



BUZZ POINTS

Partial Lunar Eclipse on March 3: When and How Skywatchers in India Can Watch It



TRUE POINT

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CM Revanth Reddy Issues Safety Advisory to Telugu Workers in Gulf

In light of escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday appealed to Telugu people living in Iran and Gulf countries to remain vigilant and prioritise their safety, as the region grapples with ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel.

Addressing the situation, the Chief Minister urged all Telugu expatriates in nations including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to closely follow the safety advisories issued by their respective Indian embassies and consulates. He emphasised that rapidly changing conditions warrant heightened alertness and adherence to all official guidance from diplomatic missions.

"The safety of our people abroad is of paramount importance," Revanth Reddy said, noting that the state government is closely monitoring developments and stays in constant contact with Central Government authorities. He directed state officials to maintain regular communication with Telugu associations in the Gulf and ensure that accurate welfare information reaches expatriates at the earliest.

The Chief Minister also reiterated that, in case of emergencies, the Telangana government will coordinate with the Government



of India to evacuate and bring back Telugu citizens if necessary. He urged families of those overseas not to panic, but to remain in contact with their loved ones and rely on official channels for updates.

This advisory follows heightened conflict in the region, where recent military strikes by Israel and the United States on targets within Iran have triggered retaliatory actions, drawing in Iran's armed forces and escalating insecurity across parts of the Gulf. Reports indicate that several Gulf areas, including strategic hubs like Dubai, have seen precautionary measures such as evacuations of prominent buildings and temporary closures of

key infrastructure amid fears of missile strikes.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi has also expressed deep concern over the situation, calling on all parties to exercise restraint and protect civilian lives. MEA officials urged Indian nationals in the region to register with their local embassies and follow safety protocol fully.

With travel disruptions reported and airspace warnings affecting commercial flights, the government's priority remains clear: ensuring the welfare of its citizens abroad through proactive advisories, diplomatic coordination and, if required, evacuation support.



KTR Leads 'Musidandi March' in Hyderabad, Pledges Support to Evicted Residents

HYDERABAD —

K. T. Rama Rao, the Working President of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), spearheaded a protest march on Sunday against the controversial Gandhi Sarovar/Musi Riverfront project, asserting strong support for residents who are facing displacement due to the redevelopment initiative. The event, called the "Musidandi March," drew hundreds of local citizens and BRS supporters as they walked several kilometres from Hydrashakote to raise awareness about what organisers described as a "bulldozer raj" under the current state government.

The march was organised primarily by residents from areas such as Gandhaguda, Shivaram Colony, Dream Homes, Rajendranagar, and surrounding communities along the Musi riverbank. They are concerned that the Gandhi Sarovar project — aimed at beautifying and redeveloping the Musi riverfront — will displace their homes and properties without adequate rehabilitation or consultation. Many families, who have lived in these neighbourhoods for years after investing their life savings, joined the protest holding placards and urging authorities to halt demolitions.

Addressing the crowd, KTR strongly criticised the Telangana Congress government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing it of presiding over what he termed a "Bulldozer Raj" — dismissing houses in the name of the project without meaningful dialogue or fair compensation. He

claimed that the government's focus on demolitions and real estate deals had overshadowed meaningful development efforts that benefit ordinary citizens. KTR also condemned the apparent exemption of high-value properties owned by political elites from similar actions, which he said showed double standards in governance.

KTR assured those affected that the BRS would stand with them not only during the protest but also through legal channels. He urged residents to remain united and resist settlement offers that do not genuinely safeguard their interests. Addressing the crowd, he encouraged them to protect their homes, land titles, and neighbourhoods with dignity, underlining his party's commitment to their cause.

The BRS leader also stated that the issue of Musidandi redevelopment and displacement would be raised prominently in the upcoming session of the Telangana Legislative Assembly, scheduled to begin on March 16. He argued that transparent governance and inclusive planning should guide all development work, warning that failure to do so would lead to resentment and political backlash.

The "Musidandi March" represents a growing flashpoint in Telangana's urban development debate, pitting government infrastructure aspirations against the rights and concerns of local residents. It has also highlighted deeper political fault lines between the ruling party and opposition leaders as Telangana approaches future elections.

Rahul Gandhi to Visit Telangana to Attend Training and Meet Party Leaders

HYDERABAD —

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will make a significant political visit to Telangana on Monday, March 2, 2026, as part of the party's ongoing efforts to strengthen its organisational presence and align its leadership ahead of upcoming political challenges. The visit comes amid an intensive training programme for Congress District Committee presidents and will see Gandhi interacting with key party functionaries throughout the day.

According to the schedule revealed by local media, Rahul Gandhi is expected to arrive at Shamshabad International Airport from Delhi at around 9:20 a.m. and will proceed by helicopter to Vikarabad, a district about 70 km from Hyderabad, where the final session of the District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents' training camp is being held. The training programme, organised jointly for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Congress leaders, has



been underway for several days, aiming to reinforce grass-roots organisation and strategic campaign skills.

Gandhi will serve as the chief guest at the concluding session of the training session at Haritha Hotel in Vikarabad, where he is slated to address DCC presidents and other party leaders until late afternoon. His address is expected to emphasise organisational strengthening, effective

public engagement, and preparations for future elections across the Telugu states. Party insiders say his remarks will focus on refining Congress strategies and motivating cadres to engage more deeply at the local level.

Beyond the training event, Mr. Gandhi's visit holds broader political significance. Reports indicate he will deliberate with state leadership regarding key

political developments in Telangana, including selection and endorsements for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, where two seats are likely to fall vacant. Sources suggest Gandhi's inputs could influence the final list of candidates, balancing electoral equations and internal party loyalty ahead of future electoral battles.

Despite its tight one-day schedule — he is expected to depart for Delhi by early evening — the visit has generated heightened excitement among local Congress leaders and workers. Heavy security arrangements have been made around Vikarabad, and party workers are seen mobilising to welcome Gandhi and make the event a success.

The Congress leadership is confident that Gandhi's presence will inject fresh energy into the state party structure and galvanise cadres ahead of a critical phase of political engagement, with a focus on organisational revival and outreach to voters.

Telugu Celebrities and Indian Families Stranded in Dubai

DUBAI —

Rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East between Iran, Israel and the United States have triggered widespread disruption across the Gulf region, with commercial flights suspended and airspace closures affecting thousands of travellers — including prominent Telugu personalities and Indian families currently in the UAE.

Among those caught up in the chaos is Indian badminton superstar Puserla Venkata Sindhu, who was en route to compete in the prestigious All England Open scheduled to start on March 3, 2026. Sindhu and her team found themselves stranded at Dubai International Airport after airlines abruptly halted flight operations due to the escalating conflict and associated security concerns.

In social media posts on X (formerly Twitter), Sindhu shared chilling details of her experience, describing how overhead interceptions and ex-



plosions near the airport heightened fear among those sheltering there. Speaking directly about the situation, she wrote that witnessing the rapid escalation was "hard to process" and that the chaos unfolding around them was "honestly terrifying." She also expressed gratitude to the Indian Embassy and local authorities for their support amid the crisis.

Sindhu's father later confirmed that the Indian High Commission in Dubai had ar-

ranged accommodation for her and was actively looking after her safety while flights remain suspended. Airports across the Gulf, including in neighbouring countries such as Abu Dhabi, have seen major disruptions, leaving thousands of passengers, students and families in a state of uncertainty. Also sharing his ordeal from the UAE is popular Telugu actor Vishnu Manchu, who is visiting family in Dubai. In heartfelt posts, Manchu recounted the terrify-

ing moments as missiles and their interceptions lit up the night sky, producing loud sounds that shook the city and alarmed residents. His young daughter Ayra was reportedly frightened by the blasts, prompting the actor to pray publicly for peace and safety for all civilians affected by the conflict.

Thousands of other Indians, including students and families, are also stranded at airports due to flight cancellations and closed air routes. Many are waiting for conditions to stabilise so commercial services can resume and return them home safely. The Indian Embassy and consular officials are actively engaged in assisting stranded citizens, offering guidance and support as the situation continues to evolve.

The crisis has underlined the broader impact of international conflicts on ordinary travellers, including athletes and public figures, highlighting the far-reaching consequences of regional instability on global travel and civilian life.

Tight Security at US Consulate in Gachibowli



HYDERABAD —

Security has been significantly heightened around the US Consulate General in the Gachibowli Nanakramguda area of Hyderabad as authorities prepare for possible protest activity in response to escalating tensions in the Middle East. The increased vigilance comes after recent developments in the Iran Israel US conflict triggered strong reactions both internationally and within India's urban centres.

Late Sunday afternoon, Cyberabad Police deployed additional personnel, including uniformed officers and plainclothes units, around the consulate building to prevent any untoward incidents near the diplomatic mission. Officers equipped with riot gear and high visibility security measures were posted at strategic points to monitor the area and deter potential demonstrations. Police say this enhanced presence will remain in place "until the situation stabilises."

A senior officer explained that the move is precautionary, aimed at maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of consulate staff, local residents, and visitors. The deployment follows intelligence inputs that suggested the possibility of protest rallies being organised in the city if international tensions escalate further. To avoid any disruption or clashes, police also established checkpoints and barriers on key routes leading to the consulate and increased patrols in surrounding neighbourhoods.

The decision to strengthen security comes amid recent global reactions following reports of airstrikes in Iran by US and Israeli forces — incidents that triggered protests and demonstrations in several countries. In nearby Hyderabad, marches and gatherings were reported in parts of the Old City, where protesters expressed solidarity with Iran's political leadership, drawing attention from law enforcement agencies.

Local police leaders held a briefing at the consulate perimeter, reviewing the security plan and reassuring local residents that the measures are purely preventive. They urged citizens to avoid areas near diplomatic missions if possible and to follow official information regarding public safety updates. Emergency services have also been placed on alert to respond quickly to any developing situation.

The US Consulate in Hyderabad — which serves visa and consular services for Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and parts of neighbouring states — has seen periodic security reinforcements in the past during heightened global tensions. This latest move reflects the broader climate of uncertainty as geopolitical conflict continues to influence public sentiment globally.

As of Monday evening, no major crowds or protests had formed near the Gachibowli consulate area, but police remain on standby and closely monitoring developments for any signs of unrest.

Rashmika Mandanna Invites Telangana CM Revanth Reddy to Wedding Reception



HYDERABAD — Popular Telugu film actress Rashmika Mandanna has personally invited Revanth Reddy and his family to her wedding reception in Hyderabad, days after her recent marriage to actor Vijay Deverakonda. The reception is scheduled for March 4 and is expected to draw prominent figures from the film industry, politics, and business.

Rashmika, who tied the knot with Vijay in an intimate ceremony on February 26 in Udaipur, Rajasthan, visited the Chief Minister's residence on Sunday to personally extend the invitation. In a warm exchange, she interacted with Revanth Reddy, his wife Geetha and their daughter Nymisha, and received their blessings for her new phase of life. During the visit, Revanth Reddy and his family presented Rashmika with a traditional gift, which she later shared on social media, promising to wear it on a special occasion.

Photographs from the meeting have quickly gained attention on social media platforms, with fans pouring in congratulatory messages and expressing excitement for the upcoming reception. Rashmika herself thanked the Chief Minister and his family in her post, highlighting how "wonderfully sweet" the conversations were during the visit.

The couple's wedding reception in Hyderabad is poised to be a grand affair, yet it will be strictly invite-only to ensure security and smooth management amid overwhelming public interest. According to event organisers, the guest list includes top celebrities from Tollywood and other film industries, as well as notable political leaders and dignitaries, though access will be limited exclusively to those holding official invitations.

This invitation follows a series of celebratory gestures by the couple following their wedding. On the same day as her meeting with the Chief Minister, Rashmika and Vijay visited Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams in Hyderabad to seek religious blessings, marking the beginning of their married life with tradition and faith. Additionally, their team distributed thousands of sweet boxes across major Indian cities and arranged annadanam (sacred food offerings) at temples nationwide — a gesture aimed at sharing their joy with the public.

The buzz surrounding the "Virosh" wedding — a portmanteau of Vijay and Rashmika — has captivated fans across India, with enthusiasts eagerly anticipating the upcoming reception and future appearances of the newlywed couple.

Don't Play Politics With Poor: Ponguleti To BRS



KHAMMAM — Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, the Revenue, Housing, Information & Public Relations Minister of Telangana, held a significant press meet in Khammam district this week, outlining the state government's current initiatives, responding to local concerns, and reinforcing his commitment to public service. The event, attended by media representatives and local leaders, highlighted both developmental agendas and political messaging as the Congress government navigates administration and public expectations.

In his address, Reddy reiterated the government's focus on strengthening public infrastructure and services. He highlighted ongoing efforts to modernise administrative facilities, emphasising that the construction of permanent, well equipped buildings for tahsildar and Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) offices across the state will enhance accessibility and citizen friendly service delivery. The programme aims to replace rented and dilapidated offices with standardised modern facilities — with about 60 tahsildar and 5 RDO offices slated for upgrades in the first phase. Subsequently, a larger plan includes rebuilding 170 outdated revenue offices, demonstrating a systematic approach toward administrative efficiency. Reddy also used the platform to stress the importance of grassroots governance. He urged elected representatives, especially municipal councillors and corporators, to remain accessible and responsive to public concerns. Recalling recent directives, he encouraged leaders to spend meaningful time within their wards each day to listen to citizens' issues — from drinking water shortages to drainage problems — and work collaboratively with officials to resolve them swiftly. He reiterated that regular presence in local communities helps bridge governance gaps and reinforces trust between the public and administration.

The minister's press meet also touched upon political dynamics in Khammam. Reddy, who represents the Palair Assembly constituency, reaffirmed his dedication to addressing local grievances, including land and housing issues that have seen citizen unrest in parts of the district. While specifics of these topics at the press meet were not fully detailed in available reports, his public stance underscores an alignment with broader government priorities to address civic concerns comprehensively.

Political commentators note that Reddy's public engagements — including press interactions — serve dual purposes: communicating governance efforts while also cementing his image as a proactive minister in a politically sensitive region.

As the Congress government continues its term in Telangana, Reddy's statements reflect a blend of administrative action and political responsiveness, especially in districts like Khammam where public expectations for infrastructure and service delivery remain high.

Fairmount Builders Booked in ₹8.15 Crore Real Estate Fraud Case in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD — The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Cyberabad Police has registered a ₹8.15 crore real estate fraud case against Fairmount Builders and Developers following a complaint by local resident K.R. Kumar from Kompally. The case alleges cheating, breach of trust, and fraudulent misrepresentation in a high-value property transaction in the Ramtanapur area of Shankarpalli mandal.

According to police reports, on January 6, 2024, Fairmount Builders entered into an agreement to purchase 3 acres and 35 guntas of land in Survey No. 54(E) of Ramtanapur village for ₹9.68 crore. Under the terms of the agreement, ₹1.53 crore was to be paid in cash, ₹6.50 crore was to be

settled through the allotment of commercial units in the company's Kompally-based projects — Fairmount Square and Fairmount Midtown — and the remaining ₹1.65 crore was to be paid within two months.

The complainant alleged that while the land registration was completed on February 1, 2024, and ownership was transferred to Fairmount Builders, the company failed to deliver the commercial units as promised and did not pay the remaining dues. Despite repeated follow-ups, the company allegedly provided various excuses to delay settlement. According to K.R. Kumar, more than 20 months have passed without fulfillment of the contractual obligations.

Further allegations claim that some individuals who

signed the agreements on behalf of Fairmount Builders may have done so without proper authority, and certain signatures might be forged. The complainant also stated that the company violated the terms of the agreement by executing agreements for commercial units in the names of third parties instead of the original buyer. Attempts to visit the company's office were reportedly met with intimidation.

On January 28, 2026, the Cyberabad EOW formally registered Crime No. 4/2026 under sections 318(4), 316(2), 338, 340(2) read with 3(5) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and initiated investigation into the matter. The case specifically names the partners of Fairmount Builders — Shahjism Hamid, Sarfaraz Hussain Ali

Lakhani, Sahil Nurani, and Farid Gilani — as accused. Police confirmed that the investigation is ongoing, with officers examining company records, agreements, and bank transactions to establish the scope of the alleged fraud.

Legal experts note that this case highlights persistent issues in the real estate sector, including fraudulent practices, delayed delivery, and misrepresentation of assets, which continue to affect property buyers in Hyderabad. Cases such as these underline the importance of due diligence, proper documentation, and vigilance when investing in commercial or residential projects.

The complainant and local residents expressed concern that such high-val-

ue property deals are being mishandled, impacting investor confidence. Authorities have assured strict enforcement of legal provisions to hold the accused accountable. The police investigation aims not only to recover the financial losses but also to establish clear accountability among the developers and prevent similar incidents in the future.

As the case progresses, it is expected to draw attention from other affected parties in Hyderabad, emphasizing the growing need for regulatory oversight in the rapidly expanding real estate market. Cyberabad EOW officials continue to gather evidence, summon the accused for questioning, and explore legal remedies to ensure justice for the complainant.

TGSRTC Cuts Fares on Metro Deluxe and AC Metro Buses to Boost Ridership

HYDERABAD — In a commuter friendly move, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced a temporary reduction in bus fares for its premium city services, including Metro Deluxe and AC Metro buses, seeking to improve occupancy and offer relief to daily passengers ahead of the summer months. The revised fare structure came into force on March 1, 2026, and will remain in place for three months, officials said.

Under the new scheme, fares for journeys longer than 2 kilometres on Metro Deluxe and AC Metro buses have been reduced by ₹5-₹10 per trip, while the charges for shorter journeys up to 2 km will remain unchanged at ₹15. The changes were announced by TGSRTC's Chief Traffic Manager Sridevi, who explained that the corporation hopes the fare cuts incentivise commuters to choose these services more frequently.

"TGSRTC has introduced these fare reductions because the Mahalakshmi scheme — which provides free travel to women on ordinary buses — does not apply to these premium services, and higher fares had been discouraging riders from choosing them," she told media representatives. "We will monitor commuter response over the next few months and then decide on further actions."

Metro Deluxe and AC Metro buses are among TGSRTC's newer city bus categories, designed to provide improved comfort and air



conditioned travel options across Greater Hyderabad. These buses operate on fixed routes within the city, connecting residential areas to major commercial and transit hubs.

According to local reports, before the fare revision, Metro Deluxe AC buses charged approximately ₹30 for shorter distance travel, with fares rising for longer trips. Following the reduction, these tickets are expected to cost around ₹25 for similar distances, reflecting a discount of ₹5 per ticket. E Metro AC buses — another premium AC

service in the fleet — have seen even steeper cuts, with fares for journeys up to about 4 km dropping by ₹10.

The decision is intended to both support commuters during the hot summer season and encourage more people to use public transport, reducing pressure on private vehicles and helping manage urban traffic congestion. With temperatures already rising across the twin cities, demand for air conditioned bus travel tends to increase, particularly among office goers and

students.

TGSRTC operates a sizeable fleet of premium buses in Greater Hyderabad, including more than 275 Metro Deluxe buses and around 90 electric AC buses, which serve thousands of passengers daily. Officials expect that the new fare structure will lead to increased patronage on these services, benefiting both riders and the corporation through improved utilization of the fleet.

The move comes amid broader efforts by TGSRTC to modernise and expand services, including integra-

tion with digital ticketing platforms like MeeTicket, which allows commuters to buy and renew passes through a mobile app with live QR based validation.

Commuters have so far welcomed the fare cuts, especially those who rely on AC buses for daily travel, as the reductions are expected to offer modest savings and make public transport more appealing during peak summer heat. Officials will review data from the three month period before deciding whether to extend or further modify the fare structure.

BRS MLA Alleges Misuse of Power by Karimnagar Police Commissioner, Demands Probe



HYDERABAD — In a dramatic escalation of political tensions in Telangana's Karimnagar district, BRS legislator Padi Kaushik Reddy has levelled serious allegations against the Karimnagar Police Commissioner, Ghouse Alam, accusing him of misusing official authority and privileges.

tioned how a close relative of the commissioner secured an outsourced job locally and why two women constables were assigned to serve her without clear justification.

The legislator did not stop at vehicle misuse. He accused the commissioner of exploiting his position to collect cash from individuals implicated in corruption linked to the public distribution system (PDS) and claimed that transfers of more than 300 home guards were conducted on the basis of money rather than merit.

Kaushik Reddy demanded that the Chief Minister and Director General of Police order a transparent inquiry into the commissioner's conduct. He warned that if no action is taken within 15 days, he will make all purported evidence, including videos, public and pursue legal remedies.

The allegations have triggered chatter among political commentators about administrative accountability, though police officials have yet to issue a formal response to the accusations. Independent observers note that allegations against senior officers can erode public trust unless addressed swiftly with clear facts and due process.

BJP Chief Slams Government Over Temple Demolition and Appeasement Politics



HYDERABAD — N. Ramachander Rao, the state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Telangana, launched a sharp attack on the ruling Congress government on Saturday, accusing it of engaging in "appeasement politics" and targeting Hindu religious institutions in the state.

ernment" that uses aggressive demolition tactics in both urban renewal efforts and religious spaces. Rao warned that the BJP would not remain silent if there were further interference with temples and mutts.

Rao also stated that he had already spoken with the seer of Sarada Peetham and planned to visit the site on March 2 to personally assess the situation. He asserted that the BJP would "fight relentlessly" for the protection of Hindu Dharma, pledging continued opposition unless the government paused what he described as discriminatory actions and missteps.

Beyond religious issues, Rao criticised the state government for other governance challenges, including forced demolitions of homes belonging to economically weaker sections of society under projects like the Musi riverfront redevelopment. He reiterated that the BJP stands with displaced families and would campaign actively against policies that, in his view, harm ordinary citizens in the name of urban development.

Telangana's political scene has become increasingly contentious around such development projects, with opposition parties accusing the government of heavy handed tactics, while supporters argue that modernisation and beautification efforts are essential for the city's growth. Rao's comments are likely to intensify debates ahead of future elections and public discussions on how best to balance development with cultural and community preservation.

Harish Rao Promises iPads to Top Class 10 Students in Siddipet

SIDDIPET — Senior leader T. Harish Rao, former minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) deputy floor leader, made an encouraging announcement for Class 10 students in the Siddipet Assembly constituency on Sunday, pledging to award iPads to the top 30 performers in this year's board examinations.

Addressing the gathering at the "Vijayi Bhava" motivational event, Harish Rao emphasised the importance of concentration, long term planning and disciplined study habits as students prepare for Class 10 board exams later this month. He encouraged youngsters to stay away from excessive use of smartphones and television until the examinations are completed, noting that such distractions can negatively impact performance.

Highlighting Siddipet's strong academic legacy, he pointed out that students from the district consistently achieve high results in board exams and secure a large number of seats in competitive programmes such as IIT Basara every year. "Siddipet has been at



the top in Class 10 results consistently," he said, urging the current batch of students to help continue that legacy.

Rao told the young learners that the Class 10 examination is a pivotal milestone in their academic journey, offering them a chance to change their future trajectories. "Your future lies in your hands," he said, focusing on the importance of performance in the examina-

tion hall rather than mere preparation. As part of his support, he also shared that he had ensured the distribution of free study materials and digital content to students to help them prepare effectively.

The announcement of iPads as rewards is expected to inspire competition among students in government schools across the Siddipet constituency, especially those attending Indira Nagar

Public School, which has become known for strong academic outcomes. Parents and educators welcomed the pledge, saying that such incentives can boost motivation and help them aim higher in today's competitive educational environment.

According to school officials, Siddipet has made significant progress in public education in recent years, with improved infrastructure and academic perfor-

mance drawing praise from parents and the community. The iPad promise adds to the array of support measures aimed at strengthening education in the region.

With thousands of Class 10 students preparing for board exams this month, Harish Rao's message was clear: stay focused, be disciplined, and aim for excellence—not only for rewards but for building a strong foundation for future success.

Nalgonda Dictates Politics Of Telangana : Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy



NALGONDA — In a significant push for education reform in Telangana, the state Congress party on Sunday launched the much-anticipated Integrated Schools Scheme in the Munugode constituency

of Nalgonda district. The initiative was inaugurated by senior Congress leaders in the presence of local officials, teachers, students and community members. Leading the event was Munugode MLA Raj Gopal

Reddy, who described the scheme as a pioneering model that could set a precedent for the entire country.

The integrated education plan aims to transform existing government schools

into modern, holistic institutions offering enhanced infrastructure, digital learning tools and improved student services. According to organisers, the scheme focuses on strengthening academic outcomes while also addressing physical education, arts, vocational training and community engagement — a departure from conventional education models. The launch day was marked by speeches, cultural performances by students, and distribution of educational materials to underprivileged children.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Raj Gopal Reddy said the integrated schools initiative reflects a long-held Congress commitment to equitable quality education. He emphasised that education is not merely a tool for academic advancement but a fundamental pillar for empowering rural youth and driving socio-economic progress. "This scheme represents our vision of inclusive education where every child, regardless of background, has access to modern learning environments," he said, urging other constituencies to adopt similar reforms.

Under the new plan, participating schools will receive upgraded classrooms, smart boards, libraries and enhanced sanitation facilities. Teachers will also un-

dergo specialised training aimed at student-centric and activity-based pedagogies. The scheme additionally includes programmes for nutritional support and mental health counselling, both of which have been identified as crucial for sustaining student engagement and well-being. Reddy highlighted that these measures are intended to reduce dropout rates and improve performance in state and national examinations.

The audience, which included parents, educators and local civic leaders, welcomed the initiative with applause and expressed optimism that the integrated schools could curb the current disparities between urban and rural education standards. Several teachers praised the scheme's emphasis on professional training and resource support, saying that it would enable them to deliver more effective instruction.

The Congress leadership has termed the pilot launch in Munugode as the first step toward expanding the model across other parts of Telangana and, potentially, to neighbouring states. The scheme's implementation will be closely monitored by a special oversight committee to ensure accountability and measure outcomes against established benchmarks.

BJP IS FOR FUTURE TELANGANA: BANDI SANJAY

SIDDIPET — Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Bandi Sanjay Kumar, made a high profile visit to Siddipet district of Telangana on Sunday, engaging with local residents, BJP workers and community leaders amid heightened political activity in the state.

During his visit, Bandi Sanjay emphasised various issues affecting the region and criticised the state government's current policies. Known for his outspoken style and assertive political stance, the Union minister took the opportunity to highlight what he described as challenges faced by ordinary citizens under the ruling Congress administration in Telangana. His Siddipet visit is seen as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the BJP's footprint in the state, where

opposition parties are actively mobilising ahead of future elections.

One of the key themes addressed by Bandi Sanjay during his interactions was the economic and developmental concerns of local communities. Although the official Bharatiya Janata Party release did not detail specific policy announcements, he reiterated the party's commitment to ensuring that central government assistance reaches grassroots levels efficiently. He also encouraged party cadres to continue engaging with citizens about welfare schemes and central projects available for farmers, artisans and other vulnerable groups. Reports indicate that party workers welcomed his presence with enthusiasm, holding meetings and brief discussions at multiple points during the visit.

Bandi Sanjay also touched upon broader political narratives, showing visible confidence in the BJP's vision for Telangana's future. While no formal rally was staged, the minister's address drew attention from local youth and party organisers, who engaged with him on campus development, employment opportunities and infrastructure expansion. His remarks reflected a continued effort by the BJP leadership to shift the political discourse in the state and increase public awareness of national schemes.

Local political analysts note that Siddipet, traditionally influenced by regional political forces, is witnessing increased political traction from national parties, with leaders like Bandi Sanjay seeking to consolidate support ahead of electoral contests. Observers say the visit



underscores the BJP's strategic attempts to connect with Telangana's electorate, particularly in districts that have seen mixed political allegiances.

The visit concluded with Bandi Sanjay interacting informally with students who approached him during his movement through the city. Video clips circulating on regional media show him sharing light hearted moments

with youth over local sports activities, underscoring his intent to connect beyond formal politics.

While the Congress and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) have not issued detailed responses to this visit yet, political commentators predict intensified dialogue between parties in the coming weeks as Telangana's political environment remains highly competitive.

GHMC's Property Tax Grievance Drive Receives Strong Response on First Day

HYDERABAD – The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) launched its city-wide property tax grievance drive under the "Property Tax Parishkaram" initiative on Sunday, drawing significant public participation. A total of 285 applications were received on the very first day, reflecting strong interest from residents in resolving pending property tax issues. The drive is being conducted at all GHMC circle offices across the city.

The Parishkaram initiative aims to provide citizen-friendly, time-bound redressal of property tax grievances and improve transparency in the municipal taxation system. Officials from the revenue and tax departments, including Deputy Commissioners, Valuation Officers, Assistant Municipal Commissioners, and Tax Inspectors, were deployed at the offices to receive and resolve petitions directly. The program is scheduled every Sunday in March from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Most applications re-



ceived were related to assessment discrepancies, mismatched property areas, unpaid tax arrears, and mutation requests following property sales or inheritance. Some taxpayers also sought corrections in payment records and clarification regarding accumulated dues. Officials assured resi-

dents that all applications would be examined thoroughly and resolved according to regulations, highlighting GHMC's commitment to efficient service delivery.

GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan urged property owners to take advantage of this grievance drive and the

recently announced One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for 2025-26. The OTS scheme offers defaulters a 90 percent waiver on accumulated interest, providing an opportunity to clear pending dues with minimal financial burden. Commissioner Karnan emphasized that participation in the

drive and settlement under the OTS would benefit both taxpayers and the city's revenue collection.

The initiative has been welcomed by residents who have faced long-standing issues due to administrative delays or outdated property records. By streamlining grievance redressal at circle offices and providing on-site assistance, GHMC aims to reduce backlogs, ensure fair assessment, and encourage compliance with property tax regulations. Taxpayers were advised to carry all relevant documents, including tax assessment orders, payment receipts, and property papers, to facilitate faster verification and resolution.

The Parishkaram drive will continue on March 8, 15, 22, and 29, giving citizens multiple opportunities to resolve pending issues, avoid penalties, and regularize their tax status before the end of the financial year. GHMC officials hope the initiative will not only clear grievances but also increase public trust in municipal administration.

Residents Protest Mosquito Menace in Bachupally; BJP Launches Agitation



KUTBULLAPUR, MARCH 1 – Residents of Rajiv Gandhi Nagar in Bachupally, under the Nizampet Circle, have expressed growing frustration over the worsening mosquito menace, prompting a protest led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The demonstration, held on Sunday, highlighted residents' complaints about inadequate mosquito control and poor civic response, raising concerns about public health risks such as dengue and malaria.

The protest was attended by large numbers of locals who voiced their anger at perceived negligence by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). BJP state vice president Koli Madhavi, the chief guest at the event, criticized the state government, saying, "The government has completely failed in mosquito control. Fagging and sanitation work exist only on paper." She urged authorities to take immediate action to prevent mosquito-borne dis-

eases in the densely populated locality.

Local BJP leaders, including Kasani Santosh, Gajjali Santosh, and Bachupally BJP president N. Prasad Raju, also spoke at the protest, stating that residents are unable to sleep at night due to the mosquito problem. They warned that the lack of proper action from GHMC authorities has heightened the risk of diseases like dengue and malaria, and claimed repeated complaints have gone

unaddressed.

Key allegations against Nizampet Circle officials include:

- Failure to remove stagnant water from the colony
- Irregular fagging and anti-larva spraying
- Lack of responsiveness to citizen complaints
- Inadequate supervision by sanitation staff

The protest saw participation from several prominent political figures and community leaders. Among

them were Dalit Morcha leaders Dasi Nagaraju, Chennareddy, Rach Chakradhar, Professor Chandra Mouli, Jakkula Ravi, Bhikshapati Yadav, former corporator Vijayalakshmi Subbarao, Dalit Morcha secretary Narayana Murthy, along with BJP members including Atish Babu, Sai Krishna Reddy, Karthik, Narsimha Reddy, Kishore, and Mandal youth wing presidents Bhupal Reddy, Sravanth Kumar, Charan, Suresh, Ravi, among others. Their participation underscored the political and social urgency of the issue.

Residents and party leaders demanded that GHMC conduct regular anti-larva treatments, fogging, and sanitation drives, with proper monitoring to prevent future outbreaks. They also called for timely action to remove standing water in the colony, emphasizing that mosquito-borne diseases pose a serious public health risk if neglected.

The protest highlights growing dissatisfaction in urban localities like Bachupally, where civic services are failing to meet rising public health challenges. BJP leaders warned they would continue the agitation until GHMC authorities took visible and sustained action to address the mosquito menace and safeguard community health.

BJP Protests Hazardous Road Conditions in Nizampet; Demands Immediate Action

KUTBULLAPUR, MARCH 1 – Residents of Nizampet Circle and surrounding areas are facing mounting difficulties due to deteriorating road conditions, prompting a protest led by BJP leader Akula Satish and his team. The demonstration, held near Bhavya Sanand in Nizampet, highlighted the persistence of large potholes on major roads connecting Nizampet to Bachupally, Pragatinagar, and JNTU, affecting daily commuters, office-goers, and local businesses.

According to the BJP team, nearly 50 to 100 potholes exist along these main roads, causing traffic disruptions, vehicle damage, and posing serious safety risks. "Despite crores of rupees being spent, the authorities have failed to even repair primary roads," the protest statement said, criticizing the Deputy Commissioner for

alleged negligence. Protesters emphasized that potholes are not only inconvenient but dangerous, with many incidents of vehicles skidding or drivers losing control.

The BJP demanded immediate filling of potholes, proper traffic management, and urgent measures to prevent accidents. The leaders further highlighted that conditions in residential colonies are even worse, with roads dotted with potholes at nearly every turn. They called for the transfer of the Nizampet Deputy Commissioner and appointment of an official who could provide efficient civic services to residents.

The protest also addressed broader civic concerns, noting that the merger of Nizampet Circle into the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) has failed to resolve fundamental issues. "Despite the

merger, sanitation, drainage, sewage, and mosquito control problems continue unabated," BJP leaders said, warning that failure to act swiftly could escalate public protests further.

Participants in the demonstration included prominent local BJP leaders and volunteers such as Amalleshwari, Arun, Vinay, Sivasini Shakti, Shashi, Hanumayya, Murali, Prasad, Pandu, Satish, Ella Swami, and Srinivas, among others. The protest involved public appeals and on-site inspection of the damaged roads to highlight the severity of the situation.

The BJP emphasized that public safety should not be compromised and that authorities must take prompt remedial measures to repair roads, maintain traffic flow, and ensure the safety of citizens. The protest leaders also demanded improvements in garbage disposal,



drainage maintenance, and mosquito control to prevent further public health and safety hazards.

This demonstration underscores growing frustration among Nizampet resi-

dents, who face daily inconveniences due to civic negligence, and signals continued political pressure on municipal authorities to prioritize infrastructure repair and public welfare.

Jana Sena Eyes Greater Hyderabad Victory from Qutbullapur



QUTBULLAPUR, MARCH 1 – The Jana Sena Party has launched a strong campaign in Qutbullapur, signaling its entry into the Greater Hyderabad political arena with ambitions for the upcoming municipal elections. Party leader Ram Talluri expressed confidence that the party would record its first victory in Greater Hyderabad from Qutbullapur, emphasizing the constituency as a key focus area for their electoral strategy.

The event marked the inauguration of a new Jana Sena office at Sai Baba Nagar, 292nd Division, led by Runku Sai Krishna and inaugurated by Ram Talluri. Party officials and local supporters gathered to witness the opening, which included the raising of the party flag and a series of programs aimed at energizing grassroots support.

A highlight of the day was a massive bike rally organized under the leadership of Qutbullapur constituency in-charge Nandagiri Satish. The rally began at Kattamaisamma Temple and proceeded to Surram Colony Bus Stop, showcasing Jana Sena's mobilization strength and outreach to local communities. Following the rally, the party office in Brahmin Basti was inaugurated, providing a base for sustained political activity in the area.

The party is placing particular emphasis on women voters. Local young women and community leaders were invited to the party fold, demonstrating Jana Sena's focus on strengthening its female voter base. Political analysts suggest that women's participation could become a decisive factor in shaping outcomes in the Greater Hyderabad elections.

The program was attended by senior Jana Sena leaders, including Ram Talluri (Party General Secretary), Sagar R.K. Naidu (Campaign Secretary), Star Campaigner Tanish, and senior leader Appa Rao, along with dozens of local activists. Speaking at the event, Ram Talluri stressed that the party is working to strengthen its presence across Telangana, with plans to contest more than half of the seats in their constituency and provide strong competition for the mayoral post. He also pledged continuous efforts to resolve local issues and promised that the party would work relentlessly for public welfare.

Key participants in the inauguration included Lakshmi, Ramya, Santoshi, Jeevan, Durga Prasad, Praveen Sahu, Balaji, Nagaraju, Ramesh, Krishnateja, Kanna, Venkatesh, and Balu, reflecting broad local support.

With this high-profile launch, Jana Sena appears determined to make Qutbullapur its political stronghold, leveraging a combination of youth engagement, women's participation, and grassroots mobilization to challenge established parties in Greater Hyderabad. The party's assertive start suggests it intends to play a significant role in the upcoming municipal elections.

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Tallapalli Ramesh Gupta Appointed State President of Forum for RTI in Telangana

MEDCHAL, MARCH 1 – In a significant move to strengthen citizens' access to information, Tallapalli Ramesh Gupta was appointed as the State President of the Forum for RTI during a state executive meeting held at the AGS Associates office in Medchal. The event, organized by the Forum for RTI and Human Rights Welfare Association, was attended by senior leaders and activists committed to promoting transparency and accountability in governance.

The meeting was graced by Dr. Kommoju Ramesh, National Chairman of the Forum for RTI, and Dr. K. Venkata Venu, State Vice President, who emphasized the importance of the Right to Information (RTI) Act in ensuring responsible governance. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Kommoju Ramesh highlighted that RTI is a crucial tool for promoting transparency and accountability in both government and public institutions. He provided detailed guidance to members on how citizens can file RTI applications, pursue appeals, and effectively use the law to protect their rights.

Dr. Ramesh also spoke about the broader significance of human rights, stressing that every citizen must be aware of their rights and actively work to safeguard them. He urged members to educate the public about the legal mechanisms available to address grievances and ensure that officials remain answerable for their actions.

State Vice President Dr. K. Venkata Venu addressed members on the practical functioning of the Forum, emphasizing that organizational members should coordinate with officials to resolve public grievances efficiently. He instructed that when citizens approach state or district leaders with complaints, the concerns should be



documented in writing and thoroughly discussed before being presented to the relevant authorities. Members were encouraged to ensure follow-up and assist in resolving legitimate issues promptly.

During the ceremony, Tallapalli Ramesh Gupta was formally appointed State President, K. Swati was designated as State Women's President, and N. Satish was named State Media Cell Convener. Appointment certificates were presented to the newly assigned office-bearers in the presence of senior leaders and RTI activists.

The event witnessed participation from several prominent members, including Suresh, Prasad, Sudhakar Reddy, as well as representatives from the BJP and other RTI members, reflecting broad support for the Forum's objectives.

The appointment of Ramesh Gupta and the active engagement of state leaders are expected to strengthen the RTI movement in Telangana, enhancing citizen awareness, promoting transparency, and ensuring that public grievances are addressed systematically. The Forum reaffirmed its commitment to empowering citizens and fostering accountable governance across the state.

Konda Surekha Inaugurates Development Works in Greater Warangal Ahead of Ramadan

WARANGAL, MARCH 1 –

Minister Konda Surekha has called for the swift completion of development works near the Eidgah area close to Gemini Theatre in the 11th Division of Greater Warangal, urging officials to finish all projects before the upcoming Ramadan festival. The announcement came during a public event on Sunday in Warangal's MGM Circle, highlighting the government's commitment to urban development and community welfare.

As part of the event, Minister Surekha inaugurated a ₹35 lakh statue symbolizing child protection, installed at MGM Circle. The statue, designed to emphasize child welfare, was unveiled in the presence of local residents and officials, reflecting the government's focus on social initiatives alongside infrastructure improvements.

In addition to the statue, the minister also inaugurated multiple development projects at Mathwada Eidgah, undertaken with a total investment of ₹1 crore. These projects include road repairs, street lighting, and public amenities aimed at improving urban infrastructure and enhancing community spaces. The ceremony was attended by Mayor Gundu Sudharani,



Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy, and Hanumakonda and Warangal district collectors, Chahat Baj Pay and Dr. Satya Sharada, who joined Minister Surekha in officially launching the initiatives.

Speaking at the event, Minister Surekha emphasized the importance of timely completion, urging municipal officials and project contractors to accelerate work schedules. She instructed the Municipal Commissioner to actively

monitor the progress of all ongoing projects to ensure they are finished efficiently and meet quality standards. "All development works must be completed promptly so that the Eidgah area is ready for public use before Ramadan," the minister said, stressing accountability and proper supervision at every stage. Local corporator Vijayalakshmi and prominent Muslim community leaders also participated in the event, highlighting the community's engage-

ment in civic development. Their presence underscored the collaborative approach of elected representatives and local authorities in implementing public works that benefit residents.

The development works form part of Greater Warangal's broader urban improvement program, targeting roads, sanitation, street lighting, and public spaces. Officials noted that the initiatives aim to improve the quality of life for residents, enhance safety, and ensure

well-maintained public areas in preparation for major cultural and religious festivals. By fast-tracking these projects, the government hopes to demonstrate its commitment to inclusive urban development while promoting civic participation and community welfare. The combined focus on infrastructure and social symbolism, such as the child protection statue, reflects an integrated approach to city governance in Greater Warangal.

Vemulawada MLA Inaugurates Indiramma Housing Scheme in Martanpeta and Malkapeta



VELMULAWADA, MARCH 1 –

In a significant step towards supporting economically weaker sections, Vemulawada MLA Aadi Srinivas inaugurated the government's prestigious Indiramma housing projects in Martanpeta and Malkapeta villages on Sunday. The initiative is part of the state government's ongoing effort to provide affordable housing to underprivileged families, fulfilling the vision of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to ensure that every citizen has access to a secure home.

Speaking at the inauguration, MLA Aadi Srinivas emphasized that the Indiramma scheme reflects the government's commitment to pro-poor governance. "Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has consistently prioritized the welfare of marginalized communities, and this housing scheme is a concrete step toward helping the poor realize their dream of owning a home," he said.

The event marked the commencement of the first phase of the scheme in the mandal, which covers 575 beneficiaries whose houses have been sanctioned under the program. MLA Srinivas urged the beneficiaries to utilize the financial assistance of ₹5 lakh provided by the government judiciously, ensuring the construction of durable and well-structured homes. He highlighted that the scheme not only provides shelter but also enhances the quality of life, security, and dignity of families in these villages.

Officials explained that the In-

diramma housing scheme aims to address the long-standing housing needs of the poor in rural areas, offering financial and logistical support for the construction of individual houses. Each house is designed to meet basic living standards, including proper sanitation, safe drinking water, and structural stability. The project also encourages community participation, with local stakeholders involved in planning and implementation.

MLA Aadi Srinivas reiterated that the government's focus on rural development and social welfare extends beyond housing. He emphasized that ongoing efforts in education, healthcare, and livelihood programs complement the housing initiative, collectively contributing to the holistic development of underprivileged communities.

Residents of Martanpeta and Malkapeta expressed gratitude for the timely support and highlighted the importance of such initiatives in transforming lives. The Indiramma houses are expected to serve as a model for sustainable rural housing, setting a precedent for further expansion of similar projects across the region.

Through the scheme, the Telangana government seeks to strengthen its commitment to inclusive growth, providing both infrastructure and empowerment opportunities to marginalized sections while promoting dignity, security, and economic stability for the most vulnerable citizens.

Police Arrest Man for Defrauding Investor of ₹47 Lakh via Online Share Market Scam

HYDERABAD, MARCH 1 –

Hyderabad police have apprehended a man accused of duping an investor of ₹47 lakh by promising high returns through share market trading and investments via online platforms and social media. The arrest follows a complaint lodged by a local resident who alleged that he was misled into investing a substantial sum under false assurances of guaranteed profits.

According to police reports, the victim, a resident of the district, was introduced to the suspect through WhatsApp and other social media platforms. The accused convinced him that investing in the share market would yield significant returns, leading the victim to transfer a total of ₹47 lakh over several transactions. After failing to receive the promised profits and suspecting foul play, the victim approached the authorities to lodge a formal complaint.

Following the complaint, the Hyderabad City Police, with coordinated support



from local law enforcement, traced and apprehended the accused identified as MD Firoz, who was allegedly involved in multiple similar fraud cases. The investigation revealed that the suspect had been operating a network of online contacts to lure unsuspecting individuals into investing large sums, using social media as a tool to gain credibility and trust.

City Police Commissioner Sunil Datt confirmed the arrest and stated that Firoz had been produced before the court and sent to police custody for further investigation. He noted that the apprehension was part of a broader crackdown on online financial fraud and emphasized that authorities are actively monitoring similar activities to protect investors and prevent

cybercrime.

Key police officials involved in the investigation were DSP Phaninder, CI Naresh, and Sub-Inspectors Ranjith Kumar and Vijay Kumar, whose efforts were commended by the Police Commissioner for their diligence and coordination. The team conducted detailed inquiries, tracing the financial transactions and online communications

that led to the suspect's identification and arrest.

Authorities have urged the public to exercise caution when dealing with online investment schemes, particularly those promising unusually high returns in a short time. Citizens are advised to verify credentials, consult recognized financial experts, and report any suspicious investment solicitations to local authorities immediately.

This case underscores the growing challenge of cyber-enabled financial fraud in India, where criminals exploit social media and online platforms to target unsuspecting investors. Law enforcement agencies are increasingly using digital forensics, inter-departmental coordination, and public awareness campaigns to curb such activities and ensure that victims receive justice.

The investigation into MD Firoz's activities is ongoing, and police are exploring the possibility of additional victims linked to his alleged fraudulent schemes.

We Are Nation's Best in Crime Control and Technology Use: DGP

WARANGAL, MARCH 1 –

Telangana Police has earned recognition as one of the leading police forces in India, excelling not only in crime control but also in the use of advanced technology, said Director General of Police (DGP) Shivadhar Reddy during a district visit on Sunday.

As part of his tour, DGP Reddy inaugurated the newly constructed Police Sports Complex and residential facilities at the Police Headquarters. The modern sports complex is aimed at promoting physical fitness and well-being among officers, while the new housing units provide improved living standards for personnel and their families.

Speaking at a review meeting following the inauguration, DGP Reddy highlighted Telangana Police's proactive approach to crime prevention and law enforcement. He stated that the department consistently ranks among the top in India for controlling criminal activities and effectively leveraging technology to enhance policing efficiency. "Compared to other states, Telangana has established



a strong reputation in both crime management and technological adoption," he said.

The DGP specifically pointed to cybercrime, road accidents, and drug abuse as major challenges facing Telangana society. He noted that specialized units like the Cyber Security Bureau and organizations such as EGAL are actively working

to mitigate these issues. According to him, the integration of modern surveillance tools, digital investigation techniques, and data-driven policing strategies has significantly strengthened the state's law enforcement capabilities.

DGP Reddy also emphasized the importance of community engagement

and preventive policing, noting that public cooperation is essential in addressing contemporary crime challenges. Officers are being trained to adopt a tech-enabled approach that not only responds to crimes efficiently but also predicts and prevents potential threats.

The event was attended by senior police officials,

including Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chandrashekar Reddy and Police Commissioner Sunil Datt, who reaffirmed the department's commitment to public safety and professional excellence. The dignitaries stressed that infrastructure development, technological modernization, and personnel welfare are integral to maintaining the department's high standards.

Telangana Police's emphasis on cyber security and innovative crime prevention measures reflects the state government's vision of a safe and secure environment for citizens, while fostering professionalism and accountability within the force. The DGP concluded by calling for continued vigilance, adoption of modern policing practices, and community participation to further strengthen law and order across the state.

The inauguration of the sports complex and housing facilities signals a dual focus on officer welfare and operational efficiency, positioning Telangana Police as a model for other states in the country.

Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Brahmotsavam Celebrations Draw Large Devotee Turnout in Dharmapuri

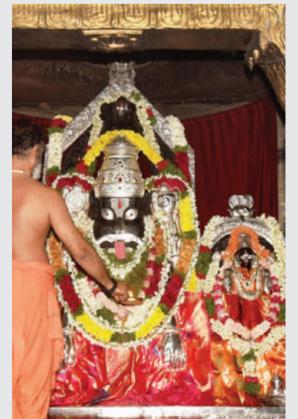
JAGITYAL, MARCH 1 –

The grand Brahmotsavam festivities of Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy at Dharmapuri in Jagityal district continued with vibrant religious fervor on Sunday, attracting devotees from across the region. The celebrations, a key highlight in the local religious calendar, witnessed a significant gathering as devotees participated in sacred rituals and sought blessings from the presiding deity.

Early in the morning, devotees took part in ritualistic holy baths (Punyasanam) in the nearby river, believed to purify the body and soul before offering prayers. Following the bath, devotees queued in large numbers for darshan of Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy, patiently waiting to pay homage and seek divine blessings. The temple premises were abuzz with activity as priests and vedic scholars performed traditional Abhishekams and pujas, chanting Vedic hymns and conducting ceremonies in accordance with age-old customs.

Temple authorities, under the supervision of Devasthanam Chairman Jaku Ravinder Srinivas, ensured that all arrangements for devotees were handled smoothly. Special attention was given to crowd management, sanitation, and seating arrangements, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for worshippers. Volunteers and staff coordinated to facilitate the smooth flow of darshan while maintaining the sanctity of the rituals.

Chairman Ravinder Srinivas expressed satisfaction at the large turnout of devotees and highlighted that the temple administration had made all necessary arrangements, including food distribution, drinking water, and assistance for elderly devotees. He urged visitors to follow guidelines while participating in the celebrations to maintain decorum and safety.



The Brahmotsavam celebrations at Dharmapuri are an annual tradition, known for their ritual grandeur, spiritual significance, and community participation. The festival features a series of ceremonial events including processions, homams, and cultural programs that extend over several days, drawing pilgrims and tourists alike. Devotees believe that participating in the Brahmotsavam and receiving the deity's darshan brings spiritual merit, prosperity, and peace to their families.

As the festival continues, devotees from neighboring villages and towns continue to flock to Dharmapuri, making it a vibrant center of faith and devotion. Temple authorities assured that all events for the remainder of the Brahmotsavam would be conducted with similar meticulous arrangements, allowing devotees to partake in the religious celebrations without inconvenience.

The ongoing Brahmotsavam not only reinforces the religious heritage of Jagityal district but also strengthens community bonds, drawing thousands together in devotion, faith, and celebration of Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy.

Shadow Wars and Silent Signals: The Deeper Questions Behind the US–Israel–Iran Crisis

The escalating tensions between the United States, Israel, and Iran are no longer limited to conventional geopolitical rivalries. They have entered a far more complex phase defined by covert intelligence operations, strategic ambiguity, and unanswered questions that may shape the future of the Middle East. At the center of this evolving crisis lies a critical and unsettling issue: who is providing sensitive intelligence about Ali Khamenei, and for what purpose?

Recent developments suggest that the conflict is moving beyond visible military posturing into the realm of shadow warfare. While airstrikes, sanctions, and diplomatic rhetoric dominate headlines, the real battle may be unfolding behind the scenes through intelligence leaks, cyber operations, and internal destabilization efforts. The possibility that highly classified information about Iran's leadership is being accessed and shared externally raises serious concerns about the country's internal security and the broader implications for regional stability.

The United States and Israel have long maintained a strategic partnership rooted in shared security interests, particularly regarding Iran's nuclear ambitions. Both nations view a nuclear-armed Iran as a major threat, though their approaches differ in tone and execution. Israel has often favored direct and preemptive action, while the United States has alternated between diplomacy and deterrence. However, recent actions indicate a convergence of tactics, especially in the intelligence domain.

At the heart of the current debate is the suggestion that precise intelligence regarding Khamenei's movements or security environment may have been obtained and po-



tentially exploited. Such a scenario would represent a significant escalation, as targeting or even closely tracking a nation's supreme leader crosses a sensitive threshold in international relations. It raises the stakes from strategic containment to potential regime destabilization.

But the more pressing question is not just whether such intelligence exists—it is who is providing it. There are several possibilities, each with profound implications. One theory points to internal dissent within Iran's political or military establishment. Over the years, Iran has faced protests, factional rivalries, and ideological di-

visions. If elements within the system are leaking information, it could indicate deeper fractures within the regime.

Another possibility involves foreign intelligence agencies penetrating Iran's security apparatus. Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad, has a well-documented history of conducting sophisticated operations inside Iran, including cyberattacks and targeted actions against nuclear scientists. If such capabilities have extended to monitoring the top leadership, it would demonstrate an unprecedented level of access and operational reach.

The role of regional actors

cannot be dismissed either. Middle Eastern geopolitics is marked by shifting alliances and covert collaborations. Countries wary of Iran's influence, particularly in the Gulf region, may have incentives to share intelligence with the United States or Israel. Such cooperation, even if indirect, could contribute to a network of information that enables precise targeting and strategic planning.

The implications of this intelligence dimension are far-reaching. First, it increases the risk of miscalculation. When sensitive information is used as a strategic tool, it can provoke retaliatory actions that spiral out of con-

trol. Iran, perceiving a direct threat to its leadership, may respond aggressively, not just through conventional means but also via proxy groups across the region.

Second, it complicates diplomatic efforts. Trust is already fragile between Iran and the West, particularly after setbacks in nuclear negotiations. If Iran believes that negotiations are being undermined by covert operations targeting its leadership, it is unlikely to engage in meaningful dialogue. This could further isolate the country and push it toward more hardline positions.

Third, it underscores the changing nature of modern

conflict. Traditional warfare is increasingly being supplemented, or even replaced, by intelligence-driven strategies. Control over information, rather than territory, is becoming a decisive factor. In this context, the question of "who gave the intelligence" is not just about accountability; it is about understanding the rules of a new kind of warfare.

There is also a moral dimension to consider. Targeting or surveilling a nation's highest authority raises ethical questions about sovereignty and the limits of state behavior. While some argue that such actions are necessary to prevent larger threats,

others warn that they erode international norms and set dangerous precedents.

Furthermore, the domestic impact within Iran could be significant. If the leadership suspects internal betrayal, it may trigger stricter controls, increased surveillance, and internal crackdowns. This could heighten tensions between the government and its citizens, potentially leading to further unrest. In some cases, external pressure can even strengthen a regime's internal grip.

From a broader perspective, the crisis reflects a world in transition. Power dynamics are being tested, and new forms of conflict are emerging. The United States is reassessing its role in the Middle East, Israel is asserting its strategic independence, and Iran is navigating both external pressure and internal challenges. In this environment, intelligence becomes both a tool and a weapon.

Ultimately, the question of who provided intelligence on Khamenei is unlikely to receive a clear public answer. Intelligence operations are, by nature, secretive. However, the very existence of such a question highlights the depth and complexity of the crisis. It suggests that the lines between war and peace are becoming increasingly blurred.

What remains clear is that the stakes are extremely high. A single misstep could trigger a wider conflict involving multiple nations, with consequences extending far beyond the Middle East. As countries engage in this intricate game of strategy and secrecy, the need for caution and clear communication becomes more important than ever.

In the end, this crisis is not just about Iran, Israel, or the United States. It is about the evolving nature of global conflict and the hidden forces that shape it.

Trump's Iran Regime Change Push: Why History Suggests Caution



The growing calls for regime change in Iran, encouraged by former US President Donald Trump, have reignited a long-standing debate in global politics: can external pressure or military action successfully transform a nation's political system? Historical experience suggests that such ambitions are far more complicated—and often counterproductive—than they appear.

Trump's rhetoric and actions toward Iran have steadily evolved from economic pressure to more aggressive posturing. His earlier "maximum pressure" strategy relied heavily on sanctions to weaken Tehran's leadership and force political concessions. Over time, however, this approach has appeared to shift toward the idea that the Iranian regime itself must be replaced. The notion gained visibility when Trump publicly questioned why regime change should not occur if the current leadership failed to deliver prosperity.

This shift comes against the backdrop of deepening tensions between Washington and Tehran. The United States withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018, reimposing sanctions and escalating hostilities.

Since then, economic strain, domestic unrest, and geopolitical rivalries have intensified the crisis. More recently, widespread protests inside Iran—driven by economic hardship and political dissatisfaction—have been met with severe repression, highlighting internal instability but also the regime's resilience.

Despite these vulnerabilities, history offers strong warnings against assuming that external intervention can easily trigger regime change. Military force, in particular, has a mixed and often troubling record. Analysts frequently point to the contrast between the two Gulf Wars: while the first had a limited objective and achieved relative stability, the second—aimed at regime change—led to prolonged chaos and unintended consequences. This comparison underscores a key lesson: when political goals expand beyond clear, achievable limits, the risks multiply significantly.

Iran presents an even more complex challenge. It is not only a large and historically rooted nation but also one with deeply entrenched political institutions and security forces. Any attempt to dismantle its cur-

rent system would likely face strong internal resistance. Moreover, there is no guarantee that a new government would emerge quickly—or that it would be more stable or aligned with international expectations.

Another critical factor is the lack of a unified or organized opposition within Iran capable of taking power. While protests indicate widespread dissatisfaction, they do not automatically translate into a coherent political alternative. Without such an alternative, efforts at regime change risk creating a power vacuum, which could lead to internal conflict or fragmentation.

There are also broader geopolitical consequences to consider. Escalating tensions with Iran could destabilize the Middle East further, disrupt global energy markets, and draw other powers into the conflict. In an interconnected world, the fall-out from such actions rarely remains confined to one region.

Even proponents of regime change acknowledge the moral and strategic dilemmas involved. While many sympathize with the Iranian people and their aspirations for greater freedom, the path to achieving those goals is uncertain. External intervention may weaken a regime temporarily, but it does not necessarily build the institutions required for long-term stability.

Ultimately, the debate over Iran reflects a larger truth about international politics: transforming another country's political system is extraordinarily difficult. History shows that regime change efforts often produce unintended consequences, from prolonged instability to regional conflict.

As tensions continue to rise, policymakers face a crucial choice. They can pursue strategies centered on pressure and confrontation, or they can explore diplomatic approaches that aim for gradual change. The lesson from history is clear—ambitions of regime change must be approached with caution, realism, and a deep understanding of the complexities involved.

EPS Repositions AIADMK as Tamil Nadu Gears Up for Political Shift



As Tamil Nadu moves closer to its next electoral cycle, the political landscape is witnessing renewed activity, particularly within the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). Under the leadership of Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS), the party appears to be entering a decisive phase, attempting to reassert its relevance and rebuild its strength after recent electoral setbacks.

EPS has increasingly taken center stage within the AIADMK, consolidating his authority and projecting himself as the party's primary face. His recent political moves and public messaging suggest a calculated effort to position the party as a strong alternative to the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). This transition is significant because the AIADMK has been navigating internal challenges and leadership questions following its loss of power in 2021 and subsequent struggles in national elections.

A key aspect of EPS's strategy is his attempt to redefine the party's political narrative. He has been actively engaging with the public through statewide campaigns, emphasizing governance issues, development promises, and criticism of the ruling administration. His

outreach reflects a broader effort to reconnect with grassroots voters and rebuild the party's base across Tamil Nadu.

At the same time, the AIADMK is also undergoing a structural and ideological reset. EPS is working to streamline leadership within the party and present a unified front, which is crucial given the factional divisions that have previously affected its performance. His leadership style appears focused on discipline, centralization, and clarity in decision-making, aiming to restore confidence among party workers and supporters.

The political environment in Tamil Nadu is becoming increasingly competitive, with new and emerging forces also trying to gain ground. This has added urgency to AIADMK's efforts to reinvent itself. EPS's campaign messaging often highlights governance concerns and seeks to contrast the party's past record with the current administration's performance. By doing so, he hopes to tap into public sentiment and create a narrative that resonates with voters looking for change.

Another important dimension of EPS's strategy is alliance-building. The AIADMK has historically relied on alliances to

strengthen its electoral prospects, and discussions around potential partnerships are expected to play a crucial role in the upcoming elections. Alignments with national and regional parties could influence the overall balance of power and shape the electoral outcome.

Meanwhile, the broader political climate is evolving with increased voter awareness and shifting priorities. Issues such as economic development, employment, infrastructure, and social welfare are likely to dominate the electoral discourse. Political parties, including the AIADMK, are adapting their strategies to address these concerns and appeal to diverse voter segments.

EPS's leadership is being closely watched as he attempts to steer the AIADMK through this critical phase. His ability to unify the party, craft a compelling narrative, and build effective alliances will determine whether the AIADMK can stage a strong comeback in Tamil Nadu politics.

In essence, the coming months are expected to be pivotal for both EPS and the AIADMK. With intensified political activity, evolving alliances, and a dynamic electoral environment, Tamil Nadu is set for an engaging and potentially transformative political contest.

Deadly Explosion at SBL Energy Limited Factory Near Nagpur: 17 Killed, 18 Injured

A powerful explosion at an explosives manufacturing plant in Maharashtra's Nagpur district has left at least 17 people dead and 18 others injured, triggering a major rescue and investigation operation on Sunday morning.

The incident occurred between 6 am and 7 am at the SBL Energy Limited facility, a mining and industrial explosives manufacturer located in Raulgaon, Katol tehsil, around Nagpur. The blast, reportedly in the detonator manufacturing or packing section, struck just as workers had begun their shift, sending shockwaves through the unit and surrounding area.

According to police officials, around 25 to 30 workers were present in the affected part of the factory when the explosion happened. The blast was so powerful that part of the unit collapsed, and thick smoke plumes were visible rising into the sky, causing panic among villagers and workers alike.

Rescue teams, including lo-



cal police, fire brigade personnel, and disaster response units such as the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), rushed to the scene to control the fire and search for survivors amid the wreckage. Some workers are still believed to be trapped under debris, and emergency responders are working on extrication efforts.

The injured have been shifted to hospitals in Nagpur, including Orange City Hospital, where they are receiving medical care. Authorities have not yet confirmed the exact cause of the blast, and an investigation has been launched to determine what led to the explosion at the explosives unit.

In response to the tragedy, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis described

the blast as "extremely unfortunate and tragic" and said he was in constant touch with local officials. He announced that the state government will provide financial assistance of ₹5 lakh to the families of the deceased and directed a thorough inquiry into the incident.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) also expressed grief over the loss of lives and extended condolences to the victims' families. An ex gratia compensation of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) will be given to the next of kin of each person who died, and ₹50,000 will be provided to those injured.

This tragic industrial accident has once again highlighted concerns about safety protocols in explosives and hazardous manufacturing units. Authorities are expected to review operational standards and enforce stricter safety measures to prevent similar disasters in the future.

Indian Airlines Cancel Hundreds of International Flights Amid Middle East Airspace Closures

Indian civil aviation authorities have announced large scale cancellations of international flights on Sunday, March 1, 2026, in response to escalating tensions in the Middle East following the war between Iran and Israel. These disruptions are linked to widespread airspace restrictions over Iran and other parts of the region, as several countries temporarily shut or limit their skies for civilian aircraft due to safety concerns.

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Indian carriers are expected to cancel up to 444 international flights on March 1 as a precautionary measure to safeguard passengers and crew. This follows the cancellation of more than 410 flights on February 28, showing the broad impact of the conflict on flight operations.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is closely coordinating with airlines to manage the evolving situation



and ensure compliance with safety regulations. Authorities have advised travellers to check flight status directly with airlines before heading to airports, as schedules are subject to rapid change.

Several major Indian carriers — Air India, IndiGo, Air India Express, SpiceJet, and Akasa Air — have announced cancellations or suspensions

of services on routes that would normally traverse the affected Middle East airspace. Airlines have emphasised that decisions on cancellations or suspensions are being made based on ongoing risk assessments and directives from aviation authorities.

Beyond flight cancellations, passengers have faced stranded situations at airports, par-

ticularly for those booked on routes to the Middle East, Europe, North America, and other destinations that typically involve restricted airspace.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has also activated airport operational alerts to manage diversions, potential unscheduled landings, and passenger facilitation. Senior officials are reportedly overseeing airline coordination, terminal crowd control, and grievance redressal through dedicated passenger assistance services.

Global aviation networks are experiencing a ripple effect as other international carriers and airports adjust schedules or reroute flights to avoid the affected regions, amplifying travel disruption worldwide.

In the coming days, airlines are expected to continue monitoring developments and revise flight plans accordingly, with passengers urged to stay updated on their travel itineraries.

CBSE Postpones Class 10 & 12 Board Exams in Middle East Amid Regional Tensions

केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड
(Central Board of Secondary Education)

CBSE NOTICE ON BOARD EXAMS 2026

To
The Principal
Schools affiliated to CBSE
In Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE

Subject: Board Examinations Class X and Class XII in the Middle East Regions-

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has postponed the Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations scheduled for March 2, 2026, at centres across several Middle Eastern countries in light of escalating regional tensions linked to the Iran-Israel conflict and related security concerns.

In an official notice to schools, the board said that the decision to defer the exams was taken to prioritise the safety and well being of students and examination staff given the volatile situation in parts of the Middle East. The postponement affects CBSE affiliated schools in Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where significant numbers of Indian expatriate students are enrolled.

CBSE has said that new dates will be announced later, after reviewing the situation. A formal review meeting has been scheduled for March 3, 2026, to assess whether further changes are needed for exams slated to begin from March 5 onwards.

The board's communication emphasised that this postponement applies only to exam centres located in the affected Middle Eastern countries, and that board ex-

aminations in India and at other overseas centres will continue as per the usual schedule unless further changes are advised.

The move to postpone exams follows a period of heightened military tensions in the region involving multiple countries, which has led to airspace closures, and general uncertainties affecting normal life and logistical arrangements across affected areas.

Earlier on social media, a fake circular had circulated claiming that the CBSE had cancelled all Class 10 and Class 12 board exams in the Middle East permanently due to "war conditions." The board has clarified that this notice was fabricated and reiterated that the official postponement concerns only exams scheduled for March 2, with fresh dates to be announced after review.

Students and parents in the affected regions have been advised to stay in close contact with their schools and rely only on official CBSE updates for accurate information on revised exam timetables.

The decision reflects the board's effort to balance exam integrity with student safety amid unpredictable conditions in parts of the Middle East.

Protests Erupt in Kashmir After Reported Killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei



Widespread demonstrations have broken out in Kashmir following reports that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, was killed in airstrikes by the United States and Israel, sparking outrage among sections of the population in the region. The news has triggered large scale protests, heightened tensions, and appeals for calm from political leaders.

According to multiple reports, thousands of people took to the streets in Srinagar and other parts of Indian administered Kashmir, particularly in areas with significant Shia Muslim populations, after Iranian state media confirmed Khamenei's death. Demonstrators marched through city centres, carrying portraits and flags, while chanting slogans condemning the United States, Israel, and their allies.

In Srinagar's Lal Chowk and surrounding localities, large crowds gathered to mourn and protest, with many participants expressing deep grief and anger over the reported killing. Many protesters raised anti-US and anti-Israel slogans, suggesting that the airstrikes represented an act of aggression against a religious and

political figurehead.

Authorities in the region responded to the unrest by curtailing mobile internet services in Srinagar to prevent the spread of misinformation and manage crowds. Schools and colleges were ordered to remain closed for two days amid the heightened tensions.

Political leadership in Jammu and Kashmir also reacted to the protests. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah appealed for calm and peace, urging communities to refrain from actions that could escalate unrest. He stated that his government was coordinating with the Union Ministry of External Affairs to look after the safety and well being of residents of Jammu and Kashmir, including those who may be abroad, particularly in Iran.

The protests reflect the emotional resonance of events in West Asia among some communities in Kashmir, where religious and cultural ties to the broader Muslim world run deep. While the demonstrations have been broadly peaceful, the situation remains sensitive due to the charged political and religious context surrounding Khamenei's death and rapidly unfolding developments in the region.

Priyanka Gandhi Condemns Khamenei's Killing, Calls for Safety and Evacuation of Indians Amid Middle East Crisis



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi has strongly criticised the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, calling the targeted killing of a sovereign nation's head "despicable" and urging global leaders to pursue peace over conflict. She expressed concern that recent joint strikes by the United States and Israel — which reportedly led to his death — have dragged multiple nations into a dangerous and expanding crisis.

In her remarks, Priyanka Gandhi emphasised that the world needs peace, not more wars, and quoted Mahatma Gandhi's famous words: "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." She condemned the assault on Iranian leadership and the resulting loss of innocent lives, urging a diplomatic resolution rather than escalating hostilities.

Addressing the current situation from an Indian perspective, she also called on the Government of India

and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prioritise the safety of Indian citizens residing in the conflict affected parts of the Middle East. With flight cancellations and heightened risk across the region, she stressed that the return and protection of Indians abroad should be a central focus of government efforts.

Priyanka Gandhi's appeal highlighted her hope that India will take swift action to help bring home Indians who may be stranded due to war related disruptions or are facing danger because of escalating tensions. Her comments reflect growing concern among political leaders about the safety of hundreds of thousands of Indian nationals living and working in West Asian countries where conflict dynamics have intensified.

Her statements come as parts of the Middle East see travel advisories, evacuation planning, and diplomatic pressure on regional governments to safeguard civilian populations — par-

ticularly foreign workers — amid rising uncertainty. The heightened tension has already led to international flight cancellations and advisories from Indian missions urging citizens to remain cautious and seek safe routes if they intend to return home.

By linking the violence in the Middle East to its impact on Indians abroad, Priyanka Gandhi has underscored a call for stronger government intervention to both protect and evacuate Indian nationals affected by the conflict. Her remarks add to a broader discourse on the need for peace, humanitarian focus, and careful foreign policy in a time of increasing global instability.

Overall, her message combines moral condemnation of the violence with a practical plea for the Indian government to act swiftly to ensure that Indians in the Middle East are brought back safely and that policies reflect humanitarian priorities amid geopolitical turmoil.

India Issues Visa Advisory for Foreign Nationals Stranded Amid West Asia Crisis



Amid ongoing tensions and conflict in the Middle East involving Iran, the Government of India has issued a fresh advisory for foreign nationals currently in the country who have had to change their travel plans due to the evolving situation. With flight operations disrupted across the region and several airlines cancelling routes that typically involve Iranian or neighbouring airspace, many visitors are facing uncertainty about their departure timelines and visa status.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has urged all foreign nationals in India to contact the nearest Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) if they require assistance with visa extensions or need to regularise their stay in the country. The advisory states that those affected by the disruption to international travel — including cancelled flights and reduced airspace access — can approach FRRO offices for support with the neces-

sary formalities to extend their visas. The concerned FRROs are expected to provide guidance and help complete the relevant paperwork.

FRROs are part of the government's immigration framework, with offices across multiple Indian cities dedicated to helping foreign visitors manage their registration and visa requirements. Under the advisory, those unable to leave India as originally planned due to airspace closures or flight cancellations are eligible to seek assistance without facing legal issues related to overstaying.

The advisory comes against the backdrop of widespread disruptions in international flight schedules caused by broader geopolitical developments in West Asia, which have forced airlines to reroute or cancel services and prompted several governments to issue travel alerts. Hundreds of flights were affected across the region as safety concerns prompted

authorities to tighten airspace access, leaving many passengers, including foreign tourists and business travellers in India, with delayed or uncertain travel plans.

While the Indian government has not specified how many foreign nationals are currently impacted by these changes, officials emphasised that assistance is available and travellers should initiate contact with their nearest FRRO office promptly if their visas are expiring or if they need to extend their stay. This step ensures that affected visitors remain compliant with Indian immigration rules during a period of heightened uncertainty.

The MEA's advisory reflects India's efforts to provide administrative support and relief to foreign travellers navigating unexpected disruptions due to the regional conflict, prioritising both legal regularisation and traveller welfare until normal flight operations resume.

Key Iranian Officials Killed in US-Israel Strikes Alongside Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei

A dramatic escalation in the Iran-United States conflict unfolded at the end of February 2026, when coordinated airstrikes by the US and Israel targeted the highest levels of Iran's leadership. These strikes resulted in the confirmed death of Ali Khamenei, the country's Supreme Leader since 1989, along with several other top military and security officials, marking an unprecedented blow to Tehran's political and defense structure.

Iranian state media acknowledged Khamenei's death in the aftermath of the strikes, describing it as a profound loss and declaring a period of mourning. The joint attack was part of a broad military campaign aimed at weakening Iran's strategic capabilities and leadership command. Reports indicate that Khamenei's family members—including his daughter, son-in-law, and grandchild—also died during the strikes, illustrating the extensive impact of the operation.

Top Figures Killed in the Strikes

Alongside Khamenei, the following senior officials were reported killed during the operation, most of whom were central to Iran's defense and military leadership:

- Aziz Nasirzadeh – Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics
- Nasirzadeh oversaw coordination between military branches and strategic planning, playing a critical role in Iran's defense infrastructure.
- Mohammad Shirazi –



Head of the Military Bureau of the Supreme Leader

Shirazi managed liaison and communication between Iran's senior armed forces commanders and Khamenei.

• Ali Shamkhani – Senior Adviser and Defence Council Secretary

Shamkhani was a long-time adviser to Khamenei, central to Iran's military strategy and leadership planning.

• Hossein Jabal Amelian – Chairman of the SPND

Amelian headed the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND), responsible for advanced weapons development and strategic programs.

• Reza Mozaffari Nia – Former SPND Chairman

Mozaffari Nia contributed to Iran's research and development efforts related to defense technology.

• Mohammad Pakpour – Commander of the IRGC Ground

Forces

Pakpour directed the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Ground Forces, overseeing both defensive and offensive operations.

• Saleh Asadi – Head of Intelligence Directorate, Khatam al Anbiya Emergency Command

Asadi led the intelligence operations within Iran's senior military structure, a key figure in strategic planning.

Together, these individuals represented the core of Iran's military decision-making and strategic defense apparatus. The joint strikes that killed them were highly targeted, aiming to disrupt Tehran's leadership and command structures.

Level of Impact and Broader Casualties

Beyond the confirmed leadership deaths, some reports suggest that the overall toll among

Iranian officials may be even higher, with dozens of senior regime figures potentially killed in the broader campaign. The strikes also impacted strategic defense locations across Tehran and other key areas, further weakening Iran's military infrastructure. Following the attacks, Iran launched missile and drone strikes in retaliation against US and Israeli interests, escalating tensions in the region.

Aftermath and Regional Consequences

The deaths of Khamenei and multiple top officials represent a critical turning point in the conflict. Iran's succession mechanisms are now in motion, with internal political bodies expected to select a new Supreme Leader. However, the sudden loss of so many senior figures raises concerns about potential instability within Iran's power structures and shifts in its foreign and domestic policies.

International reactions have been mixed, with global leaders urging restraint while expressing alarm over the escalation. The strikes have highlighted the fragility of regional stability and the risks of broader confrontation involving other Middle Eastern states and global powers.

In all, the elimination of Iran's supreme leader and several top defense chiefs marks one of the most consequential developments in the ongoing US-Israel-Iran conflict, with lasting implications for geopolitical alignments and security dynamics across the Middle East.

UN Calls for Restraint and Diplomacy as Middle East Tensions Rise



Amid one of the most serious escalations in recent years between the United States, Israel, and Iran, the United Nations has reacted with urgent calls to prevent the conflict from spiralling further out of control. The UN's response reflects growing global concern over the risk of a wider war and the humanitarian consequences for civilians across the region.

At an emergency session of the UN Security Council, Secretary General António Guterres condemned the recent airstrikes carried out by the US and Israel on Iranian territory. He warned that military action in such a volatile region risks triggering a chain of events that "no one can control," urging all sides to embrace diplomatic channels instead of force. He emphasised that continued hostilities could lead to a broader conflict with "grave consequences" for ordinary people and regional stability.

Guterres urged member states to uphold international law — including the UN Charter — and to protect civilians and nuclear safety. He stressed that peace can only be achieved through dialogue and negotiation, urging the world community to work together to "pull the entire region back from the brink."

Guterres also criticised both the initial airstrikes and Iran's retaliatory actions for violating international norms, saying all parties should respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of nations affected by the conflict.

The UN session highlighted deep divisions among member states. The US ambassador to the UN defended the American and Israeli military actions as lawful and necessary to counter perceived threats posed by Iran's nuclear ambitions. Meanwhile, Iran's envoy accused the US and its ally of aggression and urged the council to hold the attackers accountable.

Responses from other countries represented at the UN echoed the call for restraint and diplomacy. Many nations urged an immediate de-escalation and stressed the importance of returning to negotiations to prevent further violence. Some nations also highlighted the need to protect civilians and respect international humanitarian law.

The reaction at the UN comes amid growing global concern about the broader impacts of the conflict. Regional powers and global leaders have warned that escalation could destabilise the already fragile Middle East, affect global energy markets, and draw in other countries beyond those directly involved. Many governments outside the UN forum have joined calls for restraint, emphasising that military confrontation between major powers in the region would have far-reaching humanitarian and economic consequences.

Beyond the Security Council, some national leaders have urged a return to diplomatic engagement and peace efforts, stressing that sustainable solutions must be found through negotiation rather than force. Others called for respect for international law and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity for all nations involved.

As tensions continue, the UN's statements underscore the urgent need to reduce hostilities, protect civilian lives, and revive diplomatic efforts. With global attention focused on the conflict, the role of international institutions like the United Nations in mediating and promoting peace becomes even more crucial.

The coming days are likely to test the effectiveness of diplomatic channels as world powers, regional states, and international organisations push for a de-escalation of violence and a path toward lasting stability in the Middle East.

Iranians Take to the Streets Following Reports of Ayatollah Khamenei's Death

Following reports that Ali Khamenei, Iran's long time Supreme Leader, was killed in US-Israel airstrikes, a wave of reactions has swept across Iran and beyond, including scenes of celebration in several cities. Videos circulated showing people in some parts of the country cheering, dancing, and expressing joy, while others reacted with disbelief, shock, or sadness.

Word quickly spread, including statements by former US President Donald Trump, who publicly confirmed Khamenei's death. These developments triggered spontaneous responses from ordinary citizens across the nation.

Celebrations and Joy in the Streets

In several cities, including Tehran, Karaj, Isfahan, and Shiraz, crowds were seen celebrating on streets after hearing the news. People reportedly played loud music, honked car horns, danced, lit fireworks, and cheered together from balconies and windows. Multiple eyewitnesses described whistles, applause, and festive chants echoing through neighborhoods as people reacted to the reports.

Some demonstrators also held up pictures of protesters who had died in recent crackdowns on anti-government demonstrations earlier in the year. For many participants, the moment surfaced deep emotions tied both to joy and relief at the prospect of political change.



Many residents were hesitant to come out in large crowds due to concerns about security forces and unrest. Even amid the celebrations, not everyone was immediately ready to express public jubilation due to memories of recent violence and repression.

Mixed Emotions and Continued Fear

Despite these scenes, the celebrations were not uniformly massive, and many Iranians remained cautious or subdued. Hundreds of people gathered spontaneously but often fell short of widespread street gatherings. A significant reason for restraint appears to be the country's tense climate after months of nationwide protests and government crackdowns, which re-

sulted in thousands of deaths and widespread fear among the population.

While many Iranians in urban centers celebrated, others mourned Khamenei's death, marking the moment with grief or solemn gatherings. State-aligned supporters and religious groups observed traditional mourning, reflecting the stark divisions within Iranian society.

Broader Reactions Across Iran and Globally

Although the long-term impact of the leadership vacuum remains uncertain, the mixed reactions on the ground—ranging from joyful street gatherings to continued fear—highlight the fragile state of Iranian society in the wake of this historic development.

Trump Warns Iran of Unprecedented Force if It Retaliates After Khamenei's Death

In the aftermath of major military strikes by the United States and Israel against Iran, US President Donald Trump issued a stern warning to Tehran, declaring that any attempt by Iran to attack the United States or its allies would be met with "force that has never been seen before." The warning came as tensions in the Middle East reached a dramatic high, with Iran signaling possible retaliation following the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during the initial wave of attacks.

Trump's message was aimed directly at Iranian military leaders and political authorities, particularly after reports circulated that the Islamic Republic was preparing plans for a retaliatory strike. In a blunt statement shared on social media, Trump said that if Iran chose to "go ahead with their plan of attack," the United States would respond with overwhelming military force. His words underscored the seriousness with which Washington views any escalation following the joint US-Israeli operation.

warning was a large scale offensive launched by the US and Israel in late February in a coordinated campaign, airstrikes targeted key military sites, nuclear infrastructure, and leadership facilities across Iran. The offensive—described by Western officials as an effort to neutralize perceived threats from Tehran's nuclear ambitions and ballistic missile programs—led to significant casualties among Iran's political and military leadership. Reports suggested the strikes resulted in the death of Supreme Leader Khamenei, a development that has reverberated across the region and sparked immediate concerns about retaliation and broader conflict.

Following the strikes, Iran's leadership issued strong rhetoric indicating that the country would respond forcefully. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian vowed that the attacks would not go unanswered and emphasized that Tehran would take action with full support of the nation. Such rhetoric heightened global fears of a wider regional confrontation.

referenced these threats, signaling that the United States is prepared to counter any Iranian aggression with unprecedented military strength. The president's comments appeared aimed at deterring any immediate retaliation while reinforcing the US commitment to defending its forces and allies. He stressed that while diplomatic efforts had previously been made, Tehran had consistently pursued programs that Washington viewed as destabilizing.

Analysts say Trump's approach reflects a strategy of maximum deterrence—using clear, forceful language to signal resolve while hoping to avoid further escalation. By publicly warning of overwhelming retaliation, the president sought to dissuade Iranian leaders from responding militarily, even as Tehran vowed to "turn the perpetrators into regret."

International reactions to the US-Israel strikes and Trump's warnings have been mixed. Some nations urged restraint and called for renewed diplomacy, while others criticized the offensive and expressed concern



about regional stability. The United Nations Security Council held emergency meetings to discuss the crisis, with world leaders emphasizing the risk of a wider conflict that could draw in neighboring countries and disrupt global energy supplies.

Despite these concerns, Trump reiterated his administration's position that preventing Iran from achieving nuclear capabilities and limiting its military reach is a priority. His warning to Tehran—framed as both a deterrent and a declaration of strength—highlights the delicate and volatile nature of the current standoff. As each side assesses its next steps, the risk of further escalation remains a significant concern for global leaders and regional security analysts alike.

Pakistani Aircraft Shot Down Near Kabul, Taliban Claims Responsibility

A major escalation occurred on the evening of February 28, 2026, when armed forces in Afghanistan shot down a pair of military aircraft belonging to Pakistan, according to a statement from the Taliban. The incident took place near Kabul, heightening tensions along the volatile Afghanistan-Pakistan border and raising concerns about regional stability in South Asia.

The Taliban's official spokesperson, Muhammad Suhail Shaheen, said that the aircraft were targeted after they allegedly violated Afghan airspace over areas controlled by the Taliban. In a brief statement, the group said it engaged the aircraft after failed attempts to warn them off, claiming its fighters used ground-based weapons to bring the planes down. The Taliban did not immediately specify the model of the aircraft or whether they were fighter jets, transport planes, or drones.

The incident reportedly triggered loud explosions and flashes near Kabul's outskirts, prompting fear and confusion among residents. Multiple eyewitnesses described seeing one aircraft fall in a plume of smoke while the second burst into flames mid-air before crashing. Footage circulating online showed debris and fires in open fields outside the city, though independent verification of the videos is pending.

that both aircraft had departed from a military base in Pakistan earlier in the day as part of a routine training mission. However, the Taliban's statement framed the flight as a violation of Afghan sovereignty. The group asserted it acted in "self defense under international law," and warned Pakistan against further incursions into Afghan airspace.

Pakistan's military has not yet released an official public statement confirming the loss of aircraft or providing details about the mission. Defence officials in Islamabad are reportedly convening emergency meetings to assess the situation and determine the identity of the downed aircraft and the fate of the crews. Sources within Pakistan's armed forces say that if the Taliban's claims are confirmed, the incident would mark one of the most serious direct confrontations between the two neighbours in decades.

Relations between Pakistan and the Taliban led government in Afghanistan have been complex and often tense since the group took control of Kabul in 2021. While Islamabad has engaged with the Taliban diplomatically and has long been seen as influential in Afghan affairs, disputes over border control, security cooperation, and militant groups have periodically strained ties.



has been swift. Global powers called for restraint and urged both sides to avoid further escalation. Regional security analysts warned that any miscalculation could prompt a broader confrontation with unpredictable consequences. Neighbouring countries, including Iran, India, and China, have expressed concern over the potential for instability along the already fragile frontier.

Meanwhile, humanitarian groups in Kabul reported heightened anxiety among civilians, many of whom feared renewed conflict after years of relative calm since the Taliban's takeover. Hospitals in the Afghan capital were placed on alert, though there were no immediate reports of civilian casualties from the incident.

The downing of Pakistani aircraft near Kabul marks a significant and potentially dangerous development in South Asia's security landscape. With few details confirmed and tensions simmering, the coming hours and days are expected to be critical in determining whether this event leads to de-escalation or further confrontation between the two neighbours.

International reaction

Bitcoin Surges Back Above \$68,000 After Reports of Iranian Leader's Death



Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, experienced a notable rebound this weekend as reports confirmed the death of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, following coordinated airstrikes by the United States and Israel. After a period of heightened volatility in global markets, the leading digital asset surged back above the \$68,000 level early Sunday, recouping losses from the prior session and signaling renewed confidence among traders.

The rally marked a sharp turnaround from the previous day's sell off, when Bitcoin had briefly dipped to around \$63,000 amid panic-driven liquidation of leveraged positions across crypto markets. Overwhelmingly risk-off sentiment initially swept the space as geopolitical uncertainty spiked, prompting traders to flush more than \$128 billion from the broader cryptocurrency market in a short span.

However, sentiment shifted dramatically once Iran's state authorities confirmed the death of Khamenei, one of the Middle East's most powerful and long-standing political figures. With confirmation of his death, market participants interpreted the news as potentially reducing the scope of prolonged conflict, leading to aggressive buying in cryptocurrencies. Bit-

coin climbed as much as 2.21% to trade near \$68,196 before settling back around the mid-\$67,000s, while other major tokens like Ethereum also rebounded, with Ether rising back above \$2,000.

Analysts noted that one reason for Bitcoin's swift rebound is its role as a 24/7 traded asset. Unlike equities, bonds, and commodities — which remain closed over weekends — Bitcoin remains continuously tradable, acting as a "pressure valve" during geopolitical shocks. As such, much of the initial panic sell-off absorbed pressure that would otherwise have spilled over into traditional financial markets when they reopened.

Still, while Bitcoin's price improvement has eased some immediate concerns, the market remains cautious. The geopolitical landscape is far from settled. Iran has launched counter-strikes across the Gulf region and threatened further attacks on U.S.-linked bases in Iraq, heightening risks that a broader confrontation could ensue. True price discovery for Bitcoin may not fully materialize until traditional markets, including U.S. equity and Bitcoin ETF trading, resume.

The crypto recovery also reflects broader dynamics in trader positioning and risk appetite. With many

leveraged positions already extinguished in recent months and sellers largely exhausted, some observers believe Bitcoin's price reaction is less about fresh bullish conviction and more about technical dynamics and short-term flows. Derivatives markets saw significant selling pressure, with over \$1.8 billion in Bitcoin sell volume over a brief period, underscoring the heightened short-term risk aversion among certain market participants.

Despite the rebound, Bitcoin's price performance over the past weeks reflects lingering structural weakness. It has endured one of its poorer monthly performances historically, with losses mounting over recent weeks. Some analysts caution that unless macro and geopolitical clarity improves, Bitcoin's price could remain range-bound or face renewed downside pressure if risk-off sentiment re-emerges.

In summary, Bitcoin's rebound above \$68,000 after the reports of Khamenei's death highlights how large-scale geopolitical events can provoke dramatic swings in risk assets. While the rebound offers short-term relief, sustained stability will depend on how geopolitical tensions evolve and whether broader markets support crypto sentiment in the trading sessions ahead.

Why Global Markets Are Zeroing In on the Strait of Hormuz — The Thin Line Between Oil Volatility and a Full Blown Energy Crisis



Financial markets around the world are intensely focused on the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow maritime chokepoint that has become the key indicator of whether recent geopolitical tensions will simply cause short term oil price volatility or spiral into a broader global energy crisis.

The Strait of Hormuz, situated between Iran and Oman, is one of the most strategically critical sea routes on the planet. Around 20% of the world's crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) flows through this narrow waterway every day, with no easy alternatives if shipping were seriously disrupted.

From Volatility to Crisis

In recent days, escalating hostilities in West Asia — triggered by U.S. and Israeli air strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory actions — have thrust the strait into the spot-

light for energy markets and investors. While the waterway has not been formally closed, the threat of disruption is enough to fundamentally change how traders and risk managers price oil.

Under normal circumstances, markets factor in routine supply and demand dynamics. But when a critical artery like Hormuz is threatened, the risk profile changes dramatically. If the strait remains open but tense, markets face heightened price volatility — driven by risk premiums as traders hedge against possible supply shocks. If it were to be physically closed or significantly hampered, the issue would shift from price swings to actual availability of crude, potentially sparking a full blown energy crisis.

Shipping Disruptions and Market Responses

Reports show that several major shipping lines and oil traders have begun

to recalibrate operations due to rising insurance costs and safety concerns. Some vessels have paused transits through the region, while naval warnings from the U.S. and allied forces indicate increased hazards for commercial traffic.

In addition, maritime insurers are already revising war risk coverage, with premiums rising sharply — indicating how the market is internalizing geopolitical risk.

Impacts on Oil Prices and Inflation

Even without a closure, the perception of risk can drive oil prices higher. Brent crude and other benchmarks have already climbed as investors price in the potential for supply disruption. If the situation worsens, prices could jump further, undermining global economic stability and feeding inflationary pressures in energy importing

Why India and Asia Are Especially Vulnerable

For economies like India's, which rely heavily on imported energy, the stakes are particularly high. Nearly half of India's crude oil imports transit through the Strait of Hormuz. A prolonged standoff or partial disruption could raise India's import bill, exert pressure on the rupee, and strain trade balances.

Moreover, broader trade beyond energy could be affected: India's non oil exports to Gulf markets — spanning engineering goods, gems, food products and more — also depend on shipping routes connected to Hormuz.

Geopolitical Domino Effects

The strait's vulnerability reflects broader geopolitical tensions. Iran has historically leveraged its geographical position to

influence global energy markets, and any action by Tehran to impede oil flows would reverberate through international markets and geopolitical relations.

Market watchers stress that the situation remains fluid. If tensions ease, the impact may be limited to short term price swings. But sustained conflict or direct disruption of shipping through Hormuz could trigger a cascade of economic and financial market effects — from elevated inflation to slower growth and heightened risk aversion among investors.

In summary: How markets interpret developments around the Strait of Hormuz — as a risk premium exercise or a precursor to real supply shortages — will be pivotal in determining whether the global economy faces mere volatility or something far more consequential.

Commodities Outlook Next Week: Geopolitical Risks, China Policy and US Jobs Data in Focus



Global commodity markets are poised for an eventful week ahead as a mix of geopolitical developments, China's policy direction and crucial U.S. economic data come into sharp focus. Traders and investors are preparing for potential volatility as several key factors are expected to shape price movements across energy, metals and agricultural markets.

One of the primary influences on commodity prices next week will be lingering geopolitical risks. Heightened tensions involving major energy producing regions have already lifted risk premiums in crude oil and safe haven assets. Oil markets, in particular, remain sensitive to political developments that could threaten supply flows or disrupt

maritime transit routes. Although there has been no outright physical disruption of supplies, increased uncertainty has traders on alert for sharper price swings. This backdrop of geopolitics continues to keep markets cautious and attentive to news flows that might intensify or ease tensions.

China's policy decisions will also play a significant role in commodity pricing dynamics. Markets are closely watching the outcomes of Beijing's key political meetings — often referred to as the annual "Two Sessions" — where policymakers outline economic targets and fiscal strategies for the year ahead. Analysts expect guidance on growth targets, potential stimulus measures and policy priorities that could in-

fluence demand for industrial metals, energy and agricultural commodities.

Industrial commodities such as copper and aluminum could react sharply to any hints of fiscal or monetary easing that might boost infrastructure spending. China is one of the largest consumers of base metals globally, and a shift toward growth oriented policy support can lift prices by bolstering demand expectations. Conversely, cautious policy signals or weaker growth projections could dampen sentiment and exert downward pressure on the broader commodity complex.

At the same time, attention will be squarely on the U.S. jobs report and other economic indicators released next week. Labor market data — especially non farm payrolls — often serve as a bellwether for economic health and influence expectations around interest rate policy. A robust jobs report could reduce expectations for interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, strengthening the U.S. dollar and potentially pressuring commodity prices. A stronger dollar typically makes dollar priced commodities more expensive for holders of other currencies, which can weigh on demand.

Conversely, softer employment figures could

bolster hopes of monetary easing and lead to increased risk appetite, supporting commodities like gold and industrial metals. Other U.S. data releases, including weekly jobless claims, retail sales and manufacturing indicators, will also provide fresh clues on the pace of economic growth and inflation trends — both of which are closely watched by commodity traders.

Precious metals, including gold and silver, may see notable movements depending on developments in the geopolitical landscape and interest rate expectations. Safe haven demand — already elevated due to ongoing uncertainty — could strengthen if tensions escalate or if data suggest an economic slowdown. Meanwhile, energy markets are balancing supply side risks with demand considerations, as inventories and production forecasts influence near term pricing.

In summary, the coming week promises to be pivotal for commodity markets. A complex interplay of geopolitical tensions, Chinese policy announcements and key U.S. jobs data is likely to drive market sentiment. Investors will be closely monitoring these developments, as shifts in any of these factors could spark significant price moves across oil, metals and other key commodity sectors.

Nifty's 25,000 Test: Dalal Street on Edge as Oil Spike Fears Rise

The Indian stock market entered the new week on a fragile footing, with the benchmark Nifty 50 index facing intensified selling pressure as renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East rattled investor sentiment. A combination of US Israel military strikes on Iran, sharp crude oil price movements, and technical weaknesses in the equity markets have placed the 25,000 support zone on Dalal Street squarely in focus — one that could determine the next directional move for Indian equities.

On February 27, the Nifty closed sharply lower, extending a pattern of lower highs and lower lows that has been visible since mid-February. As a result, the index sank to the 25,178 levels, reinforcing bearish technical signals and heightening concerns among traders about a possible slide toward the 25,000 psychological support mark. A decisive break below that level could open the door to further declines toward the 24,800–24,600 zone, according to technical analysts.

One of the key drivers of recent market weakness has been the risk of an oil price shock triggered by escalating Middle East tensions. The latest US Israel strikes on Iranian targets, which claimed some of the country's top leadership, were



followed by Iran's retaliatory missile attacks. These developments have dramatically raised fears of a broader regional conflict and potential disruptions to oil supply routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global crude shipments.

Crude oil prices have already climbed to multi-month highs amid the uncertainty, with Brent crude recently trading around the low \$70s per barrel and expectations of further gains as markets reopen. Analysts warn that if geopolitical tensions persist, oil could move toward much higher levels, potentially testing resistance zones near \$80 or beyond. For India — an economy that imports roughly 50% of its crude through the Strait of Hormuz — this carries immediate implications for inflation, import bills, and corporate margins.

The wider macro impact of rising crude prices is significant. Higher oil costs often translate into

increased petrol and diesel prices at the pump, prompt rupee depreciation against the US dollar, and place inflationary pressure on consumer prices. These pressures can reduce discretionary spending and weigh on corporate profits in oil sensitive sectors such as airlines, logistics, paints, and chemicals.

Alongside the geopolitical risk premium affecting commodities, Nifty's technical structure — broken support levels and weakening momentum indicators — signals that market breadth remains negative. The index's breach below its 200 day moving average has now turned that level into a key resistance point, while volatility gauges such as the India VIX have climbed, hinting at heightened risk aversion.

Sector performance has been mixed. While broader market segments have come under pressure, certain counters like banking and relative defensives may have a role to play in

stabilising the market. Observers note that how these sectors perform in the coming days could help determine whether the market witnesses a rebound or a further downturn.

Investor sentiment has also been influenced by uneven foreign institutional investor (FII) flows, with intermittent selling in recent sessions adding to the nervousness. Combined with ongoing global risk off sentiment fueled by Middle East uncertainty, India's equity benchmark could see volatile swings in the near term.

At present, the 25,000 mark is acting as a crucial psychological and technical pivot for traders. A sustained break below it may signal deeper corrective pressure, whereas holding above could encourage a relief bounce. With crude prices and global cues still in flux, the coming sessions are likely to be critical in defining the next phase for the Indian markets.

AI Cannot Replace Purpose-Driven Professions, Says Zoho's Sridhar Vembu



At a time when artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping industries and sparking fears about job losses, Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu has offered a grounded perspective. Speaking at a recent AI-focused event, he argued that while AI will transform many sectors, it cannot replace professions rooted in purpose, human connection, and lived experience.

Vembu emphasized that certain roles go beyond efficiency and automation. Professions such as priests, farmers, and musicians, he said, are deeply tied to meaning, culture, and human relationships. These are not merely functional jobs but vocations driven by purpose, something machines fundamentally lack.

According to him, AI excels at structured tasks, data processing, and pattern recognition. However, it struggles to replicate the emotional depth, ethical judgment, and contextual understanding that define purpose-driven work. For instance, a priest provides spiritual guidance shaped by tradition and empathy, a farmer works in close harmony with nature and local conditions, and a musician creates art that resonates emotionally with audiences. These dimensions are difficult, if not impossible, for AI to authentically reproduce. Vembu also pointed out that human interaction remains central in many fields. Even as technology advances, people continue to value genuine human connections. Whether it is seeking advice, experiencing art, or engaging in community practices, the human element cannot be easily replaced by algorithms.

His remarks come amid broader dis-

cussions about AI's impact on employment. While some experts warn of large-scale job displacement, others believe AI will augment human capabilities rather than eliminate them. Vembu aligns with the latter view, suggesting that AI should be seen as a tool that enhances productivity, not as a substitute for human purpose.

He also highlighted India's potential advantage in the AI era. With a large, young population and strong emphasis on human-centric services, the country is well-positioned to integrate AI in ways that complement rather than replace human roles. Indian businesses, he noted, often maintain closer relationships with customers, which can be strengthened further through thoughtful use of technology.

Importantly, Vembu's perspective challenges the narrative that all jobs are equally vulnerable to automation. While repetitive and routine tasks may increasingly be handled by AI, roles that require creativity, empathy, and cultural understanding are likely to endure.

His comments echo a growing sentiment in the tech world: the future of work is not about humans versus machines, but about collaboration between the two. AI can handle scale and speed, but humans bring meaning and intention. In a world increasingly driven by algorithms, Vembu's message serves as a reminder that not everything valuable can be automated. Purpose-driven professions, rooted in human experience, remain beyond the reach of artificial intelligence—for now and perhaps for the foreseeable future.

Outrage After Viral Video Shows Woman Slapped in Delhi's Japanese Park



A disturbing video from Swarn Jayanti Park, popularly known as Japanese Park in Delhi, has sparked widespread outrage after it showed a man physically assaulting a woman in public.

The clip, which quickly went viral on social media, appears to capture a heated argument between a couple seated on a bench. As tensions escalate, the man is seen shouting at the woman before slapping her. According to the person recording the video, the assault had already been ongoing, with claims that the woman had been hit multiple times even before filming began.

What the Video Shows

The footage presents a troubling scene. The man, visibly angry, repeatedly raises his hand against the woman during their argument. The woman appears distressed but does not retaliate. What has shocked viewers even more is that several people can be seen nearby, yet no one intervenes to stop the assault. The video was reportedly recorded by a passer-by who felt compelled to document the incident as it unfolded. The individual also described the relationship as "toxic," highlighting the intensity of the altercation.

Public Reaction and Online Outrage

The video has triggered strong reactions across social media platforms. Many users have condemned the man's actions, calling it a clear case of physical abuse rather than a private disagreement between partners. A significant portion of the outrage has also been directed at the bystanders visible in the clip. Viewers questioned why no one stepped in to help the wom-

an, reigniting debates about public responsibility and the tendency to ignore violence in shared spaces. Others have demanded strict action from authorities, urging police to identify those involved and take appropriate legal measures.

Larger Concerns Raised

Beyond the immediate incident, the video has once again brought attention to the issue of domestic violence and how it often plays out in public without intervention. Many commentators pointed out that such behavior is frequently dismissed as a "personal matter," allowing abuse to continue unchecked.

The incident also raises uncomfortable questions about societal attitudes. The reluctance of witnesses to intervene reflects a broader hesitation to get involved, even in situations that clearly involve harm.

Unclear Legal Action So Far

As of now, it remains unclear whether a formal complaint has been filed or if the individuals involved have been identified by authorities. The lack of immediate clarity has further fueled public frustration, with many calling for swift and visible action.

A Reminder About Accountability

The incident serves as a stark reminder that violence in relationships is not a private issue when it occurs in public spaces. It underscores the importance of awareness, accountability, and timely intervention.

While the viral video has shocked viewers, it has also opened up an important conversation about how society responds to visible acts of abuse—and whether silence in such moments contributes to the problem.

Colours, Chaos, And Celebration: Global Festivals That Rival Holi



Across the world, cultures express joy, community, and tradition through vibrant festivals that mirror the spirit of Holi. While Holi is famous for its riot of colours, music, and unity, several international celebrations echo similar energy through food fights, mud baths, or dazzling spectacles. These festivals transform ordinary spaces into playgrounds of shared happiness, reminding us that celebration is a universal language.

Spain's Wild Tomato Battle: La Tomatina

Held annually in the town of Buñol, La Tomatina is one of the world's most famous food fights. Thousands gather to throw overripe tomatoes at each other, turning the streets into a sea of red. What began as a spontaneous event has

grown into a globally recognized festival.

Much like Holi, La Tomatina brings people together without barriers. Locals and tourists participate equally, sharing laughter and excitement. Beneath the chaos lies a strong sense of unity and collective joy.

South Korea's Mud Extravaganza: Boryeong Mud Festival

On the beaches of Boryeong, this unique festival invites people to embrace mud in all its forms. Participants slide, wrestle, and play in mineral-rich mud believed to have skincare benefits.

The carefree spirit of the event closely resembles Holi. It encourages people to let go of inhibitions, connect with strangers, and enjoy the moment. The festival also highlights local culture while attracting global

visitors.

Italy's Historic Orange Battle: Battle of the Oranges

In Ivrea, a historic carnival features a large-scale orange fight. Participants divide into teams and throw oranges as part of a reenactment of a past rebellion.

The festival combines history with excitement. Like Holi, it encourages active participation and transforms the entire town into a lively, colourful space filled with energy and enthusiasm.

Scotland's Fiery Celebration: Up Helly Aa

In Lerwick, this Viking-inspired festival features torchlit processions and the burning of a symbolic longship. Participants dress in traditional costumes and celebrate their heritage together.

Though different in

form, the festival shares Holi's sense of community and celebration. It brings people together through shared traditions and collective participation.

Thailand's Water Festival: Songkran

Thailand's New Year celebration turns streets into zones of water play. People splash water on one another as a symbol of cleansing and renewal.

Like Holi, Songkran removes social boundaries. Everyone joins in regardless of age or background, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere across the country.

Why These Festivals Feel Similar

Despite cultural differences, these festivals share common elements. They encourage freedom, interaction, and collective happiness. Whether

through colours, food, water, or mud, they create moments of connection and joy.

Holi stands out for its symbolism of love, forgiveness, and the arrival of spring. Yet its spirit is reflected globally in different forms. These celebrations show that joy often lies in shared experiences rather than perfection.

A Universal Spirit of Celebration

From tomato-filled streets in Spain to muddy beaches in South Korea and water-filled roads in Thailand, the world offers many ways to celebrate life. Each festival reflects its culture while expressing a shared human desire to connect and rejoice.

In the end, whether it is colours, mud, or water, the feeling remains the same. It is about coming together, letting go, and experiencing pure joy.

Partial Lunar Eclipse on March 3: When and How Skywatchers in India Can Watch It

Skywatchers across India are set to witness a fascinating celestial event on March 3, 2026, when a lunar eclipse will be visible in the evening sky. Although this will be a total lunar eclipse globally, observers in India will only experience it as a partial eclipse due to the timing of the event relative to moonrise.

A lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth comes directly between the Sun and the Moon, casting its shadow on the lunar surface. This alignment happens only during a full moon, making lunar eclipses relatively rare and widely anticipated events. During a total lunar eclipse, the Moon can take on a reddish hue, often referred to as a "blood moon," caused by sunlight filtering through Earth's atmosphere. However, viewers in India will not see the full dramatic effect this time.

On March 3, the eclipse will already be underway before the Moon rises over most parts of India. As a result, only the later stages of the eclipse will be visible, making it appear as a partial eclipse rather than a total one. This means that a portion of the Moon will appear darkened, as if a shadow has been cast over it, instead of turning completely red.

According to astronomical data, the penumbral phase of the eclipse — when the Earth's outer shadow begins to fall on the Moon — will start in the early evening. In places like Delhi, the eclipse will become visible around moonrise, which adds a unique visual ele-



ment as the Moon appears on the horizon already partially covered.

The timing of the eclipse in India is particularly interesting. The penumbral phase is expected to begin around 6:21 pm IST, followed by the partial phase shortly after. The maximum phase of the eclipse will occur soon after moonrise, but since the earlier and more dramatic total phase happens while the Moon is still below the horizon in India, viewers will miss the peak of the event.

Globally, this is a total lunar eclipse, meaning that in other parts of the world — particularly in East Asia, Australia, and the Americas — observers will witness the Moon fully immersed in Earth's shadow. In those regions, the Moon will appear

deep red for nearly an hour, creating a striking visual spectacle.

Despite the limited visibility in India, the event remains significant for astronomy enthusiasts and casual observers alike. Even a partial lunar eclipse offers a chance to observe the mechanics of our solar system in action. Watching the Earth's shadow gradually move across the Moon can be both educational and awe-inspiring.

One of the advantages of lunar eclipses is that they are completely safe to observe with the naked eye. Unlike solar eclipses, which require protective eyewear, lunar eclipses pose no risk to vision. This makes them accessible to everyone, from seasoned astronomers to curious onlookers.

For the best viewing ex-

perience, it is recommended to find a location with a clear view of the eastern horizon, as the Moon will rise from that direction. Areas with minimal light pollution, such as open fields or rooftops away from city lights, will offer better visibility. Using binoculars or a small telescope can enhance the experience by revealing more detail on the Moon's surface and the progression of the shadow.

Weather conditions will also play a crucial role in visibility. Clear skies are essential for observing the eclipse, so checking local forecasts ahead of time can help in planning. Even thin cloud cover can obscure the subtle shading of a partial eclipse.

Interestingly, this lunar eclipse coincides with the time of Holi, adding a cul-

tural dimension to the event. The combination of a celestial phenomenon and a major festival makes the evening particularly special for many people in India.

Lunar eclipses have long held cultural and mythological significance in various traditions. In India, they are often associated with rituals and beliefs, including fasting and avoiding certain activities during the eclipse period. While modern science explains the phenomenon in terms of orbital mechanics, these traditions continue to be observed by many.

From a scientific perspective, eclipses provide valuable opportunities for observation and study. They help astronomers better understand the Earth's atmosphere, as the way light bends and scatters during an eclipse can reveal information about atmospheric composition.

The March 3 eclipse is part of a series of eclipses occurring in 2026, which includes both solar and lunar events. While this particular eclipse may not offer the full "blood moon" experience in India, it still serves as a reminder of the dynamic and interconnected nature of celestial movements.

In summary, while India will only witness a partial phase of the March 3 lunar eclipse, it remains a worthwhile event for anyone interested in the night sky. With clear skies and a good vantage point, observers can enjoy a glimpse of one of nature's most captivating phenomena — the Earth casting its shadow on the Moon.

Indian Para Shuttlers Prem Kumar and Alpha James Win Silver at World Championships



India's para shuttling contingent delivered a stellar performance at the 2026 BWF Para Badminton World Championships, with Prem Kumar and Alpha James bringing home silver medals in their respective categories, further underlining India's growing prowess in the sport.

The championships, which attract the world's top para badminton players, witnessed intense competition across several categories. Both Prem Kumar and Alpha James showcased exceptional skill, resilience, and competitive spirit throughout the tournament, advancing through challenging matches to reach the finals.

Prem Kumar's Silver Medal Run

Prem Kumar, competing in his classification, displayed dominance and tactical sharpness in the early rounds, defeating several highly ranked opponents to secure a place

in the final. A veteran of the para badminton circuit, Kumar's journey to the silver medal was marked by powerful rallies, precise shots, and remarkable court coverage.

In the gold medal match, he faced a formidable opponent whose aggressive play and consistency ultimately proved decisive. Despite a valiant effort, Prem Kumar was unable to clinch the top spot but proudly secured the silver medal for India. His performance earned praise from coaches, fellow athletes and fans alike, who lauded his professionalism and determination.

The silver medal adds to India's growing tally in para badminton, continuing a wave of success for Indian athletes on the global stage.

Alpha James Shines Bright

In the women's category, Alpha James made history with her break-

through performance. Competing against some of the strongest players from across the globe, James impressed with her speed, tactical awareness and mental toughness.

She progressed through the group stages and knockout rounds with consistent play, often turning tight situations in her favour with well timed smashes and clever placements. Alpha's journey to the final thrilled Indian fans and inspired young athletes watching back home.

In the championship match, she faced a top seeded rival who tested her resolve with powerful attacks and deep court coverage. James pushed hard and fought every point, but ultimately settled for silver after a fiercely contested match. Her success marked one of India's standout achievements at the tournament.

A Big Moment for Indian Para Badminton

The combined success of Prem Kumar and Alpha James underlines India's rising status in para badminton. Their silver medals contribute to the country's growing legacy in international para sports and highlight the depth of talent emerging from India's para athlete community.

The performances also reflect the increasing competitiveness of Indian shuttlers, supported by improved infrastructure, coaching and opportunities for athletes with disabilities. Para badminton in India has witnessed significant growth over the past decade, with more players achieving top results at major international events.

On social media and throughout the sporting community, fans and fel-

low athletes celebrated the accomplishments of both Kumar and James. Their medals serve as encouragement for aspiring para shuttlers and reinforce the message that Indian athletes can compete — and excel — at the highest levels of global sport.

Looking Ahead

With the World Championships now concluded, attention will turn to upcoming international para badminton events. Both Prem Kumar and Alpha James are expected to carry forward their momentum into future competitions, representing India with pride and aiming for even greater success in the years ahead.

Their achievements in obtaining silver medals not only bring honour to the nation but also help shine a spotlight on para sports, inspiring a new generation of athletes to pursue excellence on the world stage.

Salima Tete to Lead India Women's Hockey Team in 2026 World Cup Qualifiers



India's women's hockey team has announced a 20 member squad for the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 Qualifiers, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad from March 8 to 14. Salima Tete will continue as captain, guiding the side as they battle for one of three qualification spots for the prestigious global event later this year.

The decision to retain Salima Tete as captain comes after the team underwent some changes ahead of the qualifiers. Veteran goalkeeper and former long time skipper Savita Punia has opted out of the tournament due to personal reasons, opening the door for Tete to lead the team through this crucial phase.

A New Chapter Under a Familiar Leader

Salima Tete, a dynamic midfielder known for her on field leadership and tactical awareness, has captained India in recent major tournaments, including the Asia Cup and the Olympics. Her continued leadership reflects the team's confidence in her ability to inspire and marshal the squad at a high stakes event.

The qualifiers in Hyderabad represent a critical opportunity for India's women's team to secure one of the three available spots in the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, which will be co hosted by Belgium and Netherlands later this year. As hosts of the qualifiers, India will face stiff com-

petition from teams such as England, Korea, Italy, Uruguay, Wales, and Scotland. India is placed in Pool B alongside Scotland, Uruguay, and Wales.

Squad Composition and Tactical Balance

The 20 member squad features a blend of experience and emerging talent across all departments. The goalkeeping responsibilities are shared between Bansari Solanki and Bichu Devi Kharibam, while defenders such as Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Nikki Pradhan, and Manisha Chauhan bring solidity to the back line.

In midfield, besides captain Salima Tete, players like Neha, Sunelita Toppo, and Deepika Soreng are expected to provide creativity, control, and energy. The forward line includes attacking threats like Navneet Kaur, Lalremsiami, and Beauty Dungle, known for their pace and goal scoring instincts.

India will begin their qualifying campaign against Uruguay on March 8, followed by matches against Scotland and Wales on March 9 and March 11 respectively. Consistency and confidence will be key as they navigate these fixtures, with each match offering a chance to solidify their bid for World Cup qualification.

Coaching and Preparation

Recently reappointed

head coach Sjoerd Marijne returns to lead India in his first official assignment since taking up the role again. Marijne has emphasised thorough preparation, fitness, and tactical clarity as key pillars of the team's strategy. He highlighted that the squad has undergone rigorous training and would play practice matches in Hyderabad to ensure they are match ready ahead of the qualifiers.

Marijne's coaching experience and prior success with India—including guiding the women's team to a historic Olympic finish—could prove vital as the team seeks to regain its footing at the top level. His return is seen as a morale booster for players and fans alike.

As the tournament gets underway in Hyderabad, expectations will be high—not only to qualify but also to demonstrate India's growing strength and depth in women's hockey on the global stage.

Outlook and Expectations

For India, the World Cup qualifiers are more than just a stepping stone; they are a chance to reassert their status among the world's elite women's hockey teams. With Salima Tete at the helm, backed by a well balanced squad and experienced coaching staff, India will aim to rise to the challenge and clinch a place in the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup.

As the tournament gets underway in Hyderabad, expectations will be high—not only to qualify but also to demonstrate India's growing strength and depth in women's hockey on the global stage.

PV Sindhu Stranded at Dubai Airport Amid Middle East Tensions



Indian badminton star P. V. Sindhu, the two-time Olympic medallist, found herself unexpectedly stranded at Dubai International Airport after flight operations were halted due to escalating tensions in the Middle East. She was en route to Birmingham for the prestigious All England Open when regional airspace disruptions brought travel to a near standstill.

Sindhu shared updates on social media describing the situation as increasingly tense and frightening. She said all flights had been suspended indefinitely and that she and her team were "safe for now" but anxious as they waited for the situation to stabilize.

She described hearing explosions near the airport terminal and witnessed chaotic scenes among travellers as operations came to a halt.

The disruption was triggered after US and Israeli military actions against Iran led to retaliatory strikes and widespread closure of airspace across the Gulf region. Reports indicated explosions in several cities, including Dubai and Abu Dhabi, as tensions soared and Gulf countries scrambled to protect civilian infrastructure.

Sindhu, who had travelled with her personal support staff including her coach and physio, recounted how her coach had to move quickly to

avoid smoke and debris, describing the moment as "extremely tense and scary." Despite the frightening circumstances, she said the group had since been relocated to a more secure location.

In her messages, Sindhu expressed gratitude to Dubai Airport staff, local authorities, and the Indian High Commission in Dubai for their support and assistance in ensuring the safety of stranded passengers. She acknowledged the efforts of officials working to manage the situation and help those affected by the travel disruptions.

The world's busiest travel hub has faced unprecedented challenges in recent days as flights were suspended due to shifting security conditions. Major carriers temporarily halted operations to and from Dubai, leaving thousands of travellers in limbo and scrambling for alternatives. Airlines announced they would help affected passengers with rebooking and refunds as they worked through the fallout from the abrupt closures.

The All England Open, one of badminton's most historic tournaments, was scheduled to begin on March 3 in Birmingham. Sindhu was set to compete in the women's singles event, with her

first match slated against a top-level opponent. It remains unclear whether she will be able to reach the UK in time for the championship, as the evolving geopolitical situation continues to disrupt travel plans.

Sindhu's situation highlights the broader impact of global conflicts on individuals far from the frontline, including athletes and ordinary travellers. Airports in the Gulf — major transit points connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa — have been particularly affected since the start of the crisis. As the Middle East situation continues to shift, many travellers are facing prolonged delays, heightened safety concerns, and uncertainty about future flights.

Meanwhile, other athletes and teams were reported to have reached their destinations safely before flight disruptions. Doubles stars had reached Birmingham prior to the escalation, avoiding the travel chaos that ensued.

As of now, Sindhu and her team remain in Dubai, waiting for normalcy to return so they can resume their journey. Her updates from the airport reflect both the fear induced by sudden geopolitical conflict and the resilience of travellers caught in its path.

Sanath Jayasuriya Steps Down as Sri Lanka Head Coach Ahead of T20 World Cup

Veteran Sri Lankan cricket legend Sanath Jayasuriya has resigned from his role as the head coach of the Sri Lanka men's national cricket team, just months before the team is set to compete in the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup 2026. His decision comes as a surprise to fans and players alike and marks the end of a short but eventful tenure at the helm of Sri Lankan cricket.

Jayasuriya, one of Sri Lanka's most iconic cricketers, took charge as head coach with the hope of rejuvenating a team undergoing transition. Sri Lanka has been striving to regain consistency in the shorter formats of the game, and Jayasuriya's appointment had generated considerable optimism among supporters due to his vast experience as a world class player and former captain.

However, the team's recent performances have been inconsistent, with mixed results in key series and tournaments. These outcomes, combined with internal discussions with the cricket board, are believed to have influenced Jayasuriya's decision to step down. Reports suggest that he felt it was the right time for new leadership to take the team forward, especially with a

major global tournament approaching.

In a statement announcing his resignation, Jayasuriya expressed gratitude to the players, support staff, and the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) administration for the trust placed in him. He also reaffirmed his belief in the talent and potential of Sri Lankan cricketers, saying that the team has the ability to compete at the highest level. While he did not go into specific reasons behind his departure, Jayasuriya hinted that differing visions for the team's direction played a role.

His resignation leaves a significant gap in Sri Lanka's coaching structure at a critical time. The T20 World Cup, scheduled later this year, is one of the sport's premier events, and teams around the world have already started preparation cycles. Sri Lanka, traditionally competitive in ICC tournaments, will now have to appoint a new head coach who can steady the ship and guide the team through the final stages of preparation.

Interim options and potential candidates are already being discussed within the cricket board. Several former players and experienced coaches are expected to be considered for the role, with the prior-



ity being someone who can quickly establish rapport with the squad and instil confidence ahead of the World Cup campaign.

The players are also set to undergo focused training camps and may have input into the selection of a new coach. Team leaders and senior players are likely to play a role in ensuring continuity in strategy and morale, so that the disruption caused by the coaching change does not derail their World Cup plans.

Fans reacted with a mix of surprise and support after the announcement. Social media platforms were abuzz with tributes to Jayasuriya's contributions as both a player and coach, with many expressing confidence that Sri Lankan

cricket will continue to evolve positively despite the setback.

As the cricketing world watches, Sri Lanka will now enter a crucial phase of planning and rebuilding. With the T20 World Cup approaching, the choice of the next head coach and the team's response to this transition will be key factors in whether they can deliver strong performances on the global stage.

Jayasuriya's resignation marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another for Sri Lanka cricket — one filled with challenges and opportunities as they prepare to make their mark in international T20 cricket once again.

Puri Jagannadh–Suriya Film Nearly Confirmed: A Long-Awaited Collaboration Back on Track



Exciting developments are emerging from the South Indian film industry, as strong reports suggest that Puri Jagannadh and Tamil star Suriya are finally set to collaborate on a film. This combination, which had previously failed to materialize, now appears to be close to becoming a reality.

Puri Jagannadh, known for his distinct style and mass appeal storytelling, has been going through a challenging phase in his career. His recent films did not perform as expected, impacting his standing in the industry. Determined to make a strong comeback, the director is currently focusing on upcoming projects and fresh scripts that can reconnect with audiences.

Amid this phase, discussions about his next major film have gained momentum. Industry buzz indicates that Puri is planning a project with Suriya, and the collaboration is said to be almost finalized. Reports suggest that the two recently

met and held detailed story discussions, which reportedly went well. Both are said to be positive about working together, raising hopes that the project will soon be officially announced.

Interestingly, this is not the first time the duo has considered joining hands. In the past, Puri Jagannadh had narrated the story of *Businessman* to Suriya, and the actor had initially shown interest. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the project did not take off at the time and was later made with another actor. Despite that, the connection between Puri and Suriya remained, leaving fans hopeful for a future collaboration.

Now, years later, that possibility seems closer than ever. Suriya, known for his versatility and strong screen presence, is reportedly impressed with the current script. The film is expected to be a stylish, high-energy entertainer, aligning with Puri Jagannadh's signature filmmaking style

that blends powerful characterization with mass appeal.

The news has already generated significant excitement among fans of both Telugu and Tamil cinema. A collaboration between these two would mark a major cross-industry project, potentially appealing to a wide audience across different regions. Given their individual popularity and track record, expectations are naturally high.

However, as of now, there has been no official confirmation from the makers. While the reports strongly indicate that the project is moving in a positive direction, fans will have to wait for a formal announcement to know more details.

If finalized, this film could play a crucial role in Puri Jagannadh's comeback while also adding an exciting project to Suriya's lineup. With strong anticipation already building, this collaboration has the potential to become one of the most talked-about films in South Indian cinema.

Varalakshmi Sarathkumar Opens Up About 'Saraswathi': A Bold Step as Director and Actor



Actress Varalakshmi Sarathkumar is all set to showcase a new dimension of her talent with her upcoming film *Saraswathi*. Known for her versatility and powerful performances, she is now stepping into direction while also playing a key role in the film.

Speaking about the project, Varalakshmi described it as a significant milestone in her career. Having already established herself as an actress who isn't afraid to experiment with roles—including negative and strong character-driven performances—she now aims to explore storytelling from behind the camera. She believes *Saraswathi* reflects her creative vision and her desire to present meaningful cinema.

The film features a strong ensemble cast including Prakash Raj, Priyamani, and Radhika Sarathkumar, among others. With such experienced actors on board, Varalakshmi expressed confidence that the film

will strike a chord with audiences.

During the interaction, she highlighted that *Saraswathi* is not just a commercial entertainer but also carries a strong message. The story is said to revolve around intense and thought-provoking themes, blending emotion with elements of suspense. Varalakshmi emphasized that the film aims to engage audiences while also making them reflect on deeper issues.

She also spoke about the challenges of balancing multiple responsibilities—acting, directing, and producing. Taking on all these roles simultaneously required immense effort and dedication. However, she found the journey rewarding, as it allowed her to fully shape the narrative and bring her vision to life on screen.

Interestingly, Varalakshmi mentioned that she is competing, in a way, with projects involving her own family members, including her stepmother Radhika. She addressed

this with a positive outlook, stating that healthy competition within the industry only pushes everyone to perform better and deliver quality content.

The actress further expressed her gratitude to audiences for supporting her throughout her career. She hopes viewers will extend the same encouragement to her new venture as a filmmaker. She also encouraged people to support women in cinema, especially those stepping into technical and leadership roles.

With *Saraswathi*, Varalakshmi Sarathkumar is not just delivering another film but marking a new phase in her journey. The project stands as a testament to her ambition, creativity, and willingness to break boundaries.

As anticipation builds, the film is expected to attract attention for both its content and the fact that it represents a bold new step for a well-established actress turning director.

Mega Multistarrer Buzz: Will Chiranjeevi and Pawan Kalyan Finally Share Screen Again?

The Telugu film industry is currently abuzz with exciting speculation about a potential multistarrer featuring megastar Chiranjeevi and power star Pawan Kalyan. If the reports turn out to be true, this project could become one of the most anticipated films in recent Tollywood history.

According to strong industry buzz, a prominent director has recently approached both actors with a compelling script. The story is said to be emotionally rich and carefully crafted to match the powerful screen presence and mass appeal of both stars. This narration alone has already sparked immense curiosity among fans and film circles.

While there is no official confirmation yet, sources suggest that discussions are progressing in a positive direction. However, both actors are currently occupied with their respective commitments, which means the project is still in its early stages. Final approval from both Chiranjeevi and Pawan Kalyan is awaited, and only then will the film move into production.

The idea of these two iconic brothers sharing the screen again has generated tremendous



excitement. Their combined fan base, charisma, and emotional connection with audiences make this potential collaboration truly special. Fans believe that such a film would not just be a movie, but a celebratory event in Telugu cinema.

Social media platforms are already flooded with fan-made posters, edits, and discussions imagining how the film might look. The anticipation reflects how deeply audiences have been waiting for this reunion. Their previous on-screen appearances

together received a massive response, and since then, expectations for another collaboration have only grown stronger.

If the project materializes, it is expected to be mounted on a grand scale with high production values. Industry insiders believe that top technicians, a strong musical score, and a well-crafted narrative would be key elements of the film. Given the stature of both actors, the project could also set new benchmarks at the box office.

At present, everything re-



mains in the realm of speculation. However, the buzz itself highlights the enduring popularity of both stars and the immense potential such a collaboration holds. Even before an official announcement, the mere possibility has captured the imagination of fans and the industry alike.

If confirmed, this multistarrer could become a landmark film, uniting two of the biggest forces in Telugu cinema and delivering a memorable cinematic experience.

Love Beyond the Crown – Manasa Varanasi Opens Up About Her Heartfelt Relationship



Manasa Varanasi, widely recognized for her grace and intelligence, has shared a deeply personal side of her life—her love story. In a candid interview, she spoke about how her relationship blossomed, offering a glimpse into the emotional journey behind the public persona.

Manasa revealed that

her love story did not begin with grand gestures or dramatic moments, but rather grew naturally over time. It was rooted in friendship, mutual understanding, and shared values. She emphasized that the foundation of any strong relationship lies in genuine connection rather than superficial attraction. Accord-

ing to her, emotional compatibility played a much bigger role than anything else.

She described her partner as someone who respects her individuality and ambitions. Being in the public eye comes with its own challenges, but she credits her partner for being supportive and grounded. Their relationship thrives on trust, communication, and the ability to give each other space to grow. Manasa highlighted how important it is to have someone who not only stands beside you during success but also supports you through uncertainties.

Interestingly, Manasa pointed out that maintaining a balance between her professional commitments and personal life has not always

been easy. However, mutual respect and understanding have helped them navigate these challenges. She believes that relationships require effort, patience, and the willingness to adapt.

She also spoke about how love, for her, is not about perfection but acceptance. Every relationship has its ups and downs, but what matters is the ability to work through differences. She stressed that being honest with each other and addressing issues openly strengthens the bond.

Another important aspect she mentioned is the role of friendship within a relationship. She believes that being best friends with your partner makes the journey smoother and more fulfilling. Sharing laughter,

supporting each other's dreams, and growing together are what truly define a meaningful relationship.

Manasa's story stands out because it is relatable and grounded in reality. Despite her achievements and recognition, she values simplicity and emotional depth in her personal life. Her perspective on love reflects maturity and a clear understanding of what truly matters.

In conclusion, Manasa Varanasi's love story is not just about romance—it is about partnership, respect, and emotional strength. Her insights serve as a reminder that true love is built over time, through trust and shared experiences, rather than an instant attraction.

Vijay Deverakonda–Rashmika to Attend Grand Housewarming Ceremony at Ancestral Village



Along with this, a Satyanarayana Swamy Vratham is also expected to be conducted, a sacred ritual believed to bring prosperity, happiness, and well-being.

Preparations for the event are said to be in full swing, with the farmhouse being decorated for the occasion. The ceremony is expected to blend grandeur with tradition, reflecting both modern celebration and cultural values.

In a gesture that highlights their connection with the local community, arrangements are reportedly being made to host a large gathering. A grand feast is expected to be organized for villagers and well-wishers, turning the ceremony into a festive event for the entire area.

Despite their busy professional schedules following the wedding, the couple appears committed to honoring traditions and spending time with family. Their decision to celebrate such an important milestone in their ancestral village reflects a deep respect for their heritage and roots.

Fans are eagerly awaiting glimpses from the ceremony, especially after the couple's wedding created a buzz across social media. Their journey from co-stars to partners has been widely followed, and every update about their personal life continues to attract significant attention.

With meaningful rituals, community celebrations, and emotional value, this housewarming ceremony is expected to be a memorable occasion for the couple and those associated with them.

Actress Sonal Chauhan Seeks PM Modi's Help After Being Stranded in Dubai

Bollywood actress Sonal Chauhan has reportedly been stranded in Dubai following a sudden wave of flight cancellations triggered by escalating tensions in the Middle East. The disruption has affected international travel routes, leaving many passengers stuck at airports, including the actress.

The situation arose due to rising geopolitical tensions involving countries such as Iran, the United States, and Israel. As a result, several airlines suspended or rerouted flights, leading to heavy congestion at major transit hubs like Dubai. Passengers have been left waiting for clarity on when normal flight operations will resume.

Amid the uncertainty, Sonal Chauhan took to social media to appeal for help. She reached out to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting assistance in returning safely to India. In her message, she explained that flights had been cancelled and that she currently had no clear way to travel back home.

Her situation reflects the difficulties faced by many travelers caught in the sudden disruption. A large number of passengers, including Indian citizens, have reportedly been stranded at the airport due to cancellations and airspace restrictions. The lack of clear timelines has only added to the confusion and concern among those affected.

The broader geopolitical tensions have not only disrupted travel but also created anxiety



among passengers. Constant updates about the situation in the region have made the experience more stressful for those waiting at airports, unsure of when they will be able to continue their journey.

Sonal Chauhan, who gained recognition with her debut film *Jannat*, has worked in multiple Indian film industries and enjoys a strong fan base. Her appeal has drawn attention online, highlighting the challenges faced by citizens abroad during unexpected global crises.

As of now, there is no official confirmation on when flight services will fully resume. Authorities and airlines are closely monitoring the situation, and operations are expected to normalize only once conditions are considered safe.

Until then, many stranded passengers, including Sonal Chauhan, continue to wait for assistance and clarity, hoping for a safe and timely return home.