement for Indian cricket.

In a message shared on social media after the thrilling final against New Zealand, the Chief Minister praised the Indian team for its exceptional performance throughout the tournament and in the grand finale. He said the victory has filled the entire nation with pride and joy.

"Congratulations to Team India on winning the ICC T20 World Cup 2026 in an absolute thriller. With this victory, India becomes the first nation ever to capture the tournament trophy three times. This milestone firmly establishes India's dominance in the T20 format of cricket," Chandrababu Naidu said.

The Chief Minister commended the players for their determination, teamwork and fighting spirit displayed during the tournament. He said the team's consistent performance and collective effort played a crucial role in securing the prestigious global title.

Naidu also appreciated the leadership and coordination within the team, noting that every player contributed signif-



icantly to the victory. According to him, such achievements inspire millions of young athletes across the country to pursue excellence in sports.

He said the triumph is not only a sporting success but also a moment of national pride that unites people across regions and backgrounds. "Well done, boys! The entire nation is proud of you," he added.

The Chief Minister further stated that India's third T20 World Cup title highlights the strength and depth of Indian cricket. Over the years, the country has consistently produced world-class players who have taken the team to greater heights on the international stage.

Naidu expressed hope that this remarkable achievement would motivate the next generation of cricketers and strengthen India's position as a global powerhouse in the sport.

Cricket fans across the country celebrated the victory with great enthusiasm, praising the team's outstanding performance in the final. Social media platforms were flooded with congratulatory messages from political leaders, celebrities and sports enthusiasts.

The Chief Minister concluded his message by wishing continued success to Team India in upcoming international tournaments and reaffirmed that the country stands firmly behind its players.



Kumbhabhishekam Mahotsavam Concludes Grandly at Kanaka Durga Temple

Vijayawada, March 8 | TPN Bureau

The three-day Kumbhabhishekam Mahotsavam at the sacred Indrakeeladri hill shrine of Goddess Kanaka Durga concluded on Sunday with great religious fervour and devotion. The grand ritual ceremony was conducted amid Vedic chants and devotional celebrations in the presence of thousands of devotees.

The sacred ceremony was organised for the welfare of humanity and universal peace. Devotees gathered in large numbers at the temple to witness the historic event and seek the blessings of the presiding deity.

The final day's rituals began early in the morning at the Yagasala with Mantapa Pujas and Moola Mantra Homas performed by priests and Vedic scholars. The rituals culminated with the Pournahuti at around 9 am, marking the completion of the sacred yajna.

Later, at the auspicious Mesha Lagna Pushkara Muhurtham at 9:34 am, the Kumbhabhishekam was performed on the main temple Vimana Gopuram. The sacred ritual was conducted by Kanchi Kamakoti Peethadhipathi Jagadguru Sri Sri Shankara Vijayendra Saraswati Swamy with holy water collected from several sacred rivers and the sea.

Devotees who witnessed the ceremonial sprinkling of the sanctified waters on the temple tower were deeply moved by the spiritual atmosphere. The entire temple premises echoed with chants of Vedic hymns and devotional slogans, creating a spiritually charged environment.

Several dignitaries attended the ceremony and offered prayers to the goddess. Among those present were Andhra Pradesh Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, Endowments Department Principal Secretary Dr. M. Hari Jawahar Lal and Endowments Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan.

The temple's Board of Trustees Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi) and Executive Officer and Special Grade Deputy Collector V. K. Sheena Nayak supervised the arrangements and ensured the smooth conduct of the event. The temple's chief priests, assistant priests, members of the Vedic committee and several Vedic scholars also participated in the sacred rituals and performed the ceremonies according to traditional scriptures.

After the completion of the Kumbhabhishekam, Jagadguru Shankara Vijayendra Saraswati Swamy delivered his Anugraha Bhashanam at the cultural stage near the Rajagopuram. He explained the spiritual significance of the Kumbhabhishekam, which is traditionally performed once every twelve years to rejuvenate the spiritual energy of the temple.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy expressed hope that the blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga would bring prosperity and well-being to the people of the state. He said the grand ceremony has enhanced the spiritual aura and glory of the historic temple.

Thousands of devotees, special invitees and members of the temple trust participated in the concluding ceremony of the Kumbhabhishekam Mahotsavam.

Pawan Kalyan, Chandrababu React to President Murmu's Bengal Visit Issue

Amaravati, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu have expressed concern over the issues reportedly faced by President Droupadi Murmu during her recent visit to West Bengal.

Reacting to the developments, Pawan Kalyan said he was disturbed by the remarks made by the President regarding the arrangements during the International Santal Conference held in Darjeeling. He stated that such incidents are unfortunate and should not occur during events attended by the country's highest constitutional authority.

Pawan Kalyan emphasised that programmes organised to celebrate tribal culture and heritage must ensure proper participation and respect for the communities involved. He said it was concerning that members of the Santal tribal community



reportedly faced difficulties in attending the event meant to honour their traditions.

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that the office of the President of India represents the highest constitutional position in the country and must always be treated with dignity and respect. He said it is the responsibility of the concerned authorities to make appropriate arrangements and ensure that such visits are conducted

smoothly and respectfully.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu also reacted to the issue, expressing disappointment over the situation described by the President during her visit. He said the President represents the dignity and unity of the nation and should always be accorded the highest level of respect and protocol.

Chandrababu Naidu stated that constitutional institutions

hold a special place in the country's democratic framework and it is the collective duty of governments and officials to uphold their dignity. He added that events involving national leaders must be organised with proper coordination and care.

The Chief Minister also noted that tribal communities are an important part of India's social and cultural fabric. Programmes celebrating their traditions and heritage should be conducted in a manner that truly reflects respect and inclusiveness, he said.

Both leaders underlined the importance of maintaining decorum and ensuring that constitutional authorities are treated with the honour and respect they deserve during official visits and public programmes.

The issue has sparked discussions among political leaders across the country, with several calling for better planning and coordination in organising national events attended by top constitutional leaders.

Nara Lokesh Watches T20 World Cup Final in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh attended the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final match held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The high-voltage clash between India and New Zealand drew thousands of cricket fans and several prominent personalities from across the country.

Lokesh was seen at the stadium enjoying the match along with other dignitaries and celebrities who gathered to witness the grand finale of the global tournament. The match attracted a massive crowd, with the stadium packed with enthusiastic supporters cheering for Team India.

The final match was one of the most anticipated sporting events of the year, as India aimed to defend its T20 World

Cup title. Cricket fans from different parts of the country travelled to Ahmedabad to watch the game live and support the national team.

Sources said Lokesh reached the stadium ahead of the match and spent time watching the thrilling contest from the stands. His presence added to the excitement among fans, many of whom shared pictures and videos of the event on social media.

Earlier, Lokesh had expressed happiness over Team India's performance in the tournament and praised the team after its victory in the semifinal against England. He had lauded the players for their collective effort and wished them success in the final.

The T20 World Cup final witnessed a festive atmosphere at the Narendra Modi Stadium, one of the largest cricket venues in the world. Apart from political leaders, several celebrities, sports per-



sonalities and public figures were also present to watch the match.

The tournament has generated immense excitement among cricket lovers across India, with fans closely following every match of the competition. The final in Ahmedabad marked the culmination of weeks of intense competition among the world's top cricket teams.

Lokesh, who is known to be a cricket enthusiast, has attended several international

matches in the past as well. His presence at the stadium highlighted the widespread interest in the tournament among political leaders and public figures.

Fans at the venue celebrated every moment of the match, creating an electrifying atmosphere throughout the evening. The final match concluded the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 on a grand note, with millions of viewers watching the game both at the stadium and on television across the world.

Chandrababu Pledges to Create 5 Lakh Women Entrepreneurs in AP



Amaravati, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday announced that the state government aims to create five lakh women entrepreneurs over the next year, highlighting women's empowerment as a key priority.

He made the announcement while addressing the International Women's Day celebrations held at the Parade Grounds in Amaravati. The event witnessed the participation of a large number of women from different parts of the state. Several ministers and BJP state president Daggubati Purandeswari Madhav were also present on the occasion. The celebrations were held under the theme "Rights, Justice and Action." During the event, the Chief Minister participated in a ramp walk along with girl students and greeted women who attended the programme. He also received several representations and requests from women while interacting with them. Speaking at the gathering, Chandrababu Naidu said the government had earlier promised to create one lakh women entrepreneurs and had already surpassed that target. According to him, a total of 1,12,686 women have established MSME units across the state, including 33,899 in urban areas.

He praised the self-help group system, stating that women under the DWCRA network have shown remarkable financial discipline. "While many borrowers fail to repay loans, DWCRA women maintain a strong repayment culture.

Once loans are repaid, they become eligible for larger financial assistance," he said.

The Chief Minister said that 84.66 lakh women are currently members of DWCRA groups, forming 8.34 lakh self-help groups across Andhra Pradesh. He added that the government is encouraging every household to produce at least one entrepreneur, with women playing a leading role in this transformation. Highlighting the financial strength of the groups, Naidu said that a corpus fund of ₹21,000 crore is currently held by the women's self-help network. He also announced the launch of a new brand called "Swayam," under which products made by DWCRA women will be marketed. He said over 1.10 crore members are associated with the initiative and urged women to use and promote products made by their own self-help groups. If these products gain strong branding and quality standards, they could reach global markets, he added.

Naidu further announced that 37 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed on the occasion to enhance technology adoption, improve product quality and expand marketing opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

The Chief Minister assured that the government would support women with machinery, marketing and branding while women focus on production. He also said he would personally act as a brand ambassador to promote the "Swayam" brand across markets.

He reiterated that empowering women economically would play a crucial role in improving family incomes and strengthening the state's economy.

AP Stamp and Registration Revenue Reaches 84.5% of Annual Target



Amaravati, March 9 | TPN Bureau

The Stamps and Registration Department in Andhra Pradesh has achieved 84.5 percent of its annual revenue target for the financial year 2025-26, reflecting steady progress in the state's revenue collection.

According to official data, the department had set an annual target of around ₹11,221 crore. So far, about ₹9,474 crore has been collected through stamp duty and property registrations across the state.

Officials said the revenue collections indicate strong activity in the real estate sector and increased property registrations in several districts. Many districts have performed well and are close to achieving their respective annual targets.

In North Andhra, districts such as Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Parvathipuram Manyam recorded encouraging revenue collections. Visakhapatnam district also reported steady progress towards meeting its target.

The Godavari region also showed consistent performance. Districts including Kakinada, East Godavari and West Godavari registered strong collections, while Eluru district also recorded significant progress in achieving its revenue goals.

In the central region of the state, Krishna and Guntur districts emerged among the top

performers. Officials said Krishna district has nearly achieved its target, while Guntur district has also reached a high percentage of its annual goal. Palnadu and Bapatla districts reported good progress as well.

In the Rayalaseema region, the performance of districts has been mixed. While districts such as YSR Kadapa and Annamayya reported moderate progress, Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts recorded higher achievement levels. Meanwhile, Kurnool and Nandyal districts have already surpassed their annual targets by registering more than 100 percent of the expected revenue.

Officials said that despite the overall positive trend, there has been a slight slowdown in growth during the current month. However, the department is optimistic that the remaining gap in collections will be covered before the end of the financial year.

The steady performance is being attributed to improved monitoring systems, streamlined registration procedures and increasing demand for property transactions in several urban and semi-urban areas.

The state government expects the department to continue maintaining the current pace so that the revenue target for the financial year can be achieved successfully.

DLF Chairman Says Firm Won't Repeat Past Mistakes, Eyes Amaravati Investment



Vijayawada / New Delhi, March 9 | TPN Bureau

In an important development for Andhra Pradesh's investment landscape, Rajeev Singh, Chairman of India's leading real estate major DLF, has reiterated the company's interest in exploring investment opportunities in Amaravati, the state's new capital region, while cautioning that past mistakes in other markets will not be repeated.

Singh, who met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in New Delhi during the Raisina Dialogue 2026, spoke candidly about a missed opportunity in Hyderabad nearly three decades ago when DLF passed on a chance to invest in land in the then undeveloped Raidurg area. The site later transformed into one of Hyderabad's most prominent commercial and IT hubs, reflecting the explosive growth the region experienced.

Recalling that experience, Singh said that DLF now recognises the potential in Andhra Pradesh's urban development projects and is keen to engage with long term opportunities, particularly in Amaravati. He made it clear that the company does not intend to repeat the mistake it made in Hyderabad by failing to act on a landmark project when the prospects were first presented.

The DLF chairman appreciated the vision outlined by CM Naidu for creating world class urban centres in Amaravati and Vi-

sakhapatnam, describing the plans as ambitious and appealing to global investors. Singh indicated that he plans to visit Amaravati soon to assess firsthand the investment opportunities and explore how DLF can participate in the city's development.

CM Naidu welcomed the prospect of DLF's involvement, highlighting that the Andhra Pradesh government is focused on building modern infrastructure and an attractive business ecosystem that can support large scale investment across sectors. He said the state offers a business friendly environment and has policies aimed at facilitating growth and development.

The Andhra Pradesh administration has been actively promoting investment in key sectors including real estate, technology, finance, and infrastructure, positioning Amaravati as a strategic destination for domestic and global companies seeking new avenues for expansion.

Singh's statement and the Andhra Pradesh government's invitation to DLF come at a time when the state is pushing multiple initiatives to transform the capital region into a modern urban hub with world class amenities. The dialogue between the real estate leader and the state government signals a renewed emphasis on attracting marquee players to support the state's long term development goals, especially in planned cities like Amaravati and Visakhapatnam.

Chandrababu Oversees 36 Agreements to Boost Women Entrepreneurs

Amaravati, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu oversaw the signing of 36 key agreements aimed at strengthening women's self-help groups and promoting entrepreneurship across the state. The agreements were signed between the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), and several organisations from different sectors.

The agreements were finalised during the International Women's Day celebrations held at the Parade Grounds in Amaravati. The initiative is part of the state government's broader strategy to create sustainable livelihood opportunities and enhance the economic empowerment of women belonging to self-help groups.

According to officials, the agreements focus on providing skill development, financial support, technology assistance and marketing opportunities for women entrepreneurs. Through these partnerships, women's groups will receive training and support to expand their businesses and improve the quality and reach of their



products.

The collaborations include initiatives in sectors such as agriculture, food processing, handlooms, livestock, digital services and micro-enterprise development. These partnerships are expected to help women acquire modern skills, adopt new technologies and strengthen their businesses.

Several agreements also aim to improve market access for products manufactured by women's self-help groups.

Plans are in place to establish marketing platforms, retail outlets and digital sales channels so that products made by women can reach a wider customer base across the country.

In addition, financial institutions have come forward to support the initiative by providing credit assistance to women entrepreneurs. The programme will help self-help group members access easier loans and financial services to establish and expand their

enterprises.

The agreements also include support for setting up small business ventures such as food processing units, agricultural value-addition centres and retail kiosks operated by women's groups. These initiatives are expected to generate new employment opportunities and strengthen rural and urban livelihoods.

The Chief Minister emphasised that empowering women economically is essential for the overall development of society. By encouraging entrepreneurship among women, the government aims to increase household incomes and reduce poverty across the state.

Officials said the initiative is aligned with the government's vision of creating at least one entrepreneur in every household. The agreements are expected to significantly strengthen women-led enterprises and enhance economic opportunities for thousands of families in Andhra Pradesh.

The programme marks a major step towards building a strong ecosystem for women entrepreneurs and supporting the growth of self-help groups across the state.

Women Empowerment Is Coalition Govt's Goal: Kandula Durgesh

Amaravati, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said women empowerment remains a key objective of the coalition government and extended his greetings to women across the state on the occasion of International Women's Day.

The minister participated in the Women's Day celebrations held at the Parade Grounds in Amaravati along with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Ministers Anitha, Savitha and Gummi Sandhya Rani, MLA Tenali Sravan Kumar, Guntur District Collector Ansariya and other public representatives.

Speaking at the event, Kandula Durgesh said the vision of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is to ensure that every household has at least one woman entrepreneur. He said the government is implementing several programmes aimed at strengthening the economic independence of women and encouraging them to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities.



The minister stated that the government had already helped develop around one lakh women entrepreneurs during the 2024-25 period. The target, he said, is to increase this number to five lakh women entrepreneurs by the year 2026-27 through various support initiatives and financial assistance programmes.

Durgesh said the government has provided financial support worth nearly ₹38,000 crore in the current financial year to promote women entrepreneurship and self-employment opportuni-

ties. He noted that women associated with Self-Help Groups under SERP and DWCRA have successfully emerged as entrepreneurs with the help of government support and access to loans.

He also mentioned that the government is providing annual financial assistance of ₹15,000 for each child studying in families to support women and ensure better educational opportunities for their children. In addition, the state government is providing three free LPG cylinders every year to poor wom-

en as part of its welfare initiatives.

The minister highlighted that the free bus travel scheme introduced for women has significantly benefited small traders and working women by reducing travel expenses and improving mobility. These initiatives, he said, are part of the government's broader welfare programmes aimed at strengthening women's economic independence.

Durgesh further stated that historic steps are being taken by both the central and state governments to increase women's participation in politics and governance. He expressed confidence that by the next elections, more women would occupy key positions in public life.

Emphasising the importance of women in society, the minister said families and the state can progress only when women achieve financial independence and social empowerment. He urged women to utilise the opportunities provided by the government and work towards achieving greater social, economic and political success.

Over ₹1,000 Crore Provided Through CMRF to Support Poor: Gottipati Ravi Kumar

Addanki, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said that the state government has extended financial assistance of more than ₹1,000 crore to poor and needy people through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) so far. He stated that the fund has been playing a crucial role in saving the lives of economically disadvantaged people who require urgent medical treatment.

The minister made these remarks while participating in a CMRF cheque distribution programme held on Sunday at the camp office in Puttavari-
palem of Santamaguluru mandal in Addanki constituency. On the occasion, he distributed CMRF cheques to beneficiaries and assured continued support to those facing medical emergencies.

During the programme, the minister handed over Chief Minister's Relief Fund cheques to 103 beneficiaries. In addition, Letters of Credit (LOCs) were issued to another 15 individuals who required financial assistance for medical treatment in hospitals.

Addressing the gathering, Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government is committed to supporting poor families during times of crisis. He noted that many economically weaker families are unable to afford the high cost of advanced med-



ical treatments, and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund provides vital financial support in such situations.

The minister explained that through the CMRF scheme, financial assistance is provided to poor patients suffering from serious illnesses and life-threatening conditions. He said the initiative has helped many underprivileged individuals receive timely treatment and recover from critical health issues.

He further stated that the state government is giving special priority to the welfare of backward and weaker sections of society. Ensuring healthcare security for the public remains one of the government's major responsibilities, he said. Gottipati Ravi Kumar also

clarified that the government is taking steps to ensure that every eligible applicant who applies for assistance under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund receives support. The coalition government, he added, is placing strong emphasis on the development of healthcare and education sectors across the state.

Minister Extends Women's Day Greetings

Later, the minister also participated in International Women's Day celebrations organised at the Puttavari-
palem camp office in Santamaguluru mandal. On the occasion, he cut a cake and conveyed his heartfelt greetings to women who attended the programme. He personally greeted and

shared cake with women present at the event, appreciating their role in family welfare and social development. The minister said women play a vital role not only in managing households but also in contributing to the progress of society.

He further stated that the coalition government is committed to strengthening women's empowerment by expanding opportunities in education, employment and economic activities. Recalling past reforms, he said that Telugu Desam Party founder N.T. Rama Rao had taken historic steps by granting equal property rights to women.

Local women leaders and party representatives also participated in the celebrations.

Sharmila Blames Jagan for Alleged Liquor Mafia in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president YS Sharmila has strongly criticised former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that his government indulged in a "liquor mafia" during its tenure. Sharmila claimed that the alleged irregularities and political misuse in the liquor sector under Jagan's rule have become a major issue in state politics.

Speaking at a political event, Sharmila said the controversy surrounding liquor policy and alleged corruption has damaged public trust and raised serious questions about governance. She accused the previous administration of prioritising political gains over public welfare, asserting that the alleged liquor arrangements were driven by vested interests rather than public health or revenue goals.

Sharmila linked her criticisms to broader allegations of financial wrongdoing in the liquor sector, suggesting that the system indirectly benefited certain individuals and networks close to the former government. She reiterated that the alleged liquor mafia debates have become a focal point of political challenges and public discourse in Andhra Pradesh.

The ongoing investigations and discussions around liquor policy and alleged irregularities have drawn attention from various political quarters. Sharmila's remarks reflect her party's stance that the issue should be thoroughly examined and accountability en-



sured. The controversy has continued to reverberate as a significant matter in the state's political narrative, with opposition leaders stressing the need for transparent inquiries and action.

Sharmila's comments come amid broader debates over governance, public resources and ethical standards in public administration. She has repeatedly urged for a clear and comprehensive investigation into the alleged liquor governance issues, calling it crucial for

public confidence in democratic institutions.

Political analysts say that such allegations have fuelled a wider conversation about policy transparency and accountability in Andhra Pradesh. Sharmila's statements are likely to keep the liquor policy issue at the centre of political discussions as parties prepare for upcoming elections and public engagement.

The political rivalry between Sharmila's Congress leadership and the former YSRCP govern-

ment has intensified as various controversies, including liquor policy allegations, take centre stage in public discourse. Sharmila has emphasised that addressing these issues openly is essential for restoring people's faith in governance and ensuring justice in public affairs.

Her remarks add to the growing scrutiny of the liquor sector and its administration, underscoring how political debates shape public policy narratives in the state.

YS Sharmila Blasts Modi, Chandrababu on Women's Welfare



Vijayawada / Andhra Pradesh, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president YS Sharmila launched a fierce attack on both the central and state governments on Sunday over what she called their "failure" to protect and uplift women across the country and in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking ahead of International Women's Day, Sharmila accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of falling short on promises related to women's welfare and safety, asserting that their policies have left many women disappointed and financially burdened.

Sharmila said that despite attractive announcements and welfare schemes, the actual implementation has been weak or inconsistent, leaving women without the benefits they were promised. She criticised the state government for failing to deliver on key components of welfare programmes that were meant to support women economically and socially. According to her, certain flagship schemes intended to provide financial assistance to women either did not reach all eligible beneficiaries or were inadequately executed, resulting in unmet expectations and frustration among the targeted groups.

The Congress leader also criticised the state government's broader approach to women's welfare, claiming that some initiatives have been symbolic rather than substantive in addressing real challenges faced by women. She said that raising awareness

without ensuring effective implementation undermines the spirit of welfare schemes and leaves women without the support they need.

At the national level, Sharmila expressed strong disapproval of the central government's record on women's safety, saying that rising incidents of violence against women raised serious questions about the effectiveness of central policies and programmes. She pointed to what she described as a gap between the rhetoric used by the central leadership and the realities on the ground, arguing that promises had not translated into tangible improvements for women's security or empowerment.

Sharmila's remarks reflect broader concerns voiced by opposition leaders who argue that while governments often announce high profile programmes, the delivery mechanisms frequently fall short. She stressed that welfare policies must go beyond slogans to deliver real, measurable benefits that improve women's quality of life and ensure their safety.

The Congress leader's criticism adds to ongoing political debates in Andhra Pradesh about the adequacy of welfare measures, social safety nets, and the state's priorities ahead of future elections. Her comments have sparked discussions in political circles about accountability, the need for better monitoring of welfare schemes, and ensuring that the intended beneficiaries truly reap the advantages of government programmes.

AP BJP Chief Criticizes West Bengal Government Over President Murmu Visit

Andhra Pradesh, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh BJP president PVN Madhav has strongly criticized the West Bengal government for its handling of President Droupadi Murmu's recent visit to the state, calling it "unfortunate" and a breach of protocol. The remarks came amid concerns about how the state administration managed the President's participation in the 9th International Santhal Conference, an event aimed at celebrating the culture and heritage of the Santhal tribal community.

According to reports, the venue for the conference was changed at the last minute, which resulted in confusion and a reduced number of attendees. During the program, neither the Chief Minister nor any senior state ministers were present to formally receive the President, a situation that drew sharp criticism from political leaders and observers. PVN Madhav described this as a serious lapse that undermined the dignity of the highest constitutional office.

Madhav emphasized that proper protocol is essential when dealing with the Presi-



dent of India, especially one belonging to a tribal community. He stated that failing to ensure a dignified reception and organized arrangements amounted to a disrespect not only to the President but also to democratic principles. According to him, such incidents highlight the administrative negligence and poor planning on the part of the state government.

The controversy has sparked

widespread debate across political circles, with many leaders stressing that the President's position is above party politics and must be treated with utmost respect. The incident has prompted discussions about the responsibilities of state governments in coordinating high-profile visits and maintaining ceremonial decorum for constitutional offices.

While PVN Madhav's criti-

cism was sharp, the West Bengal government defended its actions, stating that the venue change and other arrangements were necessitated by administrative considerations and were managed appropriately under the circumstances. Nevertheless, the episode has raised questions about the planning and organization of state-level events involving national dignitaries.

The incident also underscores the larger political tensions between state and central narratives, particularly when high-profile visits intersect with governance and protocol. Madhav's statements have brought attention to issues of respect, procedure, and accountability, emphasizing that political differences should not interfere with the proper reception and treatment of the nation's constitutional heads.

As the debate continues, political analysts suggest that the controversy may prompt state administrations to review protocols and ensure that such lapses do not recur, reinforcing the importance of respect and decorum for national leaders during official engagements.

Nara Lokesh Extends Warm Wishes to Women on International Women's Day

Vijayawada / Andhra Pradesh, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh's Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Sunday extended heartfelt greetings to women across the state on the occasion of International Women's Day, highlighting their immense contribution to society and underscoring the importance of respect, equality and empowerment.

In a message shared on social media and at public events marking the annual observance, Lokesh celebrated women's strength, resilience and multifaceted roles as mothers, daughters, sisters and professionals. Addressing the people, he used poetic metaphors to convey his appreciation, saying women are not just "half the sky" but the very foundation of society.

Lokesh paid tribute to the sacrifices of women in every walk of life and acknowledged the moral values and respect for women that were instilled in him from childhood. He also highlighted the efforts and progress made by his family and



the state's political leadership in supporting women's development and rights.

The minister emphasized the government's commitment to creating an environment of dignity, empowerment and equal opportunity for all women. He pointed out that several state government initiatives are aimed at fostering women's economic participation and enhancing their social standing. These initiatives include schemes that support women's

entrepreneurial ambitions, promote free mobility and empower women to contribute meaningfully to the state's economy.

Lokesh also stressed the need to eliminate negative cultural stereotypes and derogatory portrayals of women in media and entertainment. He stated that outdated comments and harmful representations in TV shows, films and online series have no place in a society striving for gender equality. He called on all stakeholders to

promote respectful and balanced representations of women in public discourse and popular culture.

Furthermore, Lokesh announced that the education system would incorporate values and lessons that promote respect for women from an early age. He shared that moral values advisors have been appointed to guide curriculum changes and ensure that textbooks reflect gender equality and respect for women.

Lokesh's address resonated with a larger theme of International Women's Day, which celebrates women's achievements while also drawing attention to the work still needed to achieve full gender equality. He reiterated that the state government remains committed to empowering women in every field and creating opportunities for their advancement.

Concluding his message, Lokesh encouraged all citizens to celebrate the women in their lives and to work together toward a future where every woman is treated with dignity, respect and fairness.

Non Bailable Warrant Issued Against Anantha Babu's Wife in Murder Case

Rajamahendravaram, March 8 | TPN Bureau

In a major development in the high profile murder case involving former YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) legislator Anantha Udaya Bhaskar, a non bailable warrant has been issued against his wife, Lakshmi Durga, by a Special SC/ST Court in Rajamahendravaram.

The warrant was issued on Saturday in connection with the murder of Subrahmanyam, the former driver of Anantha Babu, whose death sparked widespread political and legal controversy across Andhra Pradesh. Lakshmi Durga has been named as the second accused (A 2) in the case after a detailed investigation and the filing of a supplementary charge sheet by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

According to court procedures, the decision to issue a non bailable warrant came after the prosecution presented evidence and a charge sheet alleging Lakshmi Durga's involvement in the crime. The court, upon considering the materials submitted, determined that her presence was necessary for further proceedings and therefore ordered the non bailable arrest warrant.

Following the court's order, law enforcement agencies have launched an active search to locate and take Lakshmi Durga into custody. Police have formed special teams to conduct the search, and officers are combing various areas to track her movements. Authorities have indicated that they will follow all necessary legal procedures to ensure her arrest.

This development has added a new dimension to the ongoing murder case, which has attracted



significant attention from across the state. The case initially revolved around allegations that Anantha Babu was responsible for the murder of his driver, prompting the state government to direct a thorough investigation by the SIT. As the probe progressed, additional evidence led investigators to expand the scope of the case to include other individuals, including Lakshmi Durga.

Political analysts say the issuance of a non bailable warrant reflects the seriousness with which the judiciary and investigation agencies are treating the matter. The decision emphasizes that anyone implicated in a severe crime must be held accountable, regardless of their political connections or social standing.

Supporters of the family have expressed concern about the direction of the case, while critics argue that swift legal action is necessary to uphold justice. The ongoing investigation continues to unfold, with further court hearings expected in the days ahead.

Law enforcement officials have reiterated that they are committed to executing the court's order and ensuring that the legal process is carried out without undue delay, highlighting the importance of due process in criminal proceedings.

Spiritual and Cultural Events Mark Kumbhabhishekam at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Indrakeeladri hill reverberated with spiritual fervour and cultural celebrations on Sunday, the third day of the Kumbhabhishekam Mahotsavams being held at the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple in Vijayawada. Devotees visiting the temple for darshan were treated to a vibrant spiritual and cultural atmosphere as artists from various regions presented devotional performances at the "Dharmapatham" cultural stage.

The programmes were organised to enhance the spiritual experience of devotees who had gathered in large numbers to witness the sacred rituals and participate in the celebrations.

Several Kolatam troupes from Vijayawada performed traditional folk dances with rhythmic movements, creating a festive ambience on the hill shrine. Their lively performances, set to devotional songs dedicated to Goddess Kanaka Durga, filled the temple premises with energy and enthusiasm.

A devotional Sankirtana group from Tenali enthralled the devotees with melodious renditions of hymns and devotional songs praising the goddess. Their soulful singing provided spiritual solace to devotees waiting in long queues for darshan.

Bhajan groups from Tadepalli also participated in the celebrations and transformed the temple surroundings into a sea of devotion with their collective chanting and devotional music. The bhajans created an atmosphere of deep spiritual engagement among the devotees.

The Sri Kanaka Durga Nritya



Mandiram dance troupe from Vijayawada, led by Yallajosula Anuradha, presented an impressive classical dance recital. Their performances included devotional themes such as Brahmanjali, Panchadasayudhakshi, Subrahmanyashtakam, Navarasam and Bho Shambho, which captivated the audience.

Another musical presentation was offered by K. S. N. Murthy and his team from Vijayawada, along with the Mastan Vali, Harini, Ramani and Sundari group. They rendered

devotional songs such as Jaya Jayahe and Jai Kanaka Durga, which were warmly received by the devotees. The performances were further enhanced by instrumental accompaniment from Vanamali on the flute and K. Jaganmohini on the mridangam.

Organisers said the participation of artists from different regions during the Kumbhabhishekam celebrations reflected the spiritual and cultural significance of the temple. These cultural programmes

were arranged not merely for entertainment but also to inspire devotion and create a spiritually uplifting atmosphere for the devotees.

With continuous cultural performances from morning until night, Indrakeeladri transformed into a vibrant centre of devotion and spirituality, drawing thousands of devotees who witnessed the sacred celebrations and enjoyed the rich cultural traditions associated with the temple.

Nadendra Manohar Urges Inspired Work Following Raghuramaiah's Legacy



Tenali (Kothapeta), March 9 | TPN Bureau

Minister Nadendra Manohar has called on the people and leaders of Tenali to draw inspiration from the life and political journey of the late central minister and prominent leader, Kotha Raghuramaiah, urging them to work with renewed energy for the region's development.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony of Raghuramaiah's statue on Sunday, held at the Tenali Bund along the Tenali-Vijayawada road, Minister Manohar highlighted the significant contributions of the late leader to Tenali. He emphasized that Raghuramaiah, through collaboration with three key leaders of his time, had brought notable progress and recognition to the region.

"The late Raghuramaiah's dedication to public service and political life continues to inspire us. His vision and commitment were instrumental in shaping the socio-economic landscape of Tenali, and it is our responsibility to carry forward that legacy with the same zeal," the minister said.

Minister Manohar also acknowledged the continued role of Raghuramaiah's family in community service, praising their enduring commitment to social welfare and local development initiatives. "His family has always stood at the forefront of societal service, and

their efforts reflect the values and principles upheld by Raghuramaiah throughout his life," he added.

The minister appreciated the efforts of local leaders and organizations in making the statue installation a reality. He particularly recognized Kotha Subrahmanyam, head of Kumar Pumps, for his remarkable contribution and dedication in ensuring the completion of the project. "The successful installation of this statue is a testament to the collective efforts of the community, and it serves as a symbol of Tenali's respect and admiration for a leader who devoted his life to the people," Manohar noted.

Residents and local dignitaries attended the event, paying their respects to the late leader and expressing their commitment to uphold his ideals. The ceremony reflected the deep-rooted admiration for Raghuramaiah, reinforcing his lasting impact on Tenali's political and social fabric.

The unveiling of the statue not only commemorates the life and work of Kotha Raghuramaiah but also serves as a motivational landmark for future generations to engage actively in regional development and public service. Minister Manohar concluded his address by urging everyone to embrace Raghuramaiah's principles and work collectively towards a vibrant and prosperous Tenali.

Govt Must Ensure Welfare Benefits for Registered Construction Workers: IFTU

Gandhinagar, March 7 | TPN Bureau

IFTU State General Secretary M. Ramakrishna said that it is the responsibility of governments to ensure welfare benefits for every construction worker who has paid the 110 membership fee to the Building and Construction Workers Welfare Board.

Speaking at a press conference held at the IFTU office in Gandhinagar on Saturday, Ramakrishna, along with BCWU State Convener Committee member G. Harikrishna Reddy, expressed concern over the implementation of welfare schemes for construction workers.

They stated that the coalition government recently reviewed welfare schemes and announced only four benefits under the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOC) schemes with effect from March 1. These include ₹40,000 under the Marriage Gift Scheme, ₹60,000 as assistance for natural death, ₹20,000 under the maternity benefit scheme and ₹20,000 for funeral expenses.

However, the leaders alleged that construction workers who renewed their membership between 2020 and 2025 were in-



formed that these welfare schemes would not apply to them during that period. They said this decision is unfair to workers who regularly pay their membership fees expecting support from the welfare board.

Ramakrishna also referred to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), which reportedly stated that ₹2,237.34 crore meant for the welfare board was diverted by the government. According to the report, an amount of ₹191.4

crore collected through cess was also not deposited into the welfare board account.

He said if the funds collected through membership fees and cess are properly utilised for the welfare of workers, there would be no need for special allocations from the government. Instead, the funds should be spent exclusively for the benefit of construction workers registered with the welfare board.

The leaders criticised the state government for allegedly

reducing welfare benefits instead of strengthening them. They pointed out that several other states are introducing new schemes for construction workers, while in Andhra Pradesh existing welfare programmes are not being implemented effectively.

They also commented on the recent announcement by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan of donating ₹1 crore to the welfare board, stating that such announcements would not benefit workers unless welfare schemes are properly implemented.

Ramakrishna warned that if the government fails to implement welfare schemes in accordance with the 1996 law protecting construction workers' rights, labour organisations would intensify their protests. He demanded that the government issue a clear announcement on welfare schemes by the end of March.

He said the IFTU would continue to support workers and fight for the proper implementation of welfare benefits. Leaders including Sheikh Meeravali, Peddiraju, Koppula Kumar, Subbarao and Madhu also attended the press conference.

Benz Circle Bursts with Joy as Vijayawada Youth Celebrate India's T20 World Cup Win



Vijayawada, March 9 | TPN Bureau

Benz Circle in Vijayawada was filled with excitement and energy on Sunday as youth from across the city came together to celebrate India's emphatic victory in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final. The streets around the landmark junction became a hub of cheer, joy, and patriotic fervour, reflecting the city's love for cricket.

Young fans flooded Benz Circle, waving the Indian flag, dancing, and cheering for the national team. Many sported cricket jerseys and face paint in the tricolour, while others carried miniature flags and banners celebrating India's win. Parents and community members joined in the celebrations, creating a festive atmosphere that resonated with pride and happiness.

The celebrations at Benz Circle were not limited to just the youth; people of all ages gathered to share in the victory. The streets echoed with cheers, laughter, and music as fans expressed their delight over the team's performance in the tournament. The sense of unity and community was evident as families

and friends came together to mark this memorable achievement.

The event also showcased the enthusiasm of Vijayawada's youth for sports and their active participation in public celebrations. The joy extended to parks and neighbourhoods across the city, where young fans interacted with each other, shared their excitement, and captured the moment with photographs and videos.

Residents described the victory as a "once-in-a-lifetime moment," one that will be cherished by youth and families for years to come. The celebrations highlighted not only India's cricketing excellence but also the spirit of togetherness and communal pride that sporting achievements can inspire.

As the day turned into evening, Benz Circle continued to be alive with energy, becoming a vibrant symbol of Vijayawada's collective happiness. The celebration of India's T20 World Cup triumph by the youth of the city will be remembered as a landmark moment in the city's sporting and cultural history.

Public Grievances to be Received via PGRS on March 9

NTR District, March 8 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has announced that petitions from the public will be received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme on Monday, March 9.

In a press release issued on Sunday, the Collector stated that the "Meekosam - Public Grievance Redressal System" programme will be conducted at the Collectorate to address public issues. The initiative is being implemented as per government directions to ensure timely resolution of grievances raised by citizens.

Officials will be available at the district Collectorate as well as at divisional, municipal and mandal headquarters to receive petitions from the public. The programme aims to provide a platform for citizens to directly submit their complaints and requests related to various government services and administrative issues.



Dr. Lakshmisha also informed that the Revenue Clinic programme, which was conducted at the district level until last week, will now be organised only at the divisional and mandal levels from this Monday. The decision has been taken keeping in mind the convenience of applicants and to ensure quicker resolution of revenue-related issues.

Citizens with revenue-related grievances have been advised to submit their applications at these Revenue Clinics being conducted at the divisional and mandal offices. Officials concerned will examine the petitions and take appropriate action as per the rules.

The Collector further said that applicants can also register their grievances online

through the official website meekosam.ap.gov.in. People who submit petitions online will be able to track the status of their applications and obtain relevant information regarding their requests.

In addition, citizens can call the toll-free number 1100 to know the status of their petitions or to seek assistance related to the grievance redressal process.

The district administration has urged the public to make use of the PGRS programme and the Revenue Clinics to resolve their issues efficiently. The initiative is intended to strengthen transparency, accountability and responsiveness in governance while ensuring that citizens' concerns are addressed in a systematic manner.

The press release was issued by the District Information and Public Relations Office (DIPRO), Information and Public Relations Department, NTR District

64 Women Selected at Special Job Mela in Ramachandrapuram



Ramachandrapuram, March 8 | TPN Bureau

A total of 64 women were selected for jobs in various companies at a special women's job mela organised in Ramachandrapuram on the occasion of International Women's Day. The employment drive was conducted at the Town Hall under the leadership of State Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash and the Satyam Vasamsetti Foundation.

Several reputed companies participated in the job fair and conducted interviews for eligible candidates. Out of the total selections, 16 women were recruited by Tata Electronics, 30 by TCL Company, 12 by Mother Sun Sumi Company, three by Foxconn Company and three by Chrome Stores.

Company representatives conducted interviews for the candidates during the job mela. Shastri represented Tata Electronics, Anand represented TCL Company, Murugan represented Mother Sun Company, while Vikash and Pawan represented Foxconn during the recruitment process.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Vasamsetti Subhash said the state government is committed to creating employment opportunities for local youth, especially women. He stated that the job mela was organised with the objective of providing employment to women who are looking for work opportunities in the region.

The minister encouraged unemployed youth to register their applications at the local employ-

ment office in Ramachandrapuram. He assured that once suitable job opportunities are available, candidates will be informed directly based on their qualifications and eligibility.

Subhash also said that special focus will be given to local employment opportunities every week so that more youth can secure jobs without having to migrate to other regions. He emphasised that such initiatives will help strengthen women's economic independence and support families.

He appreciated the companies that participated in the recruitment drive and thanked them for providing employment opportunities to women candidates.

Satyam Vasamsetti Foundation chairman Vasamsetti

Satyam and Employment Project Director Rama Kumar also participated in the programme. They expressed happiness over the successful conduct of the job mela and the positive response from women candidates.

The selected candidates expressed their gratitude to the organisers, the participating companies and the state government for providing them with valuable employment opportunities. They said the initiative would help improve their financial stability and support their families.

The organisers said more such employment drives will be conducted in the future to provide job opportunities to unemployed youth and women in the region.

Nellore Ponguru Narayana Emphasises Women's Role at International Women's Day Celebrations

Nellore, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana addressed International Women's Day celebrations in Nellore on Sunday, highlighting the government's commitment to women empowerment and welfare.

In his speech at the event, Narayana praised the achievements and contributions of women in all spheres of life. He underscored the importance of ensuring dignity, equality and respect for women across the state and said the celebration was an opportunity to acknowledge women's role in strengthening families, communities and the economy.

The minister spoke about various initiatives undertaken by the state government to improve the social and economic status of women. He said measures aimed at enhancing women's participation in education, employment and entrepreneurship have yielded positive results and reinforced the state's focus on inclusive



growth.

Narayana also emphasised the need for sustained efforts to eliminate discrimination and ensure that women are able to avail equal opportunities in all sectors. He called on society to support women's aspirations and work together to create an environment where girls and women can thrive without bias or barriers.

Referring to the theme of

this year's International Women's Day, the minister stressed the significance of translating rights and justice into concrete action. He said women's empowerment is not only a fundamental right but also a necessary foundation for societal progress.

The minister acknowledged that while significant strides have been made, there is still work to be done to achieve full

gender parity. He urged government departments, private organisations and community groups to redouble their efforts in promoting women's welfare and ensuring that programmes aimed at their upliftment are implemented effectively on the ground.

The event in Nellore featured a gathering of local leaders, women's group members and citizens, who participated in discussions and performances celebrating women's achievements. Narayana's address was welcomed by attendees, who appreciated the government's focus on women's development.

In concluding his speech, Minister Narayana reiterated the state government's dedication to advancing women's rights and supporting initiatives that empower women socially, economically and politically. He called upon all sections of society to join hands in building an equitable and inclusive future for women in Andhra Pradesh.

Fire Breaks Out at Rajamahendravaram TRANSCO Store

Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari, March 8 | TPN Bureau

A major fire broke out at the TRANSCO store in Rajamahendravaram on Sunday, causing significant damage to materials stored inside. The incident occurred in the afternoon at the East Godavari district TRANSCO store, prompting an immediate response from local fire services.

According to initial reports, smoke was first noticed billowing from the storage area, and within minutes, flames engulfed several stacks of electrical equipment and related materials. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but officials suspect an electrical short circuit may have ignited the blaze.

Local residents alerted authorities after spotting heavy smoke rising from the area. Firefighters quickly reached the scene and mobilised multiple units to control the fire. With sustained efforts by the fire crews, the blaze was brought under control after sev-



eral hours of firefighting, preventing it from spreading to nearby buildings and residential areas.

No casualties have been reported so far, but some personnel at the site suffered minor injuries while attempting to evacuate items and contain the fire. They were treated on the spot by medical teams. The full extent of property damage is yet to be assessed, but sources

indicate that a substantial amount of equipment and stock was destroyed before the fire was extinguished.

District officials have cordoned off the affected area and launched a formal inquiry to determine the exact cause of the fire. Meanwhile, police and fire department authorities are reviewing surveillance footage to trace how the fire started.

Local MLA and civic officials

visited the site to inspect the aftermath and assured that all necessary support will be provided to restore normalcy. They also appealed to the public to remain calm and cooperate with emergency officials as the situation is being managed.

The incident has raised concerns about safety measures at government storage facilities. Authorities said they will conduct safety audits of similar warehouses across the district to prevent such incidents in the future. They stressed the importance of having proper fire safety protocols and timely maintenance checks to avoid potential hazards.

Residents living close to the TRANSCO store expressed relief that the fire was contained without loss of life, but urged officials to ensure stringent safety measures going ahead. The inquiry will determine whether preventive measures were adequate and if any lapses contributed to the incident.

Death Toll in Andhra Pradesh Milk Adulteration Case Rises to 12



Rajamahendravaram, March 9 | TPN Bureau

The death toll from the tragic milk adulteration incident in Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari district, has risen to 12 after a 73-year-old woman died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital on Sunday.

The latest victim, S. Ramalakshmi from Lalacheruvu, had consumed the contaminated milk on February 16 and developed severe complications the same evening. She suffered kidney failure and was placed on a ventilator while undergoing dialysis, but her condition deteriorated, leading to her death. With her passing, the total fatalities from the incident have now reached 12.

Earlier, the incident had claimed the lives of 11 other people, including elderly patients and children. Dozens of others who consumed the milk also experienced acute kidney problems, with several still receiving treatment in hospitals. Many of these patients are in critical condition, with doctors monitoring their progress closely.

Investigations revealed that the milk was contaminated with a toxic substance, which caused serious kidney damage and other health complications among those who consumed it. Authorities identified the source of contamination as a local milk supply

unit and have taken strict action against those responsible. The main accused in the case has been arrested, and further investigation is underway to understand how the adulteration occurred.

Local authorities have intensified medical care and surveillance for affected residents, and health officials are urging people to be cautious about the sources of milk and other perishable products. The incident has highlighted the risks associated with food adulteration and the urgent need for stricter monitoring and safety measures to protect public health.

Residents of Rajamahendravaram expressed shock and grief over the tragedy, and there is widespread concern about the safety of milk supplies in the region. The government has assured that all necessary steps are being taken to prevent similar incidents in the future and to ensure accountability for those responsible for the contamination.

The community continues to support the victims and their families, while hospitals and authorities remain on high alert to provide care for anyone affected by the contaminated milk. The incident serves as a stern reminder of the importance of food safety and the devastating consequences that negligence can have on public health.

Several YSRCP Leaders Join JanaSena Party in Unguturu



Unguturu, West Godavari, March 9 | TPN Bureau

In a significant political development in West Godavari district, several local leaders from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) formally joined the JanaSena Party in Unguturu, reflecting the growing appeal of the party among the local population. The induction ceremony was held at the JanaSena camp office in the constituency on Sunday.

The leaders who switched allegiance hailed from Vellamilli village in Unguturu mandal. They were welcomed into JanaSena by Unguturu MLA Patsamatla Dharmaraju, who draped party scarves on the new entrants, marking their official entry into the party. The MLA addressed the gathering, emphasizing JanaSena's commitment to grassroots development, public welfare, and transparent governance. He said the new members shared the party's vision of serving the community and contributing to the overall development of the region.

The event highlighted the growing influence of JanaSena in the district, as local leaders and community members expressed confidence in the party's agenda and leadership. The joining of former YSRCP leaders is seen as a reflection of shifting political dynamics at the grassroots level and the increasing acceptance of JanaSena as a viable alternative in local politics. Party workers welcomed the new entrants and pledged to work together to strengthen the party's

presence in Unguturu and neighboring areas.

Following the induction, MLA Dharmaraju participated in an International Women's Day program organized at the constituency level. Addressing the audience, he encouraged women to take initiative and excel in their respective fields. He emphasized that women's participation in political and social initiatives was essential for inclusive community development.

During the program, the MLA also inspected various stalls set up under the ICDS initiative, interacting with officials, community workers, and local residents. Key officials, including CDPOs and local leaders, participated in the event, showcasing community efforts in child development, women empowerment, and health awareness.

The day's events reflected both political and social engagement in Unguturu, highlighting the growing support for JanaSena and the party's outreach to different sections of the community. The induction ceremony and the International Women's Day program together underscored the party's dual focus on expanding its political base while encouraging social development, particularly the active participation of women in public life.

With these developments, JanaSena continues to strengthen its position in West Godavari, aiming to create a broader support base ahead of future electoral contests.

Strengthening Public Health: The Strategic Evolution of the Janaushadhi Pariyojana for Affordable and Quality Generic Medicines

The true measure of a nation's progress is often reflected in how easily its citizens can access basic necessities like healthcare. For decades, the high cost of medicines remained a major financial barrier to health and wellness for millions in India. In this context, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), an initiative under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide quality generic medicines at significantly lower prices than their branded counterparts has brought about a profound and systematic transformation by addressing a critical gap in public healthcare.

Globally, generic medicines are a cornerstone of accessible healthcare systems. They account for nearly 80-90% of prescriptions worldwide and have played a crucial role in expanding access to essential medicines. Though generic medicines may differ in packaging, labeling, and inactive ingredients, studies have shown that these variations do not affect their therapeutic effectiveness. They are equivalent to brand-name drugs in terms of dosage, safety, strength, quality, and intended use, adhering to the same rigorous production and quality standards.

PMBJP is not merely a retail intervention; it represents a structural strengthening of India's healthcare system. This is reflected in the theme of this year's Janaushadhi Saptah "जन औषधि सुसुती भी, भरोसेमंद भी, सेहत की बात, बचत के साथ", which resonates strongly with millions of beneficiaries. Through a steadily ex-



panding network of over 18,000 Janaushadhi Kendras, the scheme has ensured that medicines are available at prices 50% to 80% lower than market rates, offering support to families across socio-economic backgrounds. Field surveys have shown that beneficiaries appreciate the cost savings and improved access to medicines.

The scale of the scheme is further reflected in its product basket. Janaushadhi offers an extensive inventory consisting of 2,110 medicines and 315 surgical products covering 29 distinct therapeutic areas. Under the direct stew-

ardship of the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), the portfolio expansion is a dynamic, data-driven process involving market analytics, stakeholder engagement, and the rigorous oversight of a dedicated expert committee, ensuring the scheme stays aligned with the nation's evolving health requirements and pharmacological demands.

With strong regulatory oversight Indian pharmaceutical companies have become trusted suppliers in more than 200 countries, including highly regulated markets

such as the U.S., U.K. and European Union. Indian pharmaceutical companies are expanding into emerging markets such as Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

The industry is also focusing on biosimilars, generic versions of biologic drugs, as well as investing more in R&D to produce complex generics and specialty drugs. These forward-looking initiatives position India not only as a global manufacturing hub but also as a future innovation leader in affordable medicine.

Quality vs. Price debate oc-

asionally influences public perception. The PMBJP has effectively dismantled the myth that affordability implies a compromise in manufacturing standards through a multi-layered quality assurance framework. Medicines are procured from WHO-GMP certified manufacturers, ensuring adherence to global production standards. The protocol dictates that every single batch of medicine undergoes stringent validation at National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) approved laboratories before it reaches a phar-

macy shelf. These medicines comply with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and match the safety and efficacy standards of branded alternatives. The quality journey includes meticulous pre-procurement audits and post-procurement laboratory testing. PMBI, the implementing agency of the Pariyojana regularly monitors and audits the quality of medicines to ensure that there is no deviation from the established protocols.

An IT-enabled distribution network supported by five state-of-the-art warehouses and 41 specialized distribu-

tors nationwide has ensured that the supply chain remains resilient against disruptions.

By focusing on three pillars of accessibility, quality, and affordability, PMBJP has significantly reduced medical expenses for millions of people. With continued institutional support, increasing public awareness, and further infrastructural enhancements, the vision of a Janaushadhi Kendra in every district is no longer a distant aspiration—it is a tangible, nearing reality.

A major focus under the "Viksit Bharat @2047" vision is to build a strong, fair, and affordable healthcare system for everyone. This includes better hospitals, lower medical costs, easier access to treatment, and availability of affordable medicines. With multi-sectoral collaborations, the PMBJP has proved that with the right institutional vision, healthcare can be both high-quality and universally accessible. The Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to ensure this Pariyojana continues its upward trajectory of progress and maintains its status as a global model for affordable health care.



Jagat Prakash Nadda

A Strategic Shift in Bihar Politics: Why Nitish Kumar May Be Headed to the Rajya Sabha



For more than two decades, Nitish Kumar has been one of the most influential figures in Bihar's political landscape. His leadership has shaped the state's governance, alliances, and electoral strategies in profound ways. Now, the possibility of him moving to the Rajya Sabha marks a potentially significant turning point not only for his own political career but also for the future direction of Bihar politics.

This development has sparked intense discussion among political observers. Nitish Kumar has served multiple terms as the Chief Minister of Bihar and has played a central role in coalition politics at both the state and national levels. If he chooses to transition to the Rajya Sabha, it could signal a strategic recalibration in his political journey as well as a reconfiguration of power within the ruling alliance in Bihar.

A Long Political Journey

Nitish Kumar's political career spans several decades. He

first emerged in politics during the movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan in the 1970s, which mobilized large numbers of young leaders, who later shaped national and state politics. Over time, Nitish established himself as a disciplined and pragmatic politician.

He served multiple terms as a Member of Parliament and held important portfolios in the Union government, including the Railways Ministry. His tenure as Railway Minister was particularly noted for administrative reforms and improvements in safety and management.

However, his most significant political role has been as the Chief Minister of Bihar. Since first assuming the office in 2005, he has become synonymous with governance reforms in the state. During his tenure, Bihar witnessed improvements in infrastructure, road connectivity, law and order, and social welfare programs. His emphasis on women's em-

powerment, particularly through policies like reservation for women in local bodies and schemes encouraging girls' education, earned him the image of a reform-oriented leader.

Because of his governance-focused approach, he came to be known as "Sushasan Babu," a nickname reflecting his reputation for promoting good governance.

Coalition Politics and Strategic Alliances

One of the defining features of Nitish Kumar's political career has been his ability to navigate complex coalition politics. Over the years, he has allied with different political formations depending on the prevailing political circumstances.

His party, Janata Dal (United), has alternated alliances between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal-led bloc at various points in time. These shifts often drew criticism from opponents, who accused him of po-

litical opportunism. Yet supporters argue that these decisions reflected a pragmatic approach aimed at maintaining stability and influence in Bihar politics.

Despite the frequent realignments, Nitish Kumar managed to maintain a significant support base. His image as an administrator and his focus on development helped him retain political relevance even when electoral fortunes fluctuated.

Why the Rajya Sabha?

The possibility of Nitish Kumar moving to the Rajya Sabha raises several important questions. For many analysts, this potential move appears to be part of a broader political strategy rather than a simple career transition.

After years of leading the state government, shifting to the Rajya Sabha could allow him to play a more national role while stepping back from the day-to-day responsibilities of running the state administration. It may also pro-

vide him with greater flexibility to influence national coalition politics.

Another factor could be the evolving power dynamics within Bihar's ruling alliance. In recent elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party has emerged as the larger partner in the coalition. As a result, there has been speculation that the party may seek a larger role in the state's leadership structure.

If Nitish Kumar moves to the Rajya Sabha, it could open the door for a leadership transition in Bihar, potentially allowing the BJP to install one of its own leaders as Chief Minister.

Changing Power Equations in Bihar

Bihar's political landscape has always been shaped by alliances and shifting loyalties. The current ruling coalition includes both the BJP and the Janata Dal (United), but the balance of power within the alliance has gradually shifted.

In the most recent state assembly elections, the BJP won more seats than Nitish Kumar's party. Although Nitish Kumar continued as Chief Minister, the electoral outcome signaled a change in political momentum.

A move to the Rajya Sabha could therefore represent a negotiated adjustment within the alliance. Such a transition might help maintain stability within the coalition while acknowledging the BJP's growing strength in the state.

At the same time, it would allow Nitish Kumar to remain an influential political figure without being directly involved in state-level administration.

A Possible Generational Transition

Another aspect of this potential shift is the possibility of a generational transition in Bihar politics. Nitish Kumar has been at the center of the state's political scene for

nearly two decades. His departure from the Chief Minister's post would create space for new leadership to emerge.

Within the Janata Dal (United), there may be efforts to groom younger leaders who can carry forward the party's legacy. Similarly, the BJP may see an opportunity to strengthen its organizational presence in the state by taking on a larger governing role.

Such transitions are not uncommon in Indian politics, where senior leaders often move to advisory or parliamentary roles while new leaders take charge at the state level.

National Political Implications

Nitish Kumar's move to the Rajya Sabha could also have implications beyond Bihar. As an experienced politician with deep knowledge of coalition politics, he could play a role in shaping broader political strategies at the national level.

In India's parliamentary system, the Rajya Sabha often serves as a platform for senior political leaders who contribute to legislative debates, policy discussions, and coalition negotiations. Nitish Kumar's presence in the upper house could therefore strengthen his ability to influence national political conversations.

His experience in governance and his reputation as a consensus-builder could make him a valuable figure in parliamentary deliberations.

Supporters and Critics

Reactions to the possibility of Nitish Kumar moving to the Rajya Sabha have been mixed. Supporters argue that after years of leading the state, he deserves a role that allows him to contribute at the national level. They believe his administrative experience and political wisdom could benefit the country's legislative processes.

Critics, however, view the

move differently. Some believe it may be a strategic retreat prompted by changing electoral dynamics in Bihar. Others argue that stepping away from the Chief Minister's role could weaken the political base of the Janata Dal (United).

These contrasting perspectives highlight the complexity of Nitish Kumar's political legacy.

The Future of Bihar Politics

Regardless of the motivations behind the move, one thing is clear: any major decision by Nitish Kumar is likely to reshape Bihar's political landscape.

If he transitions to the Rajya Sabha, it would mark the end of an era in state politics. His leadership has defined Bihar's governance for many years, and his departure from the Chief Minister's office would inevitably create a political vacuum.

The question then becomes who will fill that space and how the new leadership will approach governance and development.

Conclusion

Nitish Kumar's potential move to the Rajya Sabha represents more than just a personal career shift. It reflects the evolving dynamics of coalition politics, changing power equations within alliances, and the possibility of generational transition in Bihar's leadership.

For decades, he has been a central figure in shaping the state's political direction. Whether he continues to influence politics from the national stage or remains involved in guiding his party's future, his role in Indian politics is far from over.

As Bihar navigates this potential transition, the coming months will reveal how these political developments reshape the balance of power in the state and what they mean for the broader national political landscape.

PM Modi Targets Mamata Banerjee Over 'Insult' to President Murmu on Women's Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a sharp political attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her party, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), accusing them of insulting President Droupadi Murmu during her recent visit to the state.

Speaking at an event on International Women's Day, Modi said that the alleged disrespect shown to the President was not only an insult to a constitutional authority but also to a tribal woman who holds the highest office in the country. He said the incident had hurt the sentiments of people across India and criticised the state government for what he described as a failure to follow proper protocol.

The controversy began after President Murmu attended a tribal community programme in north Bengal, where she expressed disappointment over the arrangements and the absence of the Chief Minister and several state ministers at the event. She also reportedly criticised the venue and the



low turnout, suggesting that many members of the tribal community were unable to attend.

Reacting to the episode, Modi said the TMC had "insulted the country's President" on a day when the nation was celebrating women. He warned that those responsible for disrespecting the office of the President would face consequences politically.

The Prime Minister further

said the dignity of the President's office stands above politics and should always be respected. According to him, the incident had deeply saddened people who value democracy and the empowerment of tribal communities.

The remarks intensified an already heated political confrontation between the ruling BJP at the Centre and the TMC government in West Bengal. Opposition leaders accused the

state administration of failing to honour the protocol associated with the President's visit.

The Trinamool Congress, however, rejected the allegations and accused the BJP of politicising the President's visit ahead of upcoming elections. Party leaders defended the state government's record on tribal welfare and said several social welfare schemes have been implemented for the development of Adivasi communities in West Bengal.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also responded to the controversy, saying the state government respects the constitutional position of the President and denying that it was responsible for the issues raised during the event.

The political dispute over the President's visit has since escalated into a larger confrontation between the Centre and the West Bengal government, with both sides trading accusations over respect for constitutional institutions and the welfare of tribal communities.

The Significance Of Mamata Banerjee Returning To Kolkata's Protest Epicentre



Almost a decade later, Mamata Banerjee is back to where it all began. Only this time, the arrangements are elaborate and the fight is even tougher.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is facing one of her toughest elections yet, with the BJP emerging as the principal challenger in West Bengal. Even before the election dates are announced, the political landscape in the state has heated up. Banerjee has placed the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls at the centre of her latest political campaign.

From legal challenges to protests on the streets, the Trinamool Congress chief is attempting to shape public sentiment in her favour.

In the heart of Kolkata, at a busy junction surrounded by landmarks like Eden Gardens, Raj Bhavan, the Calcutta High Court and the Legislative Assembly, Banerjee has begun a sit-in protest against SIR. The epicentre of her campaign is Dharamtala, also known as the Metro Y channel.

This is a location deeply connected with her political journey. In 2006, Banerjee, then the opposition leader, held a 26-day hunger

strike here against the Left Front government. The protest became a major moment in Bengal politics and contributed to the exit of the Tata Nano project from Singur. The episode strengthened her image as a "street fighter" and helped pave the way for her rise to power in 2011.

Now she has returned to the same spot, but with a more elaborate protest set-up, including a large stage with chairs, fans and other arrangements. Banners and posters accuse the BJP-led central government of undermining democracy through the electoral roll revision process.

Supporters say her presence at the protest site sends a message that she stands with the people during difficult times. Many Trinamool supporters view the protest as a symbol of her political style—being on the streets rather than staying confined to government offices.

The location has also hosted other major protests led by Banerjee in the past. In 2019, she staged a dharna there in support of then Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar during a confrontation between state police and the CBI in

connection with the Saradha chit fund probe.

This time, however, the protest stage has also become a platform for broader political attacks on the central government. Issues raised during the protest include LPG price hikes, alleged protocol lapses during President Droupadi Murmu's visit to the state, and accusations that democratic institutions are being misused.

Party MPs, MLAs, councillors and supporters have joined Banerjee at the protest site, delivering speeches and participating in protest songs.

Each day, Banerjee appears on the stage around mid-morning, greeting supporters who gather to see her. The protest has also become a public spectacle, drawing office-goers, students and passers-by.

Meanwhile, the BJP has criticised the protest, dismissing it as political theatre and predicting defeat for the Trinamool Congress in the upcoming elections.

Supporters of the Trinamool Congress, however, believe such protests energise the party's base and help build momentum ahead of the political battle in West Bengal.

AAP Fulfils Promise To Punjab Women 4 Years After Polls, Congress Protests

Four years after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came to power in Punjab, the Bhagwant Mann government has announced the implementation of its pre-poll promise to provide monthly financial assistance to women in the state.

The announcement was made in the Punjab Budget for 2026-27, presented on International Women's Day. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema introduced the Chief Minister Mawan-Dhiyan Satkar Yojana, under which most women above the age of 18 will receive ₹1,000 per month.

Women belonging to Scheduled Castes will receive ₹1,500 per month under the scheme. The government said the initiative aims to make women financially stronger and more independent.



Officials said the scheme will cover around 97 percent of women in Punjab. Women who already receive old-age pensions, widow or destitute pensions, or disability pensions will also be eligible for the benefit.

However, certain groups will not qualify for the scheme.

These include current or former government employees, current or former MPs and MLAs, and income-tax payers.

The state government estimates that the programme will cost around ₹10,000 crore annually. Punjab has a population of about three crore people, including roughly 1.4 crore wom-

en, with around one to 1.1 crore women aged above 18.

The Congress party criticised the government for implementing the scheme four years after the election promise. The party demanded that the state pay arrears for the past four years, amounting to ₹48,000 for each eligible woman.

Members of the Congress women's wing staged a protest outside the Punjab Assembly over the issue, and some protesters were detained during the demonstration.

The government, however, defended the scheme, saying it is designed to empower women and help them play a larger role in household decisions, improve their health, and support higher education for daughters.

Over 52,000 Indian Nationals Return From Gulf Amid West Asia Tensions

More than 52,000 Indian nationals have returned to India from the Gulf region within a week, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said while giving an update on the situation in West Asia and nearby regions.

According to the government, these passengers travelled between March 1 and March 7 as flight operations gradually resumed after disruptions caused by the ongoing regional tensions. Of the total number, more than 32,000 passengers travelled on Indian airlines.

The MEA said the government has been closely monitoring developments in West Asia



and the Gulf, particularly focusing on the welfare of Indian citizens who were stranded during transit or on short visits. Commercial and special flights have been operating af-

ter the partial reopening of air-space in parts of the region to help passengers return home.

Officials also said Indian embassies and consulates in the region have set up helplines to

assist citizens and provide information about available flights and travel options. A special control room has also been established to respond to queries from affected individuals and their families.

The government emphasised that the safety and welfare of Indian nationals abroad remains a top priority and that it continues to coordinate with authorities in the region to facilitate the return of those who need assistance.

The update comes amid growing concerns over escalating tensions in West Asia, a region that is home to millions of Indian expatriates working across various sectors.

Nishant Kumar, Son Of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Joins JD(U)



shant Kumar said he would work as an active member and help strengthen the organisation. He said his father's decision to move to the Rajya Sabha was a personal one and that he would work under his guidance.

For many years, Nishant Kumar remained out of the political spotlight, which aligned with Nitish Kumar's long-standing stance against dynastic politics. Party leaders welcomed his entry and described it as the wish of party workers.

His induction into the party comes amid speculation that he could take on a larger role in Bihar politics in the future, especially as political changes are expected following Nitish Kumar's move to the Rajya Sabha.

Nishant Kumar is an engineer by education and has mostly maintained a low public profile. With his entry into the Janata Dal (United), observers see the beginning of a new phase in the party's leadership and the possible continuation of Nitish Kumar's political legacy in the state.

Nishant Kumar, the son of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, formally joined the Janata Dal (United) on Sunday, marking his entry into active politics.

The 50-year-old, who had largely stayed away from public life despite being the chief minister's son, began his political journey as his father prepares to move to the Rajya Sabha after leading the state government for more than two decades.

After joining the party, Ni-

Case Against Anil Ambani, Reliance Communications In ₹1,085 Crore Bank Fraud



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against industrialist Anil Ambani, his company Reliance Communications Limited, and its former director Manjari Ashok Kacker in connection with an alleged bank fraud of more than ₹1,085 crore.

The case was filed following a complaint by Punjab National Bank's Stressed Assets Management Branch in Mumbai. According to the complaint, the accused allegedly cheated Punjab National Bank and United Bank of India between 2013 and 2017.

Investigators say the alleged fraud caused a wrongful loss of about ₹1,085.19 crore to the banks. Of this amount, around ₹621.39 crore

is linked to Punjab National Bank and about ₹463.80 crore to United Bank of India.

According to the FIR, the accused allegedly entered into a criminal conspiracy and misled the banks into sanctioning credit facilities to Reliance Communications. Authorities suspect that the loan funds were diverted and misused, resulting in alleged criminal breach of trust and misappropriation.

The case has been registered under various sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating, and corruption. Officials said the investigation is ongoing to determine the roles of the individuals and entities involved.

Air India To Operate 78 Additional International Flights On 9 Routes From March 10



Air India has announced that it will operate 78 additional international flights between March 10 and March 18 across nine routes to help passengers affected by disruptions caused by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The airline said the additional services aim to improve connectivity and accommodate travellers facing cancellations and delays due to airspace restrictions in parts of West Asia.

The extra flights will operate on the following routes:

- Delhi – New York (JFK)
- Delhi – London (Heathrow)
- Mumbai – London (Heathrow)
- Delhi – Frankfurt
- Delhi – Paris (Charles de Gaulle)
- Delhi – Amsterdam
- Delhi – Zurich
- Delhi – Malé
- Delhi – Colombo

Air India said the move is intended to ease travel for passengers who were stranded or forced to change plans because of disruptions to flight operations in the region.

The Middle East conflict has led to multiple flight cancellations and route changes by airlines around the world, affecting thousands of passengers. Airlines have been adjusting schedules and operating additional flights where possible to reduce inconvenience.

The airline advised passengers to check their flight status regularly and make bookings through official channels or authorised travel agents as operations continue to adapt to the evolving situation.

Israel Warns It Will Target Iran's Next Supreme Leader Amid Succession Talks



Israel has warned that it will continue to pursue anyone who becomes Iran's next Supreme Leader, as discussions intensify in Tehran over who will succeed the country's current leadership. The statement highlights growing tensions between the two countries amid an already volatile regional situation.

The warning came after reports that Iran's leadership is preparing for a potential transition at the top level. Israel issued a message in Persian on social media stating that any individual who assumes the role of Supreme Leader, or those involved in the process of selecting the next leader, would remain under Israel's watch and could become

a potential target.

Iran's Assembly of Experts, the powerful clerical body responsible for selecting the Supreme Leader, is expected to play a central role in the succession process. According to Israeli statements, the assembly could soon convene in the religious city of Qom to deliberate on the choice of a successor. Israel signaled that it is closely monitoring these developments.

The Supreme Leader holds the highest authority in Iran's political system and exercises control over the armed forces, judiciary, and key state institutions. Because of the power concentrated in the role, any leadership change is consid-

ered a significant moment for Iran's domestic politics as well as its foreign policy direction.

Israel's statement reflects its long-standing hostility toward Iran's leadership and its determination to counter what it sees as threats to its security. Israeli officials have repeatedly accused Iran of supporting militant groups in the Middle East and pursuing policies aimed at undermining Israel's stability.

The warning also comes at a time when tensions between Israel and Iran have escalated significantly. In recent weeks, the two sides have exchanged threats and military actions, raising concerns among international observers about the possi-

bility of a broader regional conflict.

Iranian authorities have not immediately responded to Israel's latest remarks. However, analysts believe the statement is likely to further intensify hostilities between the two countries and add pressure to the already sensitive succession discussions within Iran.

As Iran's political and religious leadership moves toward selecting the next Supreme Leader, the process is expected to attract global attention. Israel's warning suggests that the rivalry between the two nations will remain a key factor shaping the region's geopolitical landscape in the coming months.

US-Israel Offensive Targets Iran's Energy Sites as Missile Attacks Rock Gulf Region



The conflict between Iran and the United States-Israel alliance has intensified sharply, with coordinated strikes targeting Iranian energy infrastructure while Tehran responds with missile and drone attacks across the Gulf region.

The latest escalation comes days after the war began on February 28, when joint US-Israeli strikes killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei along with several senior officials. The attack marked a dramatic turning point in Middle East tensions and triggered widespread retaliation from Iran against Israeli territory and US-linked targets in the region.

In the most recent developments, the United States and Israel have focused their offensive on Iran's oil and energy infrastructure, seeking to weaken the country's economic and military capabilities. These attacks have hit key facilities linked to Iran's energy sector, a crucial pillar of the nation's economy.

US President Donald

Trump claimed the campaign had severely weakened the Iranian regime and demanded that Tehran agree to an "unconditional surrender." Speaking aboard Air Force One, Trump said the goal was to push Iran to the point where it could no longer continue the fight.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also issued warnings to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), declaring that the group was "in the crosshairs." Netanyahu suggested that the military pressure could create an opportunity for the Iranian people to take control of their country and move away from the current leadership structure.

Despite the heavy attacks, Iranian officials have insisted that the country remains capable of sustaining the conflict. A spokesperson for the IRGC stated that Iran's armed forces could continue an "intense war" for at least six months at the current pace of operations.

Meanwhile, the broader Middle East is feeling

the impact of the conflict. Iran has launched missiles and drones toward several Gulf countries that host US military bases, forcing regional governments to intercept incoming projectiles and strengthen air defences.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has attempted to ease tensions with neighbouring Gulf nations by apologising for attacks that reached their territory. However, he warned that such strikes could continue if those countries allow their territory to be used for military operations against Iran.

The conflict has also spread beyond Iran and Israel, drawing in regional actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, which has intensified its attacks against Israel in response to the killing of Khamenei.

As both sides continue military operations and exchange threats, analysts warn that the situation could spiral into a wider regional war, with major implications for global security and energy markets.

Iran-Israel War Reaches Gulf as Missiles and Drones Target UAE and Neighbouring Nations

The ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States has spread across the Gulf region, with several countries including the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia facing missile and drone threats.

Authorities in the United Arab Emirates confirmed that their air defence systems intercepted multiple incoming projectiles launched from Iran. On March 8, UAE defences detected 17 ballistic missiles and successfully destroyed 16 of them, while one missile fell into the sea. Air defence systems also tracked 117 drones, intercepting 113 while four landed inside the country.

Officials warned residents that loud explosions could be heard as air defence systems intercept missiles and drones in the sky. The government also urged the public to follow safety guidelines and avoid sharing videos or photos of military activities or strike locations, warning that such actions could compromise national security.

The attacks have already caused casualties in the UAE.



Drone strikes reportedly killed four people, including workers from Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. In Dubai, debris from intercepted aerial attacks struck a vehicle in the Al Barsha area, killing a Pakistani driver. Missile debris also damaged the exterior of a building in Dubai Marina.

Neighbouring Gulf countries have also reported aerial threats. Kuwait's military said its air de-

fence systems were responding to hostile missile and drone activity, while Bahrain reported injuries and damage to a university building following what officials described as Iranian aggression.

The growing security crisis has disrupted daily life across the region. Dubai International Airport experienced temporary operational disruptions due to safety concerns during the at-

tacks. Schools and universities across the UAE were ordered to begin early spring breaks, with some exams cancelled as authorities prioritised public safety.

The conflict has also affected international travel across the Middle East. Several countries issued travel advisories for the region, and airlines adjusted flight schedules because of airspace closures and security concerns. Some carriers temporarily suspended services, although flights continued to operate on certain international routes.

Iranian officials have stated that the country's armed forces are capable of sustaining an intense conflict for months at the current pace of operations. At the same time, Tehran said its retaliatory strikes were directed at US and Israeli interests and were not intended to target neighbouring Gulf nations.

As missile and drone exchanges continue, the widening conflict is raising concerns that the war could spread further across the Middle East, threatening regional stability, aviation routes and global energy markets.

Trump Denies US Role in Iran School Strike, Blames Tehran for Deadly Blast



US President Donald Trump has rejected reports suggesting that the United States was responsible for a deadly strike on a school in southern Iran, instead claiming that the incident was likely caused by Iranian forces themselves.

The controversy surrounds a powerful explosion that destroyed a girls' school in the Iranian city of Minab on February 28, killing more than 160 people, many of them children. Iranian state media said the attack occurred during school hours and described it as one of the deadliest civilian incidents since the conflict between Iran and the United States-Israel alliance escalated.

However, satellite imagery and analysis by experts reviewed by international media indicated that the damage pattern was consistent with an airstrike. According to reports citing the Associated Press, the destruction at the site included a large hole in the roof and surrounding structural

damage that suggested the impact of precision-guided munitions.

Despite these reports, Trump dismissed suggestions that the United States was responsible. Speaking to journalists aboard Air Force One, he said he believed Iran itself carried out the strike.

"No, in my opinion, based on what I've seen, that was done by Iran," Trump said, arguing that Iranian weapons are often inaccurate and could have caused the blast. He insisted that the United States was not behind the incident.

The school that was hit is located next to a compound linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which has been a key target during the ongoing conflict. Satellite photographs show several buildings within the nearby military compound damaged by explosions, along with visible craters and debris scattered across the area.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the in-

cident is currently under investigation. While he did not confirm whether American forces were involved, he stated that authorities are examining the available evidence.

The attack has drawn strong reactions internationally. The United Nations human rights office has called for an independent investigation into the incident, emphasizing that attacks on schools and civilian facilities could constitute violations of international law.

Human rights groups and international observers have also demanded transparency regarding the circumstances of the strike, arguing that the families of the victims deserve to know what happened.

As tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States continue to escalate, the deadly school strike has become a major point of controversy, raising questions about civilian safety and accountability in the rapidly expanding regional conflict.

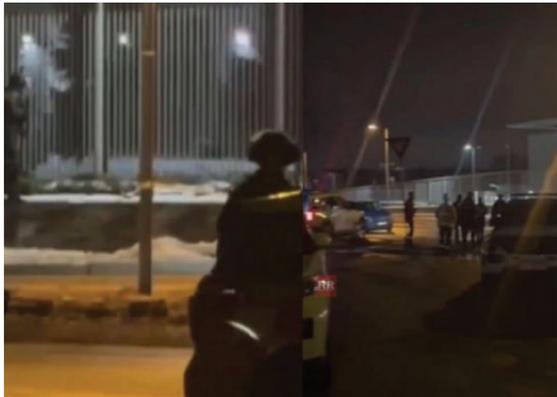
Explosion Near US Embassy in Norway Prompts Police Investigation

Norwegian authorities have launched an investigation after a loud explosion was reported near the United States Embassy in Oslo during the early hours of Sunday. While the blast caused some damage to the embassy premises, officials confirmed that no injuries were reported.

According to police, the explosion occurred around 1 a.m. local time near the embassy compound in western Oslo. Emergency services were immediately dispatched to the scene after several residents reported hearing a powerful blast across parts of the neighbourhood. Witnesses also said smoke could be seen rising from the area shortly after the incident.

Police quickly secured the surrounding area and began examining the site to determine what caused the explosion. Authorities confirmed that they are in contact with officials at the US Embassy as part of the ongoing investigation.

Initial reports indicate that the blast caused minor structural damage near the entrance of



the embassy's consular section. However, no embassy staff or members of the public were injured in the incident. Officials emphasised that there is currently no indication of an immediate threat to the public.

Norwegian police said investigators are working to determine whether the explosion was caused by an explosive device or another source. Specialised

units, including bomb squads and security teams, were deployed to inspect the area and collect evidence from the site.

Authorities have also begun searching for possible suspects and are reviewing security footage from nearby locations. Police have appealed to witnesses who may have seen suspicious activity near the embassy before the blast to come forward

with information.

The Norwegian justice minister described the incident as serious and said the authorities are treating the case with high priority. Additional police resources have been deployed to support the investigation, including drones, police dogs and aerial surveillance.

The United States Embassy has not yet issued an official statement regarding the explosion and referred media inquiries to the US State Department. Officials said updates would be provided as more details become available.

Although the blast caused concern in the diplomatic district of Oslo, authorities reassured residents that the situation is under control. Police said security measures remain in place while investigators continue their work to identify the cause of the explosion and those responsible.

The investigation is ongoing, and officials say further information will be released once the facts surrounding the incident become clearer.

Sensex, Nifty Log Steepest Weekly Fall in Over a Year; Rupee Hits Record Low



Indian stock markets recorded their sharpest weekly decline in more than a year as investor sentiment weakened due to global uncertainties, rising crude oil prices, and continued selling by foreign investors. During the shortened trading week, both benchmark indices — the Sensex and the Nifty — ended significantly lower, reflecting broad-based pressure across sectors.

The BSE Sensex fell 2,368.29 points (2.91%) to close at 78,918.90, while the Nifty50 dropped 728.2 points (2.89%) to settle at 24,450.45. The sharp decline marked the biggest weekly loss for the indices in over a year, highlighting the cautious mood among investors amid volatile global conditions.

One of the key factors behind the market downturn was rising geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran, which pushed global

crude oil prices higher. For an oil-import-dependent country like India, higher crude prices raise concerns about inflation and economic stability. Weak global market cues and currency volatility further added to investor worries.

Broader markets also remained under pressure during the week. The BSE Smallcap index declined about 3.3 percent, with several stocks witnessing heavy losses. Companies such as InfoBeans Technologies, Orchid Pharma, Rajesh Exports, and Netweb Technologies fell between 15 percent and 25 percent during the week. However, some stocks managed to buck the trend. Jindal Poly Films, Paras Defence and Space Technologies, and Jupiter Wagons recorded strong gains ranging from 12 percent to 25 percent.

Large-cap stocks were not spared either. The BSE Large-

cap index dropped around 3 percent, with major companies including Indian Oil Corporation, Adani Green Energy, InterGlobe Aviation, Bharat Petroleum, GAIL India, and Bank of Baroda declining between 8 percent and 10 percent. On the other hand, a few stocks such as Solar Industries, Bharat Electronics, Hindalco Industries, and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries managed to post gains during the week.

Most sectoral indices ended the week in the red. The Nifty PSU Bank index saw the steepest fall, dropping 6.5 percent. It was followed by the Nifty Realty index, which declined 5 percent. The Nifty Bank index slipped 4.5 percent, while the Media and Private Bank indices also recorded notable losses. In contrast, the Nifty Defence index emerged as one of the few gainers, rising nearly 5

percent during the week.

Foreign Institutional Investors continued their selling trend for the third consecutive week, offloading equities worth 21,831 crore. However, Domestic Institutional Investors helped limit the fall by purchasing shares worth 32,786 crore.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee weakened sharply, touching a record low of 92.30 per US dollar during the week before recovering slightly to close at 91.74. The currency's decline was mainly driven by rising crude prices and sustained foreign fund outflows.

Overall, the week reflected the growing impact of global geopolitical tensions, rising oil prices, and foreign investor activity on Indian financial markets. Analysts believe the markets may remain volatile in the near term as investors closely track global developments and economic indicators.

US Markets Fall as Oil Prices Surge and Weak Jobs Data Raises Economic Concerns



U.S. stock markets ended lower on Friday as investors reacted to a sharp rise in oil prices and signs of weakness in the labour market. Growing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and disappointing employment data increased worries about inflation and slowing economic growth, leading to selling pressure across major Wall Street indices.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 0.95% to 47,501.55, marking its steepest weekly percentage drop since early April 2025. The S&P 500 fell 1.33% to close at 6,740, recording its worst weekly performance since mid-October. The Nasdaq Composite also dropped 1.59% to 22,387.68, reflecting heavy selling in technology and growth-oriented stocks.

A key reason behind the market decline was the sudden surge in oil prices. U.S. crude oil futures jumped more than 12%, rising above \$90 per barrel, while Brent crude climbed about 8.5% to around \$92 per barrel. The spike in oil prices was largely driven by escalating tensions in the Middle East, which raised fears about disruptions to global oil supply routes.

Higher energy prices have renewed concerns about inflation. When oil prices rise sharply, transportation and production costs also increase, which can eventually affect corporate profits and consumer spending. This situation has made investors cautious, as persistent inflation could limit the ability of the U.S. Federal Reserve to cut interest rates in the near future.

At the same time, fresh economic data pointed to a cooling labour market. The unemployment rate rose to 4.4%, partly

influenced by severe winter weather conditions and a strike by healthcare workers. The increase in unemployment raised concerns that the U.S. economy may be losing momentum after a long period of strong growth.

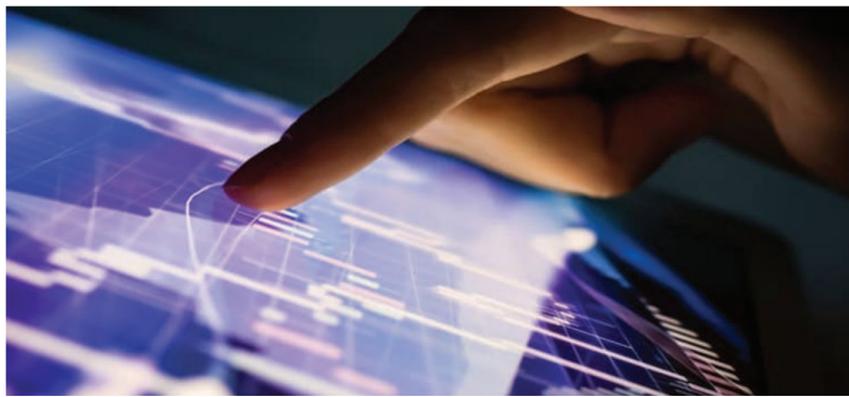
Market volatility also increased sharply during the session. The Cboe Volatility Index (VIX), often referred to as Wall Street's "fear gauge," climbed to its highest closing level since April 2022. The rise in the volatility index reflects growing uncertainty and nervousness among investors about future market direction.

Several sectors faced notable losses during the trading session. Bank stocks were among the worst performers, with the S&P 500 Banks Index falling about 2% as investors worried about higher borrowing costs and potential credit risks. Travel-related stocks also declined, as rising fuel prices are expected to increase operating costs for airlines and transportation companies.

However, energy stocks performed relatively better as higher oil prices could boost the revenues of oil and gas companies. Meanwhile, investors moved toward safe-haven assets. Gold prices rose about 1.83% during the session as traders sought protection from market volatility, while Bitcoin fell more than 4%.

Overall, rising oil prices, geopolitical tensions, and concerns about economic slowdown weighed heavily on U.S. markets. Analysts expect global financial markets to remain volatile in the coming weeks as investors closely monitor developments in energy prices, geopolitical risks, and key economic data.

Put Ratio Backspread: A Smart Options Strategy to Limit Losses During Sharp Market Pullbacks



Market consolidation phases often create confusion among traders and investors. When markets repeatedly test key support levels and bounce back, traders who take early bearish positions may suffer losses. Because of these false signals, many traders hesitate to act when the actual breakdown occurs. In such situations, options strategies like the Put Ratio Backspread can help traders manage downside risk while still allowing them to benefit from a sharp market decline.

Recently, the Nifty index slipped below an important support level after several days of consolidation. Earlier attempts to break this level had failed, trapping traders who entered bearish trades too early. These repeated failed breakdowns created uncertainty among market participants. As a result, when the real breakdown finally happened, many traders were hesitant and missed the opportunity. Such market behaviour is common during consolidation periods and can make trading decisions difficult.

To deal with such scenarios, traders often use the Put Ratio

Backspread strategy. The structure of this strategy is straightforward. A trader sells one put option close to the current market price and buys two put options at a lower strike price. This combination allows traders to keep their potential losses limited while positioning themselves to gain if the market falls sharply.

For example, a trader may sell one 24,900 put option and buy two 24,800 put options. In this case, the trader usually pays a small net premium to enter the trade. If the market remains above the higher strike price, the maximum loss is limited to the premium paid. However, if the market falls sharply below the lower strike price, the strategy begins to generate increasing profits as the market continues to decline.

There is also another variation of this strategy where the trader sells a put option farther away from the current market price and buys two lower-strike puts. This reduces the cost of initiating the trade but may slightly increase the risk if the market settles near the lower strike price. Traders can choose the structure based on their

risk tolerance and market outlook.

Timing is an important factor when using this strategy. Experts generally recommend implementing the Put Ratio Backspread during the first half of the options expiry cycle, as time decay can negatively affect positions with multiple long options. If the expected sharp move does not happen within a few days, traders should consider exiting the trade and reviewing market conditions.

Another advantage of this strategy is that it benefits not only from a downward price movement but also from rising market volatility. Sharp market declines are often accompanied by an increase in volatility, which boosts the value of the purchased put options and can enhance potential profits.

Overall, the Put Ratio Backspread strategy is designed for situations where traders expect a strong bearish move but want to keep their risk under control. It provides a structured approach to participating in potential market downturns while limiting possible losses if the market moves differently than expected.

Rising Middle East Tensions and Oil Prices Pose Multiple Risks for India



Growing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are creating several economic risks for India, mainly through rising oil prices and potential disruptions in energy supply. India has strong economic links with the Gulf region through crude oil imports, trade, remittances, and investments, making it particularly sensitive to instability in the region.

The recent escalation involving the United States, Israel, and Iran has increased uncertainty in global energy markets. Any prolonged conflict in the region could affect India's macroeconomic stability, especially if it disrupts energy supply routes or causes a sharp rise in global oil prices. While a short-term conflict may have limited impact, a prolonged crisis could pose serious challenges to India's economic outlook.

One of the biggest concerns for India is the Strait of Hormuz, a key global shipping route for oil and gas. Nearly 50 percent of India's crude oil imports and about 85 percent of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies pass through this narrow passage. If

tensions escalate and disrupt shipping in this route, global oil prices could rise sharply and may even approach \$100 per barrel.

India is heavily dependent on imported energy, with nearly 88 percent of its crude oil demand met through imports. The price of India's crude oil basket has already increased to around \$85 per barrel, compared with about \$70 per barrel before the recent tensions. Higher oil prices could increase inflation and put pressure on government finances as well as the country's current account balance.

Economists estimate that every \$10 increase in crude oil prices could widen India's current account deficit by around \$14-15 billion. If oil prices remain elevated for a long period, India's external financial position could weaken and the deficit as a share of GDP may rise. This could also increase pressure on the Indian rupee and financial markets.

Another important risk comes from remittances sent by Indian workers in Gulf countries. The Gulf region accounts for about 38 percent of India's

total remittance inflows, which amount to nearly \$135-140 billion every year. Any economic disruption in these countries due to geopolitical tensions could affect employment opportunities for Indian workers and reduce remittance flows.

Geopolitical tensions can also influence foreign investment flows. During periods of global uncertainty, international investors often become cautious and reduce investments in emerging markets. This could lead to lower foreign portfolio investments and increased volatility in Indian financial markets.

Overall, while India's economy has shown resilience in the past, prolonged tensions in the Middle East and a sustained rise in oil prices could create multiple economic challenges. These include higher inflation, a widening current account deficit, pressure on the rupee, and potential disruptions in remittances and trade. Policymakers will need to closely monitor developments in the region and take steps to reduce the impact of external shocks on the economy.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Just when the situation seemed overwhelming,



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

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

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

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

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

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

Reflecting on the moment later, the rider said

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

However, she clarified that February was not a

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

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

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

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

spending for February reached approximately Rs 1.43 lakh.

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

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

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

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

A man in Manchester recently found himself in a bizarre and embarrassing situation after getting trapped inside a traditional red phone box while attempting to order a kebab. The unusual incident took place in the city's Deansgate area and eventually required firefighters to come to his rescue.

According to reports, the man stepped into the iconic British phone booth intending to use the telephone inside to place a food order. However, things quickly took an unexpected turn when the heavy door of the booth slammed shut behind him and locked automatically, leaving him stuck inside the small space.

The situation soon became frustrating when the man realized that the phone inside the booth was not working. What was supposed to be a quick stop to order a late-night meal suddenly turned into an awkward predicament, as he had no easy way to get out of the booth.

Friends who were with



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India Clinch Third T20 World Cup Title with Dominant Win

Ahmedabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

India scripted history by winning the T20 World Cup for the third time after defeating New Zealand in the final played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday night. The Indian team delivered an outstanding performance with both bat and ball to secure a convincing 96-run victory and lift the prestigious trophy.

After losing the toss and being asked to bat first, India put up a massive total of 255 for 5 in the allotted 20 overs, the highest score ever recorded in a T20 World Cup final. The Indian batting line-up dominated the New Zealand bowlers from the beginning, displaying aggressive and confident stroke play.

Abhishek Sharma gave India a blazing start by scoring a half-century in just 18 balls. Ishan Kishan continued the momentum with an explosive innings, putting pressure on the opposition bowlers. Sanju Samson played a remarkable knock of 89 runs, anchoring the innings while also accelerating the scoring rate.

Shivam Dube added the finishing touches with a series of powerful shots that kept the scoreboard moving rapidly. India's total of 255 runs set a daunting target for New Zealand and placed the opposition under immense pressure from the start of their chase.

In response, New Zealand



struggled against India's disciplined bowling attack. Star pacer Jasprit Bumrah delivered a match-winning performance, claiming four crucial wickets and dismantling the top order. His accurate bowling and variations made it difficult for the New Zealand batters to build partnerships.

Spinner Axar Patel also played a key role by taking three wickets and tightening the run flow during the middle overs. The combined efforts of the Indian bowlers ensured that New Zealand never gained momentum during their chase.

Eventually, New Zealand were bowled out for 159 runs, handing India a comfortable 96-run victory in the final. The win sparked huge celebrations inside the Narendra Modi Stadium, where more than 80,000 fans cheered for the national team.

With this victory, India secured their third T20 World Cup title and also achieved the rare feat of defending the championship after winning the previous edition in 2024. The triumph further strengthened India's position as one of the most successful teams in the history of T20 cricket.

Cricket fans across the country celebrated the historic win, with celebrations erupting in cities and towns as supporters hailed the team's remarkable achievement on home soil.

James Anderson Hails Jasprit Bumrah's Precision, Says 'No One Better Than Him'



Former England fast-bowling great James Anderson has praised Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, calling him the most precise bowler in the world after his impressive performance in the 2026 T20 World Cup semi-final.

Anderson said he was stunned by Bumrah's exceptional accuracy and control during India's thrilling victory over England in the tournament. The Indian pacer delivered a disciplined spell in a

high-scoring contest, helping his team hold off England's strong chase and secure a place in the final.

According to Anderson, Bumrah's ability to bowl with such remarkable precision under pressure makes him stand out among contemporary fast bowlers. He pointed out that executing yorkers and variations consistently in the shortest format of the game requires immense skill and composure.

"No one in the world can bowl

with the precision Bumrah showed," Anderson said while reflecting on the semi-final clash. He added that the Indian fast bowler's control over line and length makes him extremely difficult for batters to score against, especially in crucial moments of a match.

Bumrah's spell proved decisive in the closing stages of the game, where England needed quick runs to chase down a huge target. Despite the pitch favouring batters and runs

flowing freely from both sides, Bumrah managed to keep things tight and apply pressure with disciplined bowling.

Known for his unique action and ability to deliver pinpoint yorkers, Bumrah has become one of the most dependable bowlers in world cricket. His skills in both the powerplay and the death overs make him a key weapon for India in limited-overs formats.

The Indian team's semi-final win set up a title clash with New Zealand national cricket team in the final of the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Bumrah is expected to play a crucial role again as India looks to lift another global trophy.

Anderson's praise adds to the growing list of cricket legends who have recognised Bumrah's impact on modern fast bowling. Many experts believe his ability to maintain accuracy and execute difficult deliveries under pressure has made him one of the most valuable bowlers in international cricket today.

As India prepares for the final, all eyes will once again be on Bumrah, whose precision and calmness in high-pressure situations could prove decisive in determining the outcome of the tournament.

India Face Final Chance to Qualify for 2026 Hockey World Cup as Salima Tete Leads Campaign

The Indian women's hockey team will have one last opportunity to secure a place at the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup when they compete in the World Cup Qualifiers in Hyderabad. The tournament has become crucial for India after the team failed to secure automatic qualification earlier.

The qualifiers feature eight teams competing for three available spots in the upcoming World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands. India, playing on home soil, will face strong competition from teams such as England, Scotland, Korea, Italy, Uruguay, Wales and Austria.

The tournament format divides the eight teams into two groups of four. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals. The winners of the semifinals, along with the team that wins the bronze-medal match, will qualify for the World Cup, making every match extremely important.

India have been placed in Pool B along with Scotland, Uruguay and Wales. Pool A includes England, Korea, Italy and Austria. India will begin their campaign against Uruguay before facing Scotland and Wales in the group stage.



The team will be led by captain Salima Tete, who has expressed confidence in the squad ahead of the competition. She said the players have trained hard and are determined to perform well in front of home supporters. According to Tete, the team understands the importance of the qualifiers and is focused on securing a World Cup berth.

India currently hold the ninth position in the world rankings

and are among the stronger teams in the tournament. Playing at home is expected to provide the squad with an added advantage, as they hope to use familiar conditions and strong crowd support to their benefit.

The Indian squad includes goalkeepers Bansari Solanki and Bichu Devi Kharibam, while experienced defenders such as Sushila Chanu, Nikki Pradhan and Udita will anchor the backline. In midfield, captain Salima

Tete will guide players including Neha, Sunelita Toppo and Sakshi Rana, while a group of young forwards will lead the attack.

With only three qualification spots available, the Hyderabad tournament presents a high-pressure challenge for India. For Salima Tete and her teammates, performing well at home could be the key to securing their place at the 2026 Hockey World Cup and keeping their international ambitions alive.

Novak Djokovic Backs Carlos Alcaraz to Continue Impressive Winning Streak



Novak Djokovic has expressed confidence in Carlos Alcaraz's ability to extend his strong run of form in the 2026 tennis season, praising the young Spaniard's talent and consistency on the court.

Djokovic, one of the most successful players in tennis history, said that Alcaraz possesses all the qualities needed to maintain his impressive winning streak. The Serbian star, who himself began the 2011 season with a remarkable 41 consecutive victories, believes the current world number one has the skills and mindset required to achieve similar success.

Alcaraz continued his unbeaten run in 2026 with a convincing 6-2, 6-3 win over Grigor Dimitrov at the Indian Wells ATP Masters tournament. The victory improved his record for the season and further strengthened his reputation as the leading player in men's tennis at the moment.

Djokovic noted that maintaining a long winning streak is extremely challenging, as players must consistently perform at the highest level against top opponents. However, he believes Alcaraz has the physical fitness, mental strength and versatility to keep winning.

The rivalry between Djokovic and Alcaraz has become one of the most exciting storylines in modern tennis. Earlier in 2026, the Spanish star defeated Djokovic in the Australian Open final to win the title and become the youngest man to complete a career Grand Slam.

Despite their fierce on-court competition, Djokovic has repeatedly praised the 22-year-old for his achievements and rapid rise in the sport. Many analysts believe Alcaraz represents the new generation of players capable of dominating the ATP Tour in the coming years.

Alcaraz's powerful baseline game, speed around the court and ability to handle high-pressure situations have already earned him multiple major titles at a young age. His performances have also drawn comparisons with legends such as Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer.

As the season continues, all eyes will remain on Alcaraz to see whether he can keep his winning streak alive and add more titles to his growing list of achievements. With the support and recognition of experienced champions like Djokovic, the Spanish star's future in tennis appears brighter than ever.

Atletico Madrid Confirm Antoine Griezmann Will Not Move to MLS This Season



Speculation surrounding a potential move by Antoine Griezmann to Major League Soccer has been put to rest for now, with Atletico Madrid confirming that the French forward will remain at the club this season.

The announcement came from Atletico's sporting director Mateu Alemany, who dismissed reports linking the 34-year-old to a transfer to Orlando City. Alemany stated that there has been no change in the player's situation and that Griezmann will continue with Atletico as planned.

"Already I told you that he has this season and two more years with us," Alemany said, reiterating that the forward remains under contract with the Spanish club and that there is nothing new regarding a possible transfer.

Recent reports had suggested that Griezmann could leave European football to join Major League Soccer before the MLS transfer window closes later this month. Orlando City were reportedly interested in bringing the experienced forward to the United States, which fueled speculation that his appearance against Real Sociedad could

have been one of his final matches for Atletico.

However, Atletico officials have made it clear that the club's all-time leading scorer will remain part of the squad for the foreseeable future. Griezmann still has a contract with the Madrid side until 2027, and the club views him as an important player despite managing his playing time this season.

The veteran forward has continued to contribute to the team's campaign, scoring 12 goals across competitions this season. Atletico are also competing on multiple fronts, including the Spanish league and the Copa del Rey, where they have reached the final.

Griezmann, who helped France win the 2018 FIFA World Cup before retiring from international football in 2024, remains one of the most influential players in Atletico's modern era.

For now, any potential move to Major League Soccer appears to be postponed, with the French star expected to continue playing a key role for Atletico Madrid during the remainder of the season.

V. N. Aditya Elected President of Telugu Film Directors Association

Renowned filmmaker V. N. Aditya has been elected as the new President of the Telugu Film Directors Association (TFDA) following the association's latest elections held in Hyderabad. The results were welcomed warmly by members of the Telugu film industry, who expressed confidence in his leadership and experience.



The Telugu Film Directors Association is an important body in the Tollywood industry that works to protect the rights, welfare, and professional interests of film directors. It also plays a key role in addressing the challenges faced by directors and supporting their growth within the industry. Because of its significance, every election of the association attracts considerable attention from filmmakers and industry professionals.

In the recent elections, V. N. Aditya emerged victorious for the post of president. Known for directing successful Telugu films such as Manasanthu Nuvve and Nenunanu, Aditya has built a strong reputation in the industry over the years. His experience and contributions to Telugu cinema are believed to be major factors behind his election to the top post.

Along with Aditya's victory, several other key positions in the association were also filled. Director Samudra was elected as the Vice President. Members of the association believe that

his active involvement in industry activities and his experience as a filmmaker will help him handle the responsibilities effectively.

For the post of General Secretary, Rama Rao was elected. The role of the General Secretary is crucial, as it involves coordinating the association's activities, organizing meetings, and managing administrative responsibilities.

Meanwhile, filmmaker Sai Rajesh has been elected as the Treasurer of the association. As Treasurer, he will be responsible for handling the financial affairs of the organization and ensuring transparency in its financial management. Members expressed confidence that he will carry out his duties efficiently.

Following the an-

nouncement of the election results, congratulatory messages poured in from across the Telugu film industry. Several directors, producers, and other film personalities extended their best wishes to the newly elected committee.

Industry observers believe that the new leadership team will bring fresh energy and direction to the association. Many members are hopeful that under V. N. Aditya's leadership, the Telugu Film Directors Association will become stronger and more active in addressing the issues faced by directors. The new committee is also expected to play an important role in supporting the growth and development of Telugu cinema in the coming years.

Sukumar Ahead of Rajamouli in Mentoring New Directors



In the Telugu film industry, S. S. Rajamouli is widely regarded as one of the most influential and successful filmmakers. With a string of blockbuster films, he has built a remarkable reputation not only in India but also across the global film market. Known for transforming large-scale ideas into grand cinematic spectacles, Rajamouli has taken Telugu cinema to international audiences. However, when it comes to encouraging and producing new directors from within his team, discussions in Tollywood suggest that another filmmaker may currently be ahead.

That filmmaker is Sukumar. Apart from delivering successful films, Sukumar has gained recognition for mentoring several assistant directors who later went on to become successful filmmakers in their own right. His creative team has produced a number of talented directors who have made a strong impact in recent years.

One of the most promi-

nent examples is Buchi Babu Sana, who made a sensational debut with the film Uppena. The movie became a major commercial success and introduced him as a promising new director in Tollywood. Another notable name is Srikanth Odela, who directed the mass entertainer Dasara. The film received widespread appreciation and helped establish him as a talented filmmaker.

Similarly, Karthik Varma Dandu gained recognition with the supernatural thriller Virupaksha. The film performed well at the box office and strengthened his position as a promising director in the industry. In addition, Hussain Sha Kiran also emerged from Sukumar's creative circle and has been gaining attention for his work.

Because of these successes, many industry observers believe that Sukumar has created a strong mentoring environment where young filmmakers can learn and develop their skills. His assistants often gain ex-

perience in storytelling, screenplay development, and filmmaking techniques, which helps them build their own identities as directors.

On the other hand, Rajamouli is known for focusing intensely on his own ambitious projects and unique storytelling style. While several assistants have worked with him over the years, only a few have stepped into the spotlight as successful directors so far.

Interestingly, Trivikram Srinivas is another filmmaker known for mentoring new talent. Directors like Venky Kudumula, who delivered successful films such as Chalo and Bheeshma, emerged from his team.

While mentoring new directors is not a compulsory responsibility for established filmmakers, many believe that guiding the next generation helps strengthen the film industry. Encouraging fresh talent ensures the growth of new voices and ideas, which ultimately benefits Telugu cinema as a whole.

Actor Bellamkonda Sai Srinivas Gets Engaged to Kavya Reddy

Tollywood actor Bellamkonda Sai Srinivas has entered a new phase in his personal life as he got engaged to Kavya Reddy in a private ceremony held on Sunday. The engagement took place in the presence of close family members, friends, and a few well-known personalities from the film industry.

Wedding celebrations have begun in the family of prominent film producer Bellamkonda Suresh. His elder son, Sai Srinivas, is now preparing to start a new chapter in life. The engagement ceremony with Kavya Reddy was conducted in a grand yet intimate manner, attended mainly by relatives and close friends of the families. Soon after the ceremony, pictures and videos from the event began circulating widely on social media, drawing attention from fans and movie lovers.

Several personalities from the Telugu film industry were also present to bless the couple. Director Boyapati Srinu and actress Samyuktha Menon were among those who attended the ceremony and congratulated the newly engaged pair. A short video of them greeting the couple has been widely shared online and has gone viral among fans.

Kavya Reddy, the bride-to-be, is said to be from Hyderabad and belongs to a well-respected family. Her grandfather reportedly served as a judge, while her fa-



ther works as a lawyer. Though she does not belong to the film industry, she and Sai Srinivas are believed to have known each other for several years. With the approval and blessings of both families, the couple decided to move forward with their marriage plans.

While the engagement has been officially confirmed, the wedding date has not yet been announced. According to sources close to the family, the mar-

riage is expected to take place later this year. Fans and well-wishers have been congratulating the actor and sending their best wishes to the couple for their future together.

Bellamkonda Sai Srinivas made his debut in Telugu cinema with the film Alludu Seenu. Over the years, he has appeared in several movies including Speedunnodu, Jaya Janaki Nayaka, Saakshyam, Rakshasudu, and Alludu Ad-

hurs. He also gained national attention after starring in the Hindi remake of Chatrapathi.

Currently, the actor is busy working on his upcoming projects such as Tyson Naidu and Haindava. As he continues to focus on his film career, his engagement marks the beginning of a joyful new chapter in his personal life. Fans are now eagerly waiting for more updates about the wedding celebrations.

'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' Telugu Trailer Creates Buzz Online

The official Telugu trailer of Dhurandhar: The Revenge, starring Ranveer Singh and directed by Aditya Dhar, has been released and is receiving a strong response from audiences. The high-energy trailer has quickly caught the attention of movie lovers, especially fans of action films.

The film is an intense action thriller and a sequel to Dhurandhar. In the new installment, Ranveer Singh reprises his role as a daring intelligence agent who takes on a dangerous mission filled with revenge, high-risk operations, and powerful enemies. The story continues the journey of the protagonist as he faces bigger threats and uncovers deeper conspiracies.

The Telugu trailer features several gripping moments packed with explosive action sequences, dramatic confrontations, and powerful dialogues. From high-speed chases to large-scale combat scenes, the visuals suggest that the film has been mounted on a grand scale. The



trailer also hints at a storyline that blends political intrigue, intelligence operations, and personal revenge.

Apart from Ranveer Singh, the film features a strong ensemble cast including Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, R. Madhavan, and Sara Arjun in important roles. Their appearances in the trailer have added more excitement

among fans, indicating that the film will have several intense character moments.

One of the standout elements in the trailer is a powerful patriotic dialogue that has already become popular on social media. The dialogue, highlighting the strength and pride of India, has resonated strongly with viewers and contributed to the trailer

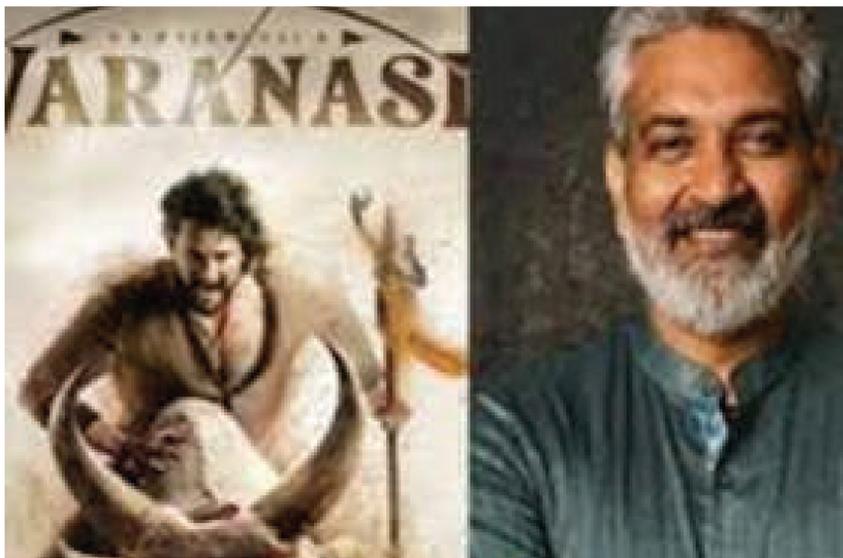
gaining viral attention online. Fans have been sharing clips widely and praising the energetic performance of Ranveer Singh.

The film has reportedly been produced on a large budget and shot across multiple locations in India and abroad. Several action sequences were filmed in visually striking locations, which adds to the cinematic scale and intensity of the film.

Dhurandhar: The Revenge is scheduled for a grand worldwide theatrical release in multiple languages, including Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. The multi-language release strategy reflects the makers' aim to reach audiences across different regions of India.

With the trailer generating significant buzz and excitement, the film is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated action entertainers of the year. Fans are now eagerly waiting to watch the full movie on the big screen.

Mahesh Babu-Rajamouli's 'Varanasi' Creates Rare Record With Massive Overseas Business



The upcoming pan-world film Varanasi, starring Mahesh Babu and directed by S. S. Rajamouli, is already creating a huge buzz in global film trade circles even before the completion of its shooting. The film is reportedly attracting record-breaking offers in overseas markets, making it one of the most talked-about upcoming Indian films.

Varanasi is being made on a massive scale and is considered one of the most ambitious projects in Indian cinema. The film

also features Priyanka Chopra Jonas as the female lead, while Prithviraj Sukumaran will be seen in a key role. The music for the film is composed by M. M. Keeravani. Ever since the project was announced, it has generated tremendous excitement among fans and film trade analysts.

According to industry buzz, a major international distribution company has reportedly offered around ₹160 crore for the overseas theatrical rights of the film across multiple languages.

If the deal is finalized at this price, it would become one of the biggest overseas distribution deals in the history of Indian cinema.

The huge offer has surprised many in the film industry because the movie's promotions have not even started on a large scale yet. However, the powerful combination of Rajamouli's filmmaking reputation and Mahesh Babu's global popularity has created extraordinary demand among international distributors. Many trade experts

believe that this strong pre-release interest reflects the growing influence of Telugu cinema in global markets.

Another major reason behind the high demand is the phenomenal success of Rajamouli's previous films such as Baahubali 2: The Conclusion and RRR. These films performed exceptionally well worldwide and significantly expanded the international market for Indian movies. As a result, distributors across the globe are showing strong confidence in Rajamouli's next project.

The film is expected to feature grand visuals, large-scale action sequences, and a story inspired by mythological and adventurous themes. Reports also suggest that the movie will be shot in several international locations and will be released worldwide in multiple languages to reach a wider audience.

Although the makers have not officially confirmed the overseas deal yet, the strong buzz itself highlights the massive anticipation surrounding the film. If the deal goes through at the reported price, Varanasi could create a rare milestone in overseas business for an Indian film.

With such massive pre-release hype and global expectations, Varanasi is already shaping up to be one of the biggest cinematic events in the coming years. Fans and industry circles are now eagerly waiting for more updates about the film and its eventual release.