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V. Narendra Reddy, Abhishek Manu Singhvi File Third Set of Rajya Sabha Nominations



Telangana, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Senior leaders V. Narendra Reddy and Abhishek Manu Singhvi submitted their nominations today for the third set of Rajya Sabha elections, marking a significant step in the upcoming parliamentary representation process. The nomination event witnessed the presence of several high-profile political figures from the Congress party in Telangana.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was present at the venue, showing his support for the candidates. The event also saw the participation of TPCC President Mahesh Goud, along with state ministers, MLAs, MLCs, and MPs, highlighting the strategic importance of these nominations.

V. Narendra Reddy, a senior party leader, has been actively involved in strengthening the Congress party's presence in Telangana. His nomination is

viewed as recognition for his long-standing service and dedication to the party, as well as his efforts to engage with grassroots leadership and local communities.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi, a prominent national-level Congress leader and legal expert, also submitted his nomination, emphasizing the party's aim to maintain experienced and capable representatives in the Upper House of Parliament. His candidature is expected to bring a combination of legal expertise and parliamentary experience to the Rajya Sabha.

The presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and other senior leaders underlined the unity within the party, as well as its commitment to ensuring that experienced and influential leaders represent Telangana at the national level. The nominations are part of a carefully coordinated effort to maximize political and legislative influence in the Rajya Sabha.

Observers noted that these nominations send a strong mes-

sage about the Congress party's strategic planning and focus on fielding both regional stalwarts and nationally recognized leaders. Party officials reiterated that the third set of nominations was critical in balancing representation and maintaining continuity in leadership.

With the formal filing of nominations, attention now turns to the election process, which will determine the composition of Rajya Sabha seats for Telangana. Party leaders expressed confidence that the candidates' experience, credibility, and service record will resonate with the electorate, ensuring successful outcomes.

The filing ceremony was marked by enthusiasm from party workers and supporters, reflecting the party's organizational strength and internal coordination. Leaders emphasized the importance of participation, strategy, and maintaining public trust, as the Rajya Sabha elections play a key role in shaping national legislation and policy.



Cabinet Panel Formed for Godavari Pushkaralu 2027

Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to oversee preparations for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu scheduled to be held in 2027. The decision was taken to ensure comprehensive planning and smooth arrangements for the mega religious event, which is expected to attract lakhs of devotees from across the country.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed officials to begin advance preparations well ahead of the festival to avoid last-minute arrangements. The government believes that early planning will help improve infrastructure, enhance facilities for pilgrims and ensure effective coordination among different departments.

According to official sources, the Cabinet Sub-Committee will monitor the development of infrastructure and review the arrangements for the event periodically. The panel will also make recommendations on improving facilities at major temples and bathing ghats along the banks of the Godavari River in Telangana.

The committee includes several senior ministers who will oversee various aspects of the preparations. Their responsibilities will include planning infrastructure development, improving transportation facilities, coordinating with local authorities and ensuring proper arrangements for the large number of pilgrims expected to attend the event.

Officials said the state government is focusing on developing per-

manent infrastructure rather than temporary arrangements. Plans are being prepared to improve roads, construct additional bathing ghats, provide drinking water facilities, expand accommodation options and strengthen sanitation and security measures across important locations along the river.

The government is also planning to develop major temple towns located on the banks of the Godavari. Popular pilgrimage centers such as Basara, Dharmapuri, Kaleshwaram and Bhadrachalam are expected to witness a massive inflow of devotees during the Pushkaralu. Authorities intend to upgrade facilities in these areas to handle the anticipated rush of pilgrims.

In addition to infrastructure development, the government is considering proposals to seek financial assistance from the Central government for organizing the event on a grand scale. Officials believe that the Pushkaralu will not only strengthen the spiritual significance of the region but also boost religious tourism and local economic activity.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee is expected to hold its first review meeting soon to discuss the initial planning framework and identify priority works. Senior officials from various departments, including endowments, irrigation, roads and tourism, are likely to be involved in the planning process.

The Telangana government aims to conduct the Godavari Pushkaralu in a well-organized manner, ensuring a safe and comfortable experience for millions of devotees who are expected to participate in the sacred festival.

KTR Inspects Country's Largest Nagole Sewage Treatment Plant

Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) visited the Nagole Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) today, accompanied by former ministers Sabita Indra Reddy and Chamakura Mallareddy, MLAs Vivekananda Goud, Sudheer Reddy, Mutha Gopal, Lakshmi Reddy, MLC Shambhipur Raju, and Vani Devi. The inspection aimed to review the first phase of infrastructure development under the BRS government for cleaning and rejuvenating the Musi river.

During the visit, MLA Sudheer Reddy clarified key points regarding the ongoing projects in the Musi catchment areas. He stated that the beautification of the Musi river is not against BRS policies. "The BRS government is fully committed to supporting residents in the Musi catchment areas. Our efforts fo-



cus on cleaning and rejuvenating the river without displacing local families," he said.

Reddy highlighted that 35 STP plants have been constructed in the first phase at BRS Hayana to treat Musi water efficiently. "With these STP plants, water purification in the Musi catchment can be achieved without affecting residents," he added. He expressed concern that when the Congress party comes to power, projects under the guise of Musi beautification might involve demolishing homes, putting around 11,000 families at risk of eviction.

He also noted that there is no need to spend ₹5,000 crore on constructing Gandhi Sarovar if it involves displacing local families. Reddy emphasized that BRS projects, including the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue built at BRS Hayana, have respected community rights. "The 125-foot Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue remains accessible to the public, unlike proposals by previous administrations that restricted access after coming to power," he said.

The leaders reiterated that the BRS government aims to balance urban development with the welfare of local com-

munities. Reddy stressed that projects like the STP plants and river cleaning initiatives are designed to protect residents, prevent displacement, and ensure sustainable urban planning.

KTR's inspection underlined the government's commitment to infrastructure development while maintaining transparency and public accountability. Officials explained that the STP plants at Nagole are fully operational and capable of treating sewage effectively, contributing to the long-term rejuvenation of the Musi river.

Residents of the Musi catchment areas have expressed relief over the government's assurances, noting that BRS-led initiatives have prioritized their welfare and avoided large-scale displacement. The visit reinforced BRS's narrative of combining development with citizen-centric governance, in contrast to previous approaches that allegedly ignored local concerns.

Gulf Flights Cancelled at Shamshabad Airport

Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Air travel between Hyderabad and several Gulf countries has been severely disrupted, with multiple flights cancelled at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad due to escalating tensions in the Middle East.

According to airport officials, several international flights operating between Hyderabad and key Gulf destinations were cancelled over the past few days. The cancellations affected both arrivals and departures, leaving many passengers stranded or forced to reschedule their travel plans. Large numbers of travellers heading to countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman were impacted by the

sudden disruption.

Airlines operating from the Hyderabad airport cancelled services after airspace restrictions and safety concerns emerged in parts of West Asia amid the ongoing conflict in the region. Authorities said that the situation forced several international carriers to suspend or reroute flights as a precautionary measure.

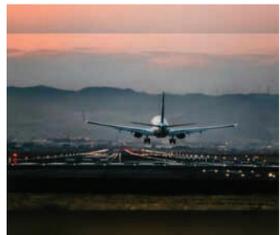
Officials stated that around 35 international flights were cancelled on Wednesday alone, including 19 incoming flights and 16 outgoing services. The affected flights were primarily those connecting Hyderabad with major Gulf hubs that serve thousands of Indian expatriates, including a large number from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Passengers arriving at the airport were seen waiting for updates from airlines as uncer-

tainty over flight schedules continued. Many travellers were advised to check their flight status before leaving for the airport, as sudden cancellations and rescheduling have become common during the ongoing crisis.

Airlines have also issued travel advisories requesting passengers to stay updated through official airline websites and customer support channels. Some carriers are working to arrange alternative routes or special flights to help stranded passengers reach their destinations.

Airport authorities said that while the cancellations caused temporary disruption, efforts are underway to gradually restore services depending on the security situation and reopening of airspace in the region. A few flights from Gulf countries



have already begun arriving in Hyderabad as airlines attempt to normalize operations.

Officials added that the situation remains fluid and flight schedules may continue to change depending on developments in the Middle East. Travellers planning international trips to Gulf countries have been advised to remain cautious and confirm their flight details in advance to avoid inconvenience.

Nampally Railway Station to Be Developed with International Standards - Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines Kishan Reddy has announced that the Hyderabad Deccan Railway Station, popularly known as Nampally Railway Station, will be redeveloped with international standards to provide world-class facilities for passengers. The redevelopment is part of the Central Government's broader initiative to modernize railway infrastructure and enhance passenger convenience across the country.

Speaking about the proposed project, Kishan Reddy said that the Nampally railway station will undergo a major transformation with modern infrastructure, advanced facilities, and improved passenger services. The aim of the redevelopment is to convert the station into a modern transit hub that meets global standards in design, accessibility, and efficiency.

According to the Union Minister, the redevelopment plan includes construction of a modern terminal building with spacious waiting halls, upgraded ticketing counters, and improved passenger circulation areas. The station will also be equipped with escalators, elevators, and better accessibility features to ensure ease of travel for senior citizens, women, and persons with disabilities.

The project will also focus on improving parking facilities and internal traffic management around the station. Digital information display boards, modern lighting systems, and upgraded platforms will be introduced to enhance the overall travel experience for passengers. Clean and well-maintained platforms, modern restrooms, and improved security systems are also part of the proposed development.

Kishan Reddy explained that the redevelopment of Nampally Railway Station will be carried out under the Central Government's rail-



way modernization initiatives, including the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Under this program, several railway stations across India are being transformed into modern and passenger-friendly hubs with improved infrastructure and services.

The Union Minister further stated that the Central Government is giving priority to railway development projects in Telangana. Several initiatives are already underway to strengthen railway connectivity, improve passenger amenities, and expand railway infrastructure in the state.

He noted that upgrading important stations like Nampally will play a crucial role in supporting Hyderabad's growing transportation needs. The modernization of the station will also contribute to the city's development by improving connectivity and making travel more convenient for thousands of passengers who use the station daily.

Once completed, the upgraded Nampally Railway Station is expected to become one of the most modern railway facilities in the region. With international-standard infrastructure and improved passenger services, the station will significantly enhance the travel experience while supporting the overall growth of Hyderabad's transportation network.

Ponguleti Lays Foundation for 100-Bed Hospital



Tirumalayapalem, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Thursday laid the foundation stone for a new 100-bed Area Hospital at Tirumalayapalem in Khammam district. The hospital will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹26 crore and is expected to significantly improve healthcare services for people in tribal and rural areas.

Speaking at a public meeting held on the occasion, the minister said that residents of the region, particularly tribal communities, have long faced hardships during medical emergencies. "Earlier, when an emergency occurred in the middle of the night, people had no option but to rush to Khammam town for treatment. Soon, such difficulties will end as quality healthcare facilities will be available

right here," he said.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy emphasized that the state government aims to provide corporate-level healthcare facilities even in rural and tribal areas. He recalled that the existing hospital earlier functioned with only 30 beds and limited facilities, forcing patients to travel to private hospitals in Khammam for even basic treatment.

"With the construction of this 100-bed hospital, the facility will be upgraded with modern infrastructure and advanced medical equipment. Services such as dialysis units and other essential healthcare facilities will soon be available locally, ensuring that patients receive timely treatment without traveling long distances," the minister stated.

The minister also addressed doc-

tors and medical staff, stressing the importance of their presence and dedication. He said that while the government can invest heavily in infrastructure, the real success of a hospital depends on the availability and commitment of doctors and staff.

"Doctors are equal to gods for patients. Medical personnel should stay at the headquarters and be accessible to the public at all times. Hospitals in places like Charla, Manuguru and Yellandu are delivering excellent services, and similar dedication is expected here," he said, adding that staff who perform their duties sincerely would be recognized and rewarded.

Highlighting the government's priorities, the minister said the administration under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is committed to strengthening education and

healthcare sectors. According to him, the government has made significant progress in improving infrastructure across the state over the past two years.

Ponguleti also directed the contractor to begin construction work immediately and complete the project on a war footing. He set a deadline to finish the hospital building by December this year so that the facility can be inaugurated and made operational without delay.

Later, the minister distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak financial assistance cheques to beneficiaries. Additional Collector Srinivas Reddy, health department officials, public representatives, local leaders, and a large number of residents attended the event.

Hyderabad Gears Up for FIH Women's Hockey World Qualifiers

Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is set to host a prestigious international sporting event as the Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH) Women's World Qualifiers 2026 prepares to kick off in Hyderabad. A media briefing on the tournament was held today at L.B. Stadium, Hyderabad, attended by Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, Telangana Sports Authority Chairman Sivaseenareddy, and Sports Authority MD Sony Baladevi.

Minister Vakiti Srihari highlighted Hyderabad's growing reputation as a global city capable of hosting international sports events. "Under the guidance of the Telangana Sports Department, all arrangements for the FIH Women's Hockey World Qualifiers 2026 have been completed. The event will take place from March 8 to 14 at the Gachibowli Hockey Stadium in Hyderabad," he said.

The tournament will see participation from several international teams, including India, Austria, England, Italy, Korea, Scotland, and Wales. These matches are crucial for qualifying for the Women's Hockey World Cup 2026.

Srihari emphasized that the Tel-



angana Sports Authority has ensured that every facility meets international standards, including an upgraded astroturf field, high-level security arrangements, modern amenities, and comfortable accommodations for athletes. Coordination has been maintained with both Fédération Internationale de Hockey and Hockey India to guarantee smooth conduct of the tournament.

All participating teams have already arrived in Hyderabad and were received with grand hospitality organized by the Telangana Sports Department. Practice sessions are underway at the modernized Gachibowli Astroturf Stadium, allowing athletes to acclimatize to the venue. Additionally, cultural programs and heritage tours have been arranged for international delegates and athletes, blending sports

with local experiences.

Minister Srihari stressed that the Telangana government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has been instrumental in promoting sports, which has enabled the state to host such high-profile international events successfully. "Thanks to the support and encouragement of the Chief Minister, the Telangana Sports Department has made significant progress over the past two years," he added.

He also referenced the recently concluded second phase of the Chief Minister's Cup (2025), conducted across five tiers from the village level upwards, as an example of the government's commitment to grassroots sports development.

Srihari called upon media personnel and the public to attend the matches daily and promote the tournament widely, emphasizing the importance of public engagement in making the event a grand success. He concluded by affirming that the Telangana Sports Department will continue to introduce more programs aimed at nurturing sporting talent and fostering a culture of athletic excellence across the state.

Shock Over Tolichowki Building Accident; Leaders Express Condolences

Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed deep shock over the tragic accident that occurred at a seven-storey building under construction in Tolichowki. The incident claimed the lives of two construction workers and left several others seriously injured.

Reacting to the incident, Mahesh Kumar Goud described the accident as extremely unfortunate and heart-breaking. He conveyed his profound condolences to the families of the deceased workers and said that the loss of life in such circumstances is deeply distressing. He prayed for strength and courage for the bereaved families to cope with their grief during this difficult time.

The TPCC chief also urged the government to ensure that the injured workers receive the best possible medical treatment without delay. He appealed to the authorities to closely monitor the health condition of those undergoing treatment and provide them with all necessary support.



Highlighting the importance of safety at construction sites, Mahesh Kumar Goud called upon officials to strictly enforce safety regulations and standards. He emphasized that negligence in safety measures often leads to tragic incidents and stressed the need for stronger supervision to prevent such accidents in the future.

According to him, authorities must take proactive steps to ensure that all construction activities comply with established safety norms.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar also expressed profound grief over the accident. He described the loss of two workers and the injuries sus-

tained by others as deeply disturbing. The minister immediately spoke with district officials, including the district collector and the city police commissioner, to obtain details about the incident and the circumstances surrounding it.

Ponnamb Prabhakar directed officials to ensure that the injured workers receive quality medical care and necessary assistance. He also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and assured that the government would extend all possible support to them.

The minister further instructed authorities to strengthen monitoring at construction sites and ensure strict adherence to safety protocols. He stressed that preventive measures and vigilant supervision are essential to avoid such tragic incidents and protect the lives of workers engaged in construction activities across the city.

Authorities are currently gathering details about the cause of the accident, and further action is expected after a detailed assessment of the situation.

Tribal Women from Padayatra Steal the Spotlight at Bhatti Family Wedding



Telangana, March 5 | TPN Bureau

A unique and heartwarming moment unfolded at the wedding of Surya Vikramaditya, son of Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, and Sakshi. Among the political leaders and celebrities present, a group of tribal women who had once walked alongside Bhatti Vikramarka during a major padayatra became the center of attention at the celebrations.

The Padayatra Connection Before the previous elections, Bhatti Vikramarka, then CLP leader, conducted a massive padayatra spanning Adilabad district's Booth areas to Khammam. During that journey, several tribal women participated actively, displaying remarkable dedication and support. Key participants included Vale Lakshmbai, Dakur Rukmabai, Durga Sindu from Busemetta in Jainoor mandal, and Marap Gangubai, Suman Bai, Seeda Lakshmbai from Devaguda in Uttoor mandal.

Throughout the arduous march under scorching heat, these women supported Bhatti Vikramarka, offering traditional tribal refreshments and ensuring he remained energetic and healthy. Their dedication left a lasting impression on him, forging bonds that transcended politics and persisted over the years.

Honoring Old Bonds at the Wedding In a gesture of gratitude, Bhatti Vikramarka personally

invited these women to his son's wedding, ensuring they received a warm and prominent welcome. The tribal women were not only guests but were given special seats on the wedding stage, highlighting their importance and the enduring friendship shared with the Bhatti family.

During the event, the deputy chief minister and his spouse interacted warmly with the women, inquiring about their well-being and remembering their contributions during the padayatra. The gesture was widely appreciated, demonstrating the value of human relationships, loyalty, and gratitude in political life.

The presence of these tribal women at the wedding not only captivated attendees but also served as a symbolic reminder of Bhatti Vikramarka's connection to grassroots supporters. By honoring those who had stood by him during challenging times, the Bhatti family showcased humility, respect, and a sense of community that goes beyond ceremonial formalities.

Observers noted that this event highlighted how political leaders can maintain personal relationships and gratitude toward supporters, even amidst the grandeur of high-profile weddings. The ceremony was lauded for blending tradition, politics, and heartfelt recognition, creating a memorable experience for everyone present.

Seethakka Calls for Revolutionary Changes in Villages



Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Seethakka has urged officials and local representatives to focus on achieving fundamental changes in villages following the completion of a 99-day development program. Speaking about the opportunities now available, she highlighted that unlike in the past, when 15th Finance Commission funds were not released and village leadership positions were vacant, both resources and leadership are now in place, enabling transformative development.

"Now that the Finance Commission funds are available and sarpanches are in office, if you work diligently, you can bring revolutionary changes to rural communities," she said. She emphasized the importance of systematically documenting the progress of development initiatives undertaken by her department, calling for a comprehensive progress report to be released publicly.

The minister instructed officials to ensure that all tasks initiated as part of the ongoing work tours are completed without delay. In addition, she stressed that village assemblies should formally pass resolutions to encourage the consumption of safe water from the Mission Bhagiratha program and to create awareness among residents about preventing child marriages.

Seethakka also underlined the need for strict adherence to the regulations governing the use of 15th Finance Com-

mission funds. She noted that in the fiscal year 2023-24, the Finance Commission released ₹245 crore to support various development activities. These funds should be properly utilized for ongoing sanitation, drinking water, and other infrastructure projects. Any deviation from prescribed norms in fund allocation would result in strict action.

"The state government is also releasing funds for other completed projects from that period, ensuring that no developmental work remains pending due to bureaucratic delays or lack of resources," she added.

Officials were reminded that their performance in completing sanctioned projects and achieving measurable results in villages would be closely monitored. Minister Seethakka stressed that accountability and transparency in fund utilization are crucial to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach intended beneficiaries.

Through her directives, the minister reinforced the government's commitment to improving rural infrastructure, providing clean drinking water, enhancing sanitation, and promoting social welfare initiatives. She urged village leaders to actively engage with their communities, monitor the progress of development work, and ensure that Mission Bhagiratha and other key programs are fully implemented to improve the quality of life in Telangana's villages.

MP Mallu Ravi Hails Narendra Reddy's RS Nomination



Telangana, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana MP Mallu Ravi has expressed his delight over senior leader Narendra Reddy receiving a Rajya Sabha ticket from the All India Congress Committee (AICC). Narendra Reddy, a key figure in the party, previously worked closely with then TPCC president and current Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to challenge the governance of the KCR-led government in Telangana.

Speaking on the occasion, Mallu Ravi described Narendra Reddy as highly deserving of the Rajya Sabha nomination, citing his significant contributions to establishing Congress governance in the state over the past two years. He emphasized that Reddy has been an essential advisor to the Chief Minister, playing a pivotal role in shaping people-centric policies and ensuring effective public administration.

"Narendra Reddy has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to public service. His extensive experience and strategic acumen make him fully qualified for the Rajya Sabha," Mallu Ravi remarked.

The MP also took the opportunity to convey his gratitude to senior Congress leaders for their support in facilitating Reddy's nomination. He thanked AICC leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Rahul Gandhi for their guidance, as well as

K.C. Venugopal and AICC in-charge Meenakshi Lekhi. Mallu Ravi also expressed appreciation to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud for their key roles in endorsing Reddy's candidacy.

Observers note that Narendra Reddy's elevation to the Rajya Sabha underscores the Congress party's focus on rewarding senior leaders who have contributed strategically to the party's growth in Telangana. His nomination is expected to strengthen the party's voice at the national level, while highlighting the importance of experience and loyalty in political advancement.

Mallu Ravi's statements also highlighted the collaborative efforts within the party that led to this decision. He described Reddy's selection as a culmination of sustained commitment to public service, grassroots organization, and political strategy, reflecting the value the Congress party places on seasoned leadership.

Party workers and supporters have welcomed the nomination, viewing it as recognition for leaders who have played crucial roles in consolidating Congress presence in Telangana. The move is expected to bolster morale among cadres and strengthen the party's representation in the Rajya Sabha.

Dasoju Questions Revanth Reddy's Claim Over Rahul Gandhi's PM Candidacy



Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Congress leader Dasoju has sharply criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his recent remarks suggesting that he has the authority to "make" Rahul Gandhi the Prime Ministerial candidate of India. Dasoju described Reddy's statements as an exhibition of political arrogance and undue pride stemming from his amassed wealth and influence.

According to Dasoju, Revanth Reddy's attempts to project himself as a power broker capable of determining the nation's highest office are both absurd and laughable. "By projecting himself in this manner, Reddy is creating a false perception that his financial strength, political machinery, and muscle power have grown to the extent of deciding India's Prime Minister. This is a politically ridiculous claim," Dasoju said.

Dasoju further emphasized that Rahul Gandhi's leadership has been forged through decades of public engagement and nationwide movements, notably the historic Bharat Jodo Yatra. The Congress leader questioned the logic of implying that Gandhi requires certification or endorsement from a state chief minister with a long list of pending criminal cases. "Does Rahul Gandhi need a certificate from a corrupt Chief Minister who seeks cheap publicity to fight for the Prime Minister's post? Absolutely not," Dasoju asserted.

The Congress leader also highlighted the problematic framing cre-

ated by Reddy's statements. By implying that Gandhi is reluctant to contest the Prime Ministerial post and requires persuasion, Reddy is misrepresenting reality and attempting to shape public perception for personal political gain.

"These theatrics not only undermine the credibility of Rahul Gandhi and the Indian National Congress but also trivialize serious national politics, reducing it to a stage for Reddy's self-serving publicity," Dasoju added.

Party officials reiterated that national leadership is built on public trust, democratic processes, and the party's internal decision-making mechanisms—not on endorsements from individual state leaders. They called on Revanth Reddy to refrain from making statements that distort political narratives for attention and self-promotion.

Dasoju concluded that while public discourse and debate are essential to a healthy democracy, attempts to manipulate perceptions of national leadership for personal advantage only weaken the political environment. He urged political leaders to focus on substantive issues and responsible governance rather than personal publicity stunts.

The statement has sparked debate among political observers, highlighting ongoing tensions within the state and national-level Congress leadership and emphasizing the importance of separating individual ambition from collective party interests.

Dasoju Srajan Alleges Illegal Mining Near Himayath Sagar

Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

BRS MLC Dasoju Srajan has alleged large-scale illegal mining and operation of crusher units in the surroundings of Himayath Sagar, claiming that the activities resemble "another KGF" in the way natural resources are being exploited.

Speaking to the media after a field inspection, Dr. Srajan said a BRS fact-finding delegation visited the area and examined crusher units operating in Survey Numbers 66, 67, 68, and 69 near Himayath Sagar. The delegation included BRS leaders such as R. S. Praveen Kumar, Rajendranagar party in-charge Patlolla Karthik Reddy, former SC/ST Commission chairman Erolla Srinivas, and other senior leaders.

Dr. Srajan said the situation at the site reminded him of scenes from the movie K.G.F: Chapter 1, alleging that hills are being blasted and natural resources looted indiscriminately. "The way hillocks are being crushed and minerals extracted in huge quantities clearly shows that the area is being exploited without regard for environmental or legal norms," he said.

According to him, the region falls under the GO 111 (Triple One) zone, where strict environmental regulations prohibit mining and industrial activities to protect the catchment areas of reservoirs. Despite these restrictions, several crush-



er units are allegedly operating by violating rules and regulations. He said local residents had complained multiple times to authorities, but no effective action had been taken.

Dr. Srajan pointed out that operating a crusher unit requires several mandatory approvals, including mining leases, quarry permits, No Objection Certificates from the Gram Panchayat, environmental clearances, and permissions from groundwater authorities. Typically, at least nine different clearances are required before such units can be established.

However, he alleged that many units in the Himayath Sagar region are functioning without most of these approvals.

The BRS leader also raised questions about the reopening of a crusher unit that had reportedly been shut down earlier. He demanded that the government clarify who authorized the transfer of the lease and who permitted the unit to resume operations.

Further, Dr. Srajan said mining activities are not allowed within a one-kilometre radius of the Outer Ring Road Hyderabad. However, the crusher units inspected by the del-

egation were reportedly located within less than one kilometre of the highway.

He also expressed concern about the activities of Raghava Constructions, which is allegedly operating a stone crusher unit and a Ready Mix Concrete (RMC) plant in the Manasa Hills area under Rajendranagar limits. Dr. Srajan accused the company of running the units on assigned lands meant for the poor, which cannot legally be transferred, leased, or used for industrial purposes under the Assigned Lands Act.

According to preliminary estimates cited by

the MLC, nearly eight lakh tonnes of rock may have been extracted from the site. At a seigniorage fee of ₹167 per tonne, he alleged that the state government may have suffered a loss of more than ₹14 crore in revenue, with the total estimated loss reaching around ₹15.23 crore including other charges.

Dr. Srajan demanded a comprehensive investigation into the alleged illegal mining activities and urged the government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to take strict action against those responsible, regardless of their political position.

State-Level ST Cell Meeting Highlights Tribal Welfare Initiatives



Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

A comprehensive state-level meeting of the Scheduled Tribes (ST) Cell was organized today at Gandhi Bhavan, bringing together party leaders and representatives from across Telangana to discuss tribal welfare and development initiatives. The event saw the participation of key officials and members working to

strengthen the Congress Party's outreach among tribal communities.

The chief guest of the meeting, TPCC Tribal Chairman and MLC, Shri Ketawat Shankar Nayak, addressed the gathering and outlined a roadmap for the upliftment of tribal populations across the state. He emphasized the need for consistent and proactive efforts to address issues faced by tribal

communities and urged party leaders to work diligently in all districts.

Shri Nayak highlighted that holding a position as an ST Chairman should not be about merely occupying a title; rather, leaders must actively engage with people, solve problems, and implement welfare programs that directly benefit tribal communities. "Our work among tribal populations

should focus on action and service, not just position," he said.

The Chairman encouraged ST Cell members to dedicate themselves tirelessly to Congress Party activities while simultaneously promoting the welfare of tribals. "Serving the tribal community diligently not only strengthens the party but also paves the way for recognition and opportunities within the party hierarchy," he added. He stressed that committed leaders who prioritize public service and tribal empowerment will naturally be acknowledged with higher responsibilities and leadership roles.

The meeting included detailed discussions on the various challenges faced by tribal communities in Telangana, ranging from access to education and health services to economic and social empowerment. Leaders from multiple districts shared experiences, successful initiatives, and strategies to address region-specific

issues.

The gathering also focused on the importance of grassroots engagement and ensuring that tribal welfare programs are implemented effectively and transparently. Shri Nayak urged all ST Cell members to take responsibility for mobilizing local resources, liaising with government agencies, and monitoring the progress of welfare schemes to ensure measurable outcomes.

The event concluded with a consensus on continued collaboration between district-level ST chairpersons and state leadership to create a coordinated framework for tribal development. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to the Congress Party's vision of inclusive growth, emphasizing that serving marginalized communities remains a top priority.

The next follow-up meeting to review the progress of tribal welfare initiatives is scheduled for March 11 at Gandhi Bhavan.

GHMC Audit Officer Caught in ACB Trap

Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

In a major anti-corruption operation, officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) caught a Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) audit section officer red-handed while allegedly accepting a bribe in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

According to ACB officials, the accused officer was working in the audit and accounts section of GHMC. He allegedly demanded a bribe from a complainant for processing and forwarding official files related to financial clearances. The complainant, unwilling to pay the bribe, approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau and lodged a complaint against the officer.

Acting swiftly on the complaint, ACB officials conducted a preliminary verification and confirmed that the officer had demanded illegal gratification. Following this, the

officials laid a trap to catch him while accepting the bribe amount.

During the trap operation, the accused officer was caught red-handed while receiving the bribe from the complainant at his office. The ACB team immediately intervened and recovered the tainted money from his possession. Officials also conducted chemical tests which confirmed that the officer had handled the bribe amount during the operation.

After the arrest, ACB officials conducted searches and collected documents related to the case. A case has been registered against the accused under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act. He was later taken into custody and will be produced before the special court for further legal proceedings.

ACB officials stated that demanding or accepting bribes by public servants

is a serious offence and strict action will be taken against those involved in corrupt practices. They emphasized that government employees must perform their duties with integrity and transparency while serving the public. The bureau also urged

citizens not to encourage corruption and to come forward to report any instances of bribery by government officials. Authorities assured that the identity of complainants will be kept confidential and appropriate action will be taken against those

found guilty. The ACB reiterated its commitment to curb corruption in government departments and ensure accountability in public administration through continuous vigilance and strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws.



Garbage Piles Persist Despite Warnings in Quthbullapur



Quthbullapur, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Quthbullapur are facing severe sanitation issues as garbage continues to pile up in several neighborhoods, despite repeated warnings and signboards urging people not to litter. Areas such as Gandhi Maisamma, Balaji Colony, and Bahadurpalli, particularly near double-bedroom clusters, are witnessing increasing accumulation of waste on streets, creating a public health hazard.

The municipal sanitation system, which has transitioned to a circle-based structure, was expected to improve cleanliness and service delivery. While officials, including the CMC Commissioner, have conducted field-level inspections across various circles, residents report that garbage remains scattered on roads, making daily life difficult. In many cases, household waste is discarded directly onto streets, emitting a foul odor that pedestrians and commuters struggle to tolerate.

Especially concerning is the accumulation near Balaji Colony Circle Office, just a short distance from the administrative hub, raising questions about the effectiveness of sanitation authorities. Signboards warning that "disposing of garbage in public areas is a social offense" are often ignored, and ironically, waste continues to accumulate right in front of these boards. Locals claim that these

warnings have become symbolic rather than functional, serving more to inform than to enforce compliance.

The lack of timely waste collection further worsens the situation. In frustration, some residents have reportedly resorted to burning garbage on streets, aggravating air pollution and raising serious health concerns. Children, the elderly, and daily commuters are particularly affected by the unpleasant smell and unhygienic conditions.

Residents have expressed strong criticism against authorities for failing to take responsibility for public health and cleanliness. They demand immediate action, including removal of accumulated garbage, strict monitoring of waste management practices, and implementation of a permanent solution to prevent recurring problems. The call is not just for temporary cleanup drives but for a systematic and sustainable approach to sanitation that ensures streets remain clean and safe.

As Quthbullapur continues to grow, residents insist that proactive and consistent intervention is crucial to safeguard public health and maintain urban hygiene. Without decisive action, the sanitation crisis is likely to escalate further, impacting the quality of life and overall well-being of the local population.

Telangana Unemployed Youth Plan Massive Assembly March



Osmania University, March 5 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Unemployed Joint Action Committee (JAC) has announced plans to stage a major march on March 13 in Dilsukhnagar, demanding the state government fill all vacant government jobs immediately. The announcement was made today by Telangana Unemployed JAC Chairman Motilal Nayak at Osmania University.

As part of the campaign, students unveiled posters related to the upcoming unemployment march at the main library campus of the university. Speaking on the occasion, Motilal Nayak urged the Telangana government to discuss the issue urgently in the Assembly and release notifications for pending job vacancies across the state.

"The state government must ensure that all vacant government positions are filled without further delay," Motilal Nayak stated, emphasizing that unemployed youth have been waiting for long due to bureaucratic delays. He further warned that if their demands are not met, the JAC will intensify its protest actions.

According to the plan, following the March 13 march with around 10,000 students participating in Dilsukhnagar, the JAC intends to target key government offices in the state. They have announced that on March 14, the Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC) office will be staged, followed by a march to the Telangana Leg-

islative Assembly on March 15. These actions are being framed as part of a sustained campaign to pressurize authorities to expedite job recruitment processes.

Motilal Nayak highlighted the growing frustration among educated youth who have been waiting for government employment for several years. "Thousands of graduates across Telangana are facing uncertainty, and it is the government's responsibility to provide them with opportunities," he said.

The program at Osmania University was attended by key JAC members including Jansi, Asma, Ramakrishna, Kayy Venkatesh, Suresh Chauhan, and Kiran Rathod, among others. Students and activists at the event emphasized the need for coordinated statewide action to draw attention to the issue and compel authorities to act decisively.

With the March 13 march set to involve thousands of students from various districts, organizers are calling on the government to take immediate steps to release notifications and expedite recruitment. They warned that continued delays could lead to more large-scale mobilizations and public demonstrations across Telangana.

The JAC's initiative reflects mounting pressure from unemployed youth demanding urgent attention to government hiring processes and a sustainable solution to the state's unemployment crisis.

"One Health Ambulance" Services Launched in Hyderabad



Quthbullapur, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Mallareddy Vishwavidyapeeth, under the aegis of Mallareddy Group of Institutions, officially launched the "One Health Ambulance" services in Hyderabad today. The initiative was inaugurated by the Founder and Chairman of Mallareddy Group, C.H. Mallareddy, highlighting the importance of rapid emergency response to save lives.

Speaking at the event, organizers emphasized that the ambulances are equipped with state-of-the-art technology to provide

immediate pre-hospital care during emergencies. Currently, Hyderabad faces a shortage of emergency ambulances, with only one ambulance available for every 37,000 residents. In some areas, response times can stretch up to 40-50 minutes, putting lives at risk. The "One Health Ambulance" service is designed to address this critical gap.

The new ambulances are equipped with both Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) systems. They feature 5G-enabled live patient monitoring to transmit real-time health data to

hospitals while en route, allowing doctors to assess the patient's condition and prepare for immediate treatment. In addition, a mobile app is set to be launched soon, enabling SOS bookings and live ambulance tracking to enhance convenience and accessibility.

A dedicated emergency number, 9734 108 108, has been released for prompt assistance. Initially, the service will cover major areas including Malkajgiri, Financial District, Bachupalli, Manikonda, Shamirpet, KPHB, Secunderabad, ECIL, Miyapur, and Panja-

gutta, ensuring timely emergency response in densely populated regions.

C.H. Mallareddy, who also serves as the MLA of Medchal, stressed that the first few minutes in emergency situations are critical in saving lives. He noted that the ambulances are staffed by trained medical teams and integrated with advanced technological systems to provide immediate and effective care.

The launch event was attended by key dignitaries including Dr. Bhadra Reddy, Chairman of Mallareddy Vishwavidyapeeth, Vice-Chairman Dr. Preeti Reddy,

and senior staff from Mallareddy Narayana Hospitals. The organizers reiterated that this initiative represents a major step toward improving Hyderabad's emergency healthcare infrastructure and ensuring public safety.

The "One Health Ambulance" service aims to significantly reduce response times, deliver critical care directly to patients, and revolutionize emergency medical services in Hyderabad. This initiative sets a benchmark for combining technology and healthcare to save lives efficiently.

Residents of Kompally Demand Immediate Action on Civic Issues

Kompally, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Kompally are raising concerns over persistent civic problems in the area, urging authorities to take immediate action. Local BJP leaders submitted a memorandum to Kompally Circle Deputy Commissioner Krishnareddy, highlighting several unresolved issues affecting daily life in multiple colonies within the division. The submission was led by district vice president Rajireddy.

The memorandum pointed out that areas such as Avani Garden, Aparna Palm Grove, Delight Fortune, MRF Tyres Road, both sides of the National Highway, Jayabheri Park, NCL, and Umamaheshwar Colony are facing severe civic challenges. Residents are struggling with poor drainage systems, lack of proper roads, insufficient street lighting, and issues caused by stray dogs. These problems have caused daily inconvenience and posed safety risks for pedestrians and commuters alike.



BJP leaders criticized the authorities for failing to address these issues even after residents had previously raised concerns when the area was under municipal jurisdiction. They stressed that it is unfortunate that citizens continue to pay taxes while enduring such persistent

problems. The leaders urged immediate remedial measures to ensure public safety and improve the quality of civic amenities in Kompally.

The event saw participation from several prominent BJP leaders and local representatives. BJP State Mahila Morcha official

Saritha Rao, Satish Sagar (Kompally), Doolapalli BJP President, Quthbullapur Assembly Co-convenor Shivaji Raju, district Giritan Morcha leader Shankar Nayak, and Kompally division leaders Narasimha, Madhu, Prakash Rao, Mahender Sagar, and Narayana Reddy attended the pro-

gram. Their presence underscored the seriousness of the demands and the party's commitment to addressing citizens' grievances.

Local residents emphasized that poor civic infrastructure not only hampers daily life but also affects public health and safety. The leaders highlighted that swift intervention is essential to prevent further inconvenience and ensure that the area's roads, drainage, and public amenities meet acceptable standards.

The BJP leaders concluded by urging the Deputy Commissioner to prioritize these concerns and implement permanent solutions. They emphasized the need for proper monitoring and accountability to ensure that civic services in Kompally meet the expectations of its residents. With continued pressure from citizens and local political leaders, authorities are expected to act swiftly to address the issues affecting Kompally colonies.

Inter-Second Year Student Commits Suicide in Saroor Nagar

Saroor Nagar, March 5 | TPN Bureau

A tragic incident occurred in Lingojiguda, Saroor Nagar, as 17-year-old Inter Second Year student Gautam Sharma, son of Ramasri Sharma and a resident of Manipur Colony, ended his life at home on March 4, 2026. Gautam, who was preparing for his Inter Second Year examinations, reportedly became distressed after performing poorly in his Mathematics 2A exam.

According to police reports, Gautam had gone to Yadagirigutta with family members during the Holi festival. Upon returning home, he was found in distress and reportedly set himself on fire in isolation. Family members immediately rushed him to Global Hospital, where doctors confirmed that he had already succumbed to his injuries.

The Saroor Nagar police arrived at the scene follow-



ing notification of the incident. The deceased's body was subsequently sent to Osmania Mortuary for post-mortem examination. Circle Inspector Saidir Reddy confirmed that a case has been registered and an investigation has been initiated to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Local authorities and police have expressed condolences to the grieving family and emphasized the importance of mental health awareness among students. Education officials have also noted the growing pressures faced by young students in competitive academic environments, highlighting the

need for parental support and timely counseling.

This incident has sparked concern among residents of Lingojiguda and surrounding areas, particularly regarding student stress and mental health challenges. Community members and educators are urging greater awareness and support systems to prevent such

tragedies in the future. While investigations continue, police are collecting statements from family members and reviewing the events leading up to Gautam Sharma's death. Authorities have called for sensitivity and cooperation from the public during the ongoing inquiry.

The tragic death of Gautam Sharma serves as a reminder of the mounting pressures on students in rigorous academic settings and the importance of addressing mental health concerns early. Experts advise parents and educators to be vigilant, provide emotional support, and ensure that students have access to counseling and guidance during exam periods and other stressful situations.

Authorities have urged students and families to seek help if experiencing emotional distress, emphasizing that timely intervention can prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Star-Studded Guests Bless Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka's Son at GMR Arena Wedding



Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

A grand wedding celebration took place at the GMR Arena near Shamshabad Airport as Surya Vikramaditya, son of Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, married Sakshi. The ceremony drew a remarkable gathering of political leaders, film personalities, and public figures who came to bless the newlyweds.

AP PCC President Y.S. Sharmila and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao attended the wedding, along with prominent filmmakers including director V.V. Vinayak and actor Venela Gaddar. From the central political landscape, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh and his spouse were also present, adding a national dimension

to the event.

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and former CM Y.S. Satyamani Vijayamma were among the senior Congress leaders who attended, along with ministers Konda Surekha, Vakiti Srihari, Vivek, KVP, and Ramchandra Rao. Rajendra Pal Gautam, Chairman of the Congress SC Department, and government whip Beerla Aiyilayya, as well as CPI State Secretary Kooneni Sambashiva Rao, were also part of the distinguished guest list.

Telangana political stalwarts added further prestige to the event, including BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and Harish Rao, along with former ministers and MLAs like Gangula Kamalakar, Padi Kaushik Reddy, and former MP San-

toth. The gathering reflected a unique mix of political and social influence across regional and national levels.

The wedding ceremony was celebrated with elaborate cultural programs, traditional rituals, and festive arrangements. Guests from the political, social, and film communities offered blessings and shared in the joyous occasion. The event was noted for its warmth and cordial interactions among leaders from multiple parties, emphasizing the social significance of the gathering.

Surya Vikramaditya and Sakshi were felicitated by family members, leaders, and celebrities alike, with many highlighting the importance of unity, goodwill, and respect for tradition. The Bhatti family extend-

ed a heartfelt welcome to all attendees, ensuring that everyone—from national politicians to film stars—was accorded proper recognition and hospitality.

Observers noted that the wedding not only showcased grandeur but also strengthened social and political networks. The ceremony highlighted how prominent families in Telangana combine cultural traditions with public life, creating a memorable event for attendees and the wider community.

The wedding at GMR Arena served as a confluence of politics, cinema, and society, providing a platform for leaders and celebrities to celebrate a significant personal milestone while enjoying a well-orchestrated festive atmosphere.

Justice Demanded for Karla Rajesh Family Following Custodial Death

Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

The family of Karla Rajesh, who died while in police custody, is seeking justice, with strong demands from Dalit Bahujan Students Association (DBSA) State Coordinator, Jungili Darshan. A DBSA meeting was organized at the Arts College, Osmania University, where Darshan addressed the pressing need for accountability and systemic reforms.

Speaking at the gathering, Jungili Darshan demanded that all police officials responsible for Karla Rajesh's death be immediately suspended and brought under strict legal supervision. He called for an independent judicial inquiry under the supervision of a sitting judge to ensure a fair investigation.

Darshan emphasized that the state government must take full responsibility for the incident and ensure that those found guilty face stringent punishment. In addition to criminal accountability, he demanded that the Karla Rajesh family be provided with adequate financial assistance, and that a government job be offered to at least



one member of the family to support them.

To prevent future custodial deaths, Darshan suggested the formation of a special statutory monitoring committee and the transparent implementation of CCTV systems in all police stations, enabling public oversight. He also urged the government to take firm

action against systemic oppression and atrocities targeted at Dalits.

"Losing an innocent life is not just a family tragedy; it is a societal injustice," he stated. Darshan stressed that justice for Karla Rajesh must be ensured through strict enforcement of the law, and that perpetrators, regardless of their position or influence, must be

punished without leniency.

The DBSA coordinator reiterated that the fight for justice would continue until the Karla Rajesh family receives complete redress. He underlined the importance of public vigilance and continuous pressure on authorities to uphold human rights and safeguard vulnerable communities from abuse and negligence.

The meeting concluded with a call for sustained advocacy, community mobilization, and collaboration with legal authorities to guarantee that incidents of custodial death do not go unpunished. Participants expressed their solidarity with the Karla Rajesh family and committed to ongoing campaigns to ensure accountability, transparency, and reforms in police functioning.

Jungili Darshan urged society at large to recognize the gravity of custodial deaths and work together to ensure that justice is served promptly, emphasizing that such incidents affect not only the immediate family but also the moral fabric of the community.

Sectorial Officer Visits Urban Residential School, Adilabad



Adilabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Sectorial Officer B. Lakshman visited the Urban Residential School (URS) in Adilabad this morning during the school's prayer session to observe and encourage students. The visit focused on monitoring the daily routines, discipline, and academic environment of the school, which caters to orphans, semi-orphans, and students who had previously discontinued their education.

During the visit, Officer Lakshman interacted with students and praised their discipline and focus during the prayer session. Addressing the students, he highlighted the importance of persistence, hard work, and dedication in achieving success in life. He urged each student to set clear goals and work consistently every day to accomplish them.

Officer Lakshman also engaged with the teaching staff, emphasizing the need to continuously improve educational standards. He suggested the implementation of special programs and activities to nurture students' talents and encourage holistic development. His guidance focused on creating an environment where both academic excellence and personal growth are prioritized.

The school administration welcomed the officer and assured him that his suggestions would be implemented to enhance both educational quality and student welfare. They highlighted the

school's commitment to providing high-quality education to disadvantaged students and helping them integrate successfully into mainstream academic and social life.

Speaking about the school's mission, the Sectorial Officer noted that the URS in Adilabad plays a crucial role in supporting students who might otherwise miss educational opportunities. By fostering discipline, a structured routine, and a focus on learning, the school ensures that students from underprivileged backgrounds have the tools and guidance to achieve their aspirations.

The visit also reinforced the importance of teacher-student engagement and highlighted the role of mentorship in guiding students towards success. Officer Lakshman emphasized that students should actively participate in all academic and extracurricular programs to maximize their potential.

The Urban Residential School continues to work towards its goal of delivering quality education to marginalized children, helping them build the confidence and skills needed for higher studies and professional growth. Officer Lakshman's visit served as both an evaluation of the school's current practices and an encouragement to students and teachers alike to maintain high standards of learning and personal development.

Ponnam Prabhakar Attends Ramzan Iftar at Chowmahalla Palace



Hyderabad, March 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar participated in a special Iftar dinner organized by the Hyderabad City Police at the historic Chowmahalla Palace in Hyderabad on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

The event was held under the supervision of the Hyderabad Police Commissionerate and brought together religious leaders, public representatives, officials, and members of the Muslim community. On the occasion, the minister extended warm Ramzan greetings to Muslim brothers and sisters and wished that the sacred month brings peace, prosperity, and unity to society.

Addressing the gathering, Ponnam Prabhakar said the prayers and blessings of people during the holy month of Ramadan are very important for the welfare and progress of society. He expressed hope that with the collective support and cooperation of all communities, Telangana would continue moving forward toward development and prosperity.

"Our prayers and blessings during this sacred month should guide us and strengthen our efforts. If we all move forward together, there will be no obstacles in achieving our goals," the minister said, adding that he has great faith in the people of the state and their commitment to supporting the development of Telangana.

He further emphasized that for

inclusive growth, it is important to overcome challenges in key sectors such as education, healthcare, innovation, and tourism. According to him, the blessings of Allah during the holy month of Ramadan would provide the strength needed to achieve these goals.

The minister also highlighted the efforts of the Telangana government under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to develop Hyderabad as a world-class city. He stated that the government is focusing on improving internal infrastructure and developing key areas across the city to strengthen its position as one of the most dynamic urban centers in the country.

Ponnam Prabhakar pointed out that Hyderabad has a unique environment and potential that is unmatched in many parts of India. By effectively utilizing the city's strengths, the government aims to further accelerate its growth and development.

He stressed that maintaining law and order is essential for attracting industries, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities. "Only when peace and security are maintained can industries, educational institutions, and medical professionals come and invest here," he said.

The minister praised the Hyderabad Police for maintaining strong law and order in the city and ensuring a peaceful atmosphere, which plays a key role in sustaining Hyderabad's reputation as a safe and progressive city.

CBIT to Host International Conference "SASIGD 2026" on Sustainable AI

Hyderabad, 05 March 2026 | TPN Bureau

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, is set to host the 2026 International Conference on Sustainable AI for Social Impact and Global Development (SASIGD 2026) on August 13-14, 2026 at its campus. The conference will focus on emerging trends in Artificial Intelligence (AI) that drive sustainability and address global development challenges.

SASIGD 2026 is technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (IEEE SSIT) and carries the IEEE Conference Record #68127. The event is expected to bring together researchers, academicians, industry professionals, and students from around the world to discuss the applications of AI for social good and sustainable development.

All accepted and presented papers will be published in IEEE Xplore, offering contributors global recognition for their research. The conference encourages original research submissions from scholars and practitioners working in AI,



sustainability, technology for social impact, and global development. Student participants are also invited to submit poster presentations to showcase innovative solutions.

The last date for paper submission is April 1, 2026, while the deadline for student poster submissions is May 8, 2026. Interested partici-

pants can submit their work through the conference website at <https://sasigd.org>.

The event is being organized under the leadership of Sri N. Subash, President of CBIT, who serves as the Chief Patron, and Prof. C. V. Narasimulu, Principal of CBIT, who serves as the Patron. The Gen-

eral Chairs of the conference are Dr. Ramalatha Marimuthu, Vice President (Memberships), IEEE SSIT, and Dr. Sagar Gujunoori, Associate Professor, Department of IT, CBIT.

The Organizing Co-Chairs include Prof. C. V. Narasimulu, Dr. M. Venugopala Chari, Dr. Kolikipogu Ramakrishna, and Dr. Vijayalatha Reddy, Past Chair of IEEE Hyderabad Section. Together, the team is ensuring that the conference provides a robust platform for collaboration, discussion, and knowledge sharing on AI-driven sustainability initiatives.

Speaking about the upcoming conference, organizers emphasized that SASIGD 2026 aims to bridge the gap between research and real-world applications, enabling AI innovations to contribute meaningfully to social welfare, environmental sustainability, and global development.

For further information or queries, participants can reach out to the organizing team at sasigd@cbit.ac.in.

How A Small Group Of London Insurers Brought Shipping In The Strait Of Hormuz To A Halt

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the most strategically important waterways in the world. Every day, millions of barrels of crude oil and vast quantities of liquefied natural gas pass through this narrow channel between Iran and Oman. Nearly one-fifth of the world's oil supply travels through this route, making it a vital lifeline for global energy markets and international trade.

In early March 2026, however, this crucial shipping lane nearly came to a standstill. Tankers stopped sailing, ships waited offshore, and maritime traffic through the strait sharply declined. What made the situation remarkable was that the disruption did not come from a naval blockade or a direct military closure of the waterway. Instead, it was triggered by a decision made thousands of kilometres away in London by a small network of marine insurance firms.

The incident revealed an often overlooked truth about global trade: in modern maritime commerce, insurance can be as powerful as military force.

Modern marine insurance has deep historical roots. Its origins can be traced back to London in the late seventeenth century, when merchants, shipowners and financiers gathered at coffee houses to exchange information about shipping routes and risks. Over time, investors began sharing the financial risks of long sea voyages. They would write their names beneath shipping contracts to indicate the portion of risk they agreed to cover. These individuals became known as "underwriters."

From these early arrangements grew a powerful insurance ecosystem centred in London. Over the centuries, the city became the global hub for maritime insurance, serving the vast majority of ships that operate across international waters. Today, a network of mutual insurance organisations known as Protection and Indemnity clubs



covers most of the world's ocean-going vessels. These clubs insure ships against a wide range of liabilities, including cargo damage, accidents, pollution and crew injuries.

Without such insurance, modern shipping simply cannot function. Ports often require proof of insurance before allowing vessels to dock, banks will not finance shipments without coverage, and cargo owners are unwilling to risk sending goods on uninsured vessels. In practical terms, a ship that cannot obtain insurance is effectively unable to operate.

This reality became clear when tensions escalated in the Middle East following the intensifying conflict involving Iran and Israel. As the situation deteriorated, maritime insurers began reassessing the risks of vessels operating in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Soon after the conflict esca-

lated, several insurers issued cancellation notices for war-risk coverage for ships passing through the region. War-risk insurance protects vessels against damage or losses caused by conflict, missile strikes, terrorism or other military-related threats at sea.

When this coverage was withdrawn, shipping companies were left with few options. Sailing through the strait without insurance would expose shipowners to enormous financial risk. A single missile strike or attack could destroy a vessel worth tens or hundreds of millions of dollars, not to mention the potential environmental damage and liability claims that could follow.

As a result, many tanker operators decided to halt their journeys. Ships carrying oil and other cargo began waiting in nearby waters, unsure whether it was safe or financially viable to contin-

ue. Within days, traffic through one of the world's busiest shipping corridors slowed dramatically.

The situation demonstrated how financial institutions can exert enormous influence over global trade. While naval forces can attempt to block shipping lanes through military action, insurance markets can achieve a similar outcome simply by declaring a region too risky to insure.

The sudden spike in insurance costs also played a role in the disruption. War-risk insurance premiums for ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz increased sharply as tensions grew. For large tankers worth hundreds of millions of dollars, the cost of insuring a single voyage rose dramatically. In some cases, insurers refused to provide coverage at all, particularly for ships linked to countries directly involved in the conflict.

The structure of the maritime insurance system further amplified the problem. Protection and Indemnity clubs share risks among their members and rely on reinsurance arrangements to protect themselves from large losses. However, the deeper layers of insurance backing often exclude major war-related risks. Once these supporting layers began withdrawing coverage, insurers were forced to cancel policies.

The result was a cascading effect across the shipping industry. Without insurance, shipowners could not sail. Without ships moving through the strait, global oil supplies faced serious disruption.

The episode was reminiscent of earlier conflicts in the region, such as the tanker war during the Iran-Iraq conflict in the 1980s, when merchant ships were frequently attacked in the Persian Gulf. However, there was one key

difference. In those earlier crises, shipping continued despite the risks because insurers continued to provide coverage, albeit at higher prices.

In the 2026 crisis, the withdrawal of insurance happened much more quickly. The strait was effectively paralysed in a matter of days.

Another important factor involved the rights of seafarers working on commercial vessels. International labour agreements classify certain areas of armed conflict as high-risk war zones. When such a designation is applied, crew members are entitled to additional compensation and special protections.

Sailors operating in these regions often receive daily bonuses equivalent to their regular wages, and companies must provide enhanced insurance coverage in case of injury or death. Perhaps more importantly, crew members have the legal right to

refuse to enter dangerous zones and request repatriation at the company's expense.

These labour protections add further complications for shipping companies. Even if insurers are willing to provide coverage, shipowners must still consider whether crews are prepared to sail into a conflict zone.

Governments have begun exploring ways to restore confidence in the shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz. Some proposals include offering government-backed insurance guarantees or deploying naval escorts to protect commercial vessels. Such measures are intended to reassure insurers, shipowners and crews that the risks can be managed.

For countries heavily dependent on imported energy, the disruption has serious implications. Nations that rely on oil shipments through the strait could face supply shortages and rising energy prices if shipping remains restricted.

The episode also highlights a broader geopolitical reality. In today's interconnected global economy, control over financial infrastructure can be just as powerful as control over territory. Decisions made in financial centres like London can ripple across oceans, affecting trade routes, energy markets and national economies.

For centuries, naval fleets and military power determined who controlled the world's shipping lanes. Today, however, a different kind of power is at play. Insurance firms and financial institutions have the ability to shape global commerce by determining which voyages are considered acceptable risks.

The events surrounding the Strait of Hormuz demonstrate that sometimes the most powerful actors in global trade are not governments or navies, but the quiet underwriters who decide whether a ship can sail at all.

Iran–Israel War: Did Trump Attack Iran Because It Had Nuclear Weapons — Or Because It Didn't?

The latest conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran has revived one of the most complex and controversial questions in global politics: why did the United States decide to attack Iran? Was it because Iran was close to acquiring nuclear weapons, or because it actually did not yet have them?

At the centre of this debate is the justification given by U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration for launching military strikes against Iran. While the official explanation focuses on preventing a nuclear threat and protecting American allies, critics argue that the reasoning behind the attack reveals deeper strategic calculations.

To understand this debate, it is necessary to examine both the official narrative and the arguments raised by analysts and critics.

The Official Reason: Preventing A Nuclear Iran

The primary justification offered by the Trump administration was that Iran could not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons. For years, Trump repeatedly stated that Tehran must never possess such capabilities, describing a nuclear-armed Iran as a serious threat to global security and stability.

Officials in Washington claimed that Iran had continued enriching uranium and was accumulating material that could potentially be used to build nuclear bombs. According to American officials, the increasing stockpile of enriched uranium raised fears that Iran could eventually de-

velop nuclear weapons.

From this perspective, the military strikes were presented as a pre-emptive action — an attempt to stop Iran before it crossed the threshold of becoming a nuclear-armed state. The United States and Israel argued that waiting until Iran actually produced a bomb would make the threat far more dangerous and harder to contain.

Supporters of the decision say this approach is consistent with decades of American and Israeli policy. Both countries have long argued that Iran's nuclear ambitions pose a serious security threat, particularly to Israel.

In this narrative, the strikes were not simply an act of aggression but a preventive measure intended to stop a potentially dangerous development.

The Pre-Emptive Strike Argument

Another explanation offered by the Trump administration was that Iran was preparing to attack first. Trump said he believed Iran was planning strikes against American interests and that the United States acted to prevent that scenario from unfolding.

According to this argument, the operation was a defensive move designed to stop imminent threats to American forces and regional allies.

However, this claim has been disputed by critics who say there was no clear evidence that Iran was planning an immediate attack on the United States.

Some lawmakers and analysts have argued that the ab-



sence of an obvious "imminent threat" raises serious questions about the legality and necessity of the military action.

This disagreement over whether the strike was defensive or offensive lies at the heart of the controversy surrounding the conflict.

A Strategic Paradox

The debate also highlights a striking paradox in international politics: Iran may have been attacked precisely because it did not yet possess nuclear weapons.

Historically, nuclear-armed states are rarely attacked directly by other major powers. Countries that possess nuclear weapons are considered extremely risky targets because retaliation could escalate into a devastating conflict.

Examples from global politics show that nations with nuclear weapons often gain a powerful deterrent against

military intervention.

Iran, however, occupies a different position. While it has a sophisticated nuclear program and the capability to enrich uranium to high levels, it has not officially demonstrated that it possesses nuclear weapons.

This places Iran in a strategic grey zone. It is powerful enough to raise concerns among its rivals, yet it does not have the full deterrence that comes with possessing nuclear weapons.

From this perspective, critics argue that the attack reflects a difficult geopolitical reality: countries may be most vulnerable before they acquire nuclear deterrence.

Intelligence And Uncertainty

The debate is further complicated by uncertainty surrounding Iran's nuclear program.

Reports have suggested that

Iran accumulated large quantities of enriched uranium, raising concerns that it could theoretically build nuclear bombs if it chose to weaponize the material.

At the same time, intelligence assessments have indicated that Iran had not yet taken the final step of developing an actual nuclear weapon.

This distinction between capability and intent is crucial. Enriching uranium to high levels does not automatically mean a country is building a bomb, but it does shorten the time required to do so if such a decision is made.

For policymakers, this creates a difficult dilemma: whether to act before a weapon exists or risk waiting until the threat becomes irreversible.

Israel's Security Concerns

Israel's concerns also play a major role in the conflict. Israeli leaders have long viewed Iran's nuclear program as a

potential existential threat.

For decades, Israeli officials have warned that Iran's leadership has supported groups hostile to Israel and has maintained strong opposition toward the country.

Because of these concerns, Israeli leaders have consistently argued that preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear-armed state is essential to national security.

From Israel's perspective, waiting until Iran developed a nuclear weapon would carry unacceptable risks.

Questions About The Justifications

Despite these explanations, critics say the justifications for the war appear inconsistent.

Some officials emphasized the nuclear threat as the main reason for the strikes. Others spoke about preventing an imminent attack, while some described the operation as part of a broader effort to weaken Iran's influence in the region.

These shifting explanations have led many observers to question whether the nuclear issue alone explains the decision to launch military action.

Some analysts believe the strikes may also have been influenced by wider strategic goals, including limiting Iran's regional power or forcing political pressure on its leadership.

The Message To The World Regardless of the exact motivation, the conflict sends a powerful message about nuclear deterrence.

It highlights the uncomfortable reality that nuclear weap-

ons can provide a form of security. Countries that possess them are often far more difficult to attack.

This dynamic creates a dangerous incentive. If states believe they are safer once they have nuclear weapons, they may be more likely to pursue them.

In that sense, the conflict may reinforce the very nuclear proliferation fears that policymakers claim they are trying to prevent.

A Question Without A Simple Answer

Ultimately, the question of whether the United States attacked Iran because it had nuclear weapons or because it did not may never have a simple answer.

Both interpretations contain elements of truth.

From the administration's perspective, the goal was to stop a dangerous nuclear program before it became irreversible. From the perspective of critics, the attack demonstrates how countries without nuclear weapons can remain vulnerable to military intervention.

What is clear is that the conflict reflects a deeper tension at the heart of global nuclear politics.

The international community wants to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Yet those same weapons often act as the strongest deterrent against war.

Iran now sits at the centre of that contradiction — a country whose nuclear ambitions triggered a conflict precisely because it had not yet fully realized them.

Amit Shah Launches Mascots 'Pragati' and 'Vikas' for India's First Fully Digital Census in 2027

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday unveiled the official mascots for India's upcoming digital population census scheduled for 2027, marking a significant step in preparations for what is expected to be the world's largest demographic survey. The launch also included the introduction of several digital platforms aimed at modernising and streamlining the census process across the country.

The mascots, named "Pragati" and "Vikas," symbolise female and male enumerators respectively and are meant to highlight equal participation of women and men in the nationwide exercise. Officials said the mascots will serve as the public faces of the campaign, helping spread awareness about the census and encouraging citizens to participate actively in the data-collection process.

The initiative marks the beginning of preparations for India's first fully digital census, which will rely heavily on technology for collecting and managing data. Unlike previous census exercises that largely depended on paper-based surveys, the 2027 census will use digital platforms and mobile applications to record household and population data.

During the event, the government also introduced four key digital tools developed to support the entire enumerating



tion process, from mapping households to monitoring the progress of the census in real time.

One of the platforms is the Houselisting Block Creator, a web-based application that uses satellite imagery to help officials digitally map and create houselisting blocks. This system is expected to improve geographic accuracy and ensure better coverage during the survey.

Another tool is the HLO mobile application, which will allow enumerators to collect and upload data directly through smartphones while conducting field surveys. The use of mobile technology aims to reduce paperwork and speed up the process of compiling information from across the country.

For the first time, citizens will also have the option to provide their details through a

self-enumeration portal. Through this system, members of a household can submit their information online before enumerators visit their homes. After completing the online form, households will receive a unique self-enumeration ID that will later be verified during the door-to-door survey.

The fourth platform introduced is the Census Management and Monitoring System, a centralised digital dashboard that will help authorities track progress, manage logistics, and coordinate operations at district, state, and national levels. The system will enable real-time monitoring of field activities and ensure better efficiency during the nationwide exercise.

The 2027 census will be conducted in two phases. The first phase, known as the Houselist-

ing and Housing Census, will collect information about housing conditions, assets, and household amenities and is scheduled to take place between April and September 2026. The second phase, which focuses on population enumeration, will gather demographic, social, and economic data about individuals across the country and is expected to begin in February 2027.

Officials said the digital approach will make the census faster, more accurate, and easier to manage compared to earlier exercises. The integration of mobile applications, satellite mapping, and online self-reporting tools is expected to significantly reduce delays in compiling and analysing data.

India's census is conducted every ten years and provides crucial data used for policy planning, allocation of government resources, and development programmes. The 2027 census will also play an important role in shaping future governance decisions, including planning for infrastructure, welfare schemes, and representation.

With the introduction of advanced digital tools and the mascots "Pragati" and "Vikas," the government aims to make the census exercise more accessible, transparent, and technologically advanced as the country prepares for its next comprehensive population count.

Military Conflicts Cannot Solve Global Problems, Says PM Modi; Calls For Reform Of Global Institutions



Narendra Modi on Thursday said that military conflicts cannot resolve global problems and stressed the importance of dialogue, diplomacy and reforms in international institutions to address modern challenges. The Prime Minister made the remarks in New Delhi during a joint press statement after holding talks with Alexander Stubb. The discussions covered bilateral cooperation as well as key international issues, including ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world.

Highlighting India's approach to global tensions, Modi said that both India and Finland strongly support the rule of law and peaceful dialogue. He emphasised that disputes between nations cannot be resolved through military action alone and that diplomacy remains the most effective way to address international disagreements.

The Prime Minister pointed to continuing conflicts in regions such as Ukraine and West Asia as examples of why peaceful solutions are urgently needed. He said both countries support efforts aimed at ending hostilities and restoring stability in conflict-affected areas.

Modi also stressed the ur-

gent need to reform global institutions so they can respond better to present-day challenges. According to him, many international organisations were created decades ago and now require significant changes to reflect current global realities.

India has long advocated reforms in institutions such as the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Security Council. The country believes the current global governance structure does not adequately represent emerging economies and developing nations. Modi reiterated that reforms are necessary to make these institutions more inclusive, transparent and effective.

During the meeting, India and Finland also discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in areas such as digital technology, sustainability, innovation and trade. Both sides agreed to enhance collaboration in these sectors as part of their broader partnership.

The leaders also underlined their shared commitment to combating terrorism and addressing global security threats. Modi stated that both nations remain united in opposing terror-

ism in all forms and will continue to work together to counter such challenges.

The Prime Minister noted that the world is currently facing a period of uncertainty, with geopolitical tensions affecting several regions. In such circumstances, he said stronger cooperation between democratic nations and greater respect for international laws and institutions are essential.

The discussions also touched on strengthening ties between India and Europe. Modi said relations between the two regions are entering what he described as a "golden era," with growing cooperation in trade, technology and global governance.

His remarks come at a time of rising global tensions and conflicts. Against this backdrop, Modi reiterated India's long-standing position that dialogue, diplomacy and international cooperation remain the best ways to resolve disputes and ensure lasting peace.

He concluded by emphasising that global stability depends on collaboration among nations and a renewed commitment to strengthening the international system through meaningful reforms.

How Congress Fell In Line And DMK Got Its Way Again In Tamil Nadu

In a carefully choreographed political manoeuvre in Tamil Nadu, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) once again emerged victorious in shaping the state's political landscape — thanks in large part to the support of its alliance partner, the Indian National Congress.

At the heart of this episode lies the selection of candidates and the allocation of seats for upcoming elections. Traditionally, state politics in Tamil Nadu has been dominated by regional parties like the DMK and AIADMK, with national parties such as Congress often playing a supporting role. This time, too, the dynamics were no different.

The DMK, led by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, entered negotiations with its key ally, the Congress, over how to divide the electoral pie. Given the DMK's strong organisational presence across the state, it aimed to claim the most winnable seats. The Congress, facing years of declining influence in Tamil Nadu, found itself in a weak bargaining position.

Rather than push for a greater share of seats, Congress leaders chose to align with the DMK's preferences. Despite internal demands from some party workers for more representation, the party leadership agreed to contest a relatively limited number of



constituencies. This move was seen as a bid to preserve alliance unity and avoid public acrimony.

Senior Congress figures justified their decision by pointing to the alliance's historical success in the state and arguing that contesting fewer seats could enhance the prospects of defeating rival parties. They emphasised that a united front was strategically vital to prevent vote splitting, especially against the AIADMK and other regional contenders.

However, critics within the Congress say the party's leadership capitulated too easily to the DMK's demands. They argue that the Congress failed to leverage its national stature and support base to negotiate better terms. Instead, they

claim the party merely rubber stamped the DMK's choices, reinforcing perceptions that it plays second fiddle to regional partners in states where its own grassroots presence is limited.

For the DMK, the outcome was a political win. The party secured a dominant share of seats in the alliance list and retained control over key constituencies. Analysts say this reflects the reality of Tamil Nadu's political balance of power: the DMK remains the principal force, while the Congress operates as a junior ally.

Observers also note that this pattern has repeated itself over successive election cycles. In the 2019 general election and the 2021 state polls, the DMK led alliance performed well, partly because of

disciplined coordination among partners and a shared strategy to keep nationalist and opposition forces at bay.

The Congress's decision to fall in line, therefore, is not surprising. Tamil Nadu's electoral arithmetic makes it difficult for the party to secure significant victories independently. By aligning closely with the DMK, it hopes to remain relevant in a political ecosystem where regional loyalties and identity politics play a decisive role.

Analysts believe the DMK's strong organisational network, charismatic leadership and strategic seat distribution have helped it maintain an upper hand in alliance negotiations. For the Congress, the challenge remains finding a way to assert itself without destabilising partnerships that are vital for its broader political goals.

In the run up to the elections, this episode highlights the continuing influence of regional parties in shaping political outcomes and the difficult choices national parties like the Congress must make in states where they lack dominant local bases. As Tamil Nadu prepares for yet another electoral contest, the DMK seems poised to carry forward its existing advantage, with its allies — Congress included — aligning behind it.

India Expresses Condolences Over Khamenei's Death, Foreign Secretary Visits Iranian Embassy

India on Thursday conveyed its condolences over the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visiting the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi to formally express the country's sympathies. Acting on behalf of the Government of India, Misri signed the condolence book at the embassy and met Iranian officials, marking New Delhi's first official gesture following the leader's death.

Khamenei, who had served as Iran's Supreme Leader since 1989 and was one of the most influential figures in the country's political and religious establishment, was reportedly killed in a military strike carried out by the United States and Israel earlier this year. His death has triggered strong reactions across the world and heightened tensions in West Asia.

During his visit to the Iranian mission, Misri conveyed India's condolences to the Iranian leadership and people. The gesture was seen as a diplomat-



ic expression of respect toward Iran during a period of mourning. The condolence book has been opened by the Iranian Embassy to allow diplomats, members of the public, and representatives of different organisations to pay their respects to the late leader.

India's outreach comes amid growing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East following the strike that killed Khamenei. The incident has intensified the already volatile situa-

tion in the region, with several countries reacting cautiously and urging restraint. While some nations condemned the attack as a violation of international law, others have called for diplomatic engagement to prevent further escalation.

Alongside the condolence visit by the Foreign Secretary, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also held a telephonic conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Seyed Abbas Araghchi. The discus-

sion reportedly focused on the evolving regional situation and the need to prevent further escalation in the conflict.

India has consistently maintained a balanced diplomatic approach to developments in West Asia, stressing dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reiterated that military conflicts cannot provide lasting solutions to complex international issues and that diplomacy remains the most effective path forward.

Khamenei's death marks a significant moment in Iran's modern political history. For decades, he played a central role in shaping the country's domestic and foreign policy, and his influence extended across the wider Middle East.

As Iran observes a period of mourning, India's message of condolence reflects its long-standing diplomatic ties with Tehran and its emphasis on maintaining stable relations in a region crucial to global security and energy supplies.

Three Suspended Congress MLAs Join BJP Ahead Of Assam Assembly Elections



Three suspended Congress MLAs have formally joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Assam just months before the crucial Assembly elections, in a move that could reshape local political dynamics and weaken the opposition ahead of the polls.

The three legislators — who were earlier suspended by the Congress for alleged anti party activities — publicly crossed over to the BJP in a simple ceremony attended by senior party leaders. Their induction into the BJP comes at a time when the ruling party at the Centre is intensifying its campaign in the north-eastern state, aiming to retain power in the Assembly amid strong electoral challenges.

The lawmakers' exit from the Congress underscores ongoing instability within the party's ranks in Assam. Reports had suggested rising factionalism and dissatisfaction among a section of the party's legislators after certain decisions on seat sharing and leadership emerged. These internal disagreements reportedly contributed to their suspension by the Congress leadership in recent months.

By joining the BJP, the three MLAs have bolstered the party's strength in the

Assam Assembly, giving it a numerical advantage over opposition parties. They cited "ideological alignment" with the BJP's development agenda and governance model as key reasons for their decision to defect. They also expressed confidence that the BJP's leadership would take Assam forward and accelerate progress in the state.

The defections are being seen as a strategic gain for the BJP, which has been working to expand its base in the Northeast. Assam has been a key focus area for the party, having won a majority in the state's 2021 Assembly elections and securing significant victories in parliamentary seats during general elections.

For the Congress, the loss of three lawmakers represents a setback ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls. The party has struggled in recent years to retain legislators, with several members either resigning or switching allegiances to rival parties in response to internal disputes and organisational challenges.

Political analysts say defections such as these reflect broader trends in regional politics, where shifting loyalties and tactical alignments often influ-

ence electoral outcomes. In a competitive contest like the Assam elections, even a small number of defections can have a disproportionate impact on vote arithmetic and party morale.

The BJP is expected to capitalise on these developments to project strength and momentum as it campaigns for re-election. Party leaders will likely highlight the defections as evidence of growing support and confidence in the BJP's vision for Assam.

Meanwhile, the Congress leadership is under pressure to regroup, retain its existing cadre and shore up support among voters ahead of what could be a tightly fought election. The party is likely to intensify organisational reforms and outreach efforts to counter the BJP's advance and prevent further defections.

As the election approaches, both parties will focus on consolidating their positions, reaching out to key voter groups and building alliances that could influence the final outcome. The entry of the three suspended Congress MLAs into the BJP adds a new strategic dimension to the contest, highlighting the fluid nature of politics in Assam and the high stakes involved in the state

Nepal Elections 2026: Voting Schedule, Counting Process And When Results Will Be Announced



Nepal is holding crucial general elections on March 5, 2026, in what is being seen as one of the most significant political contests in the country in recent years. The election comes months after widespread youth-led protests forced the resignation of the previous government and triggered the dissolution of parliament, leading to the call for fresh polls.

Voting Time And Election Day Process

Polling across Nepal began at 7:00 am local time and is scheduled to continue until 5:00 pm. Millions of voters lined up at polling stations across the Himalayan nation to elect representatives to the country's federal parliament. Authorities implemented strict security measures nationwide to ensure the smooth conduct of the vote.

According to election officials, around 18.9 million eligible voters are expected to participate in the election. The polling is taking place in a single phase across all constituencies.

These elections will determine the composition of Nepal's 275-member House of Representatives, the lower house of parliament that plays a key role in forming the government and selecting the prime minister.

Electoral System Explained

Nepal follows a mixed electoral system. Out of the 275 parliamentary seats:

- 165 seats are decided through the first-past-the-

post system, where voters elect individual candidates from constituencies.

- 110 seats are allocated through proportional representation, where voters cast ballots for political parties rather than individual candidates.

This system aims to balance direct constituency representation with broader political representation for different communities and groups across the country.

More than 3,400 candidates are contesting the direct elections, while thousands more are listed under party proportional representation lists.

When Will Vote Counting Begin?

Counting of votes will begin soon after polling ends and ballot boxes are transported to designated counting centres. Election authorities have said the process will start once voting materials from all polling stations reach the counting venues.

Because Nepal relies largely on manual ballot counting, the process may take time, especially in remote mountain regions where transporting ballot boxes can be challenging.

When Will Results Be Declared?

Preliminary results from the direct constituency contests are expected within about 24 hours after counting begins. However, the final official results may take longer, as votes under the pro-

portional representation system require additional verification and calculations.

Election officials have indicated that while early trends may emerge quickly, the complete final results for all 275 seats could take several days.

Why These Elections Are Important

The 2026 election is the first national vote since the Gen Z-led protests of 2025, which erupted over issues such as corruption, unemployment and governance failures. The protests eventually forced the government to step down and led to the formation of an interim administration that promised fresh elections.

As a result, the current election is widely seen as a major test of Nepal's political future.

Key Political Players

The contest is largely centred around several major political forces, including:

- The Nepali Congress, one of the country's traditional mainstream parties.
- The Communist Party of Nepal (UML), led by former prime minister K P Sharma Oli, who is attempting a political comeback.
- The emerging National Independent Party, associated with younger leaders and reform-oriented politics.

A prominent figure drawing attention in the election is Balendra Shah, a rapper-turned-politi-

cian and former mayor of Kathmandu who gained popularity among young voters.

Issues Dominating The Campaign

Several key issues have shaped the election campaign:

- Corruption and governance reforms
- Job creation and economic growth
- Youth unemployment
- Relations with neighbouring countries India and China

A large portion of Nepal's electorate consists of young voters, many of whom participated in last year's protests. Analysts believe this demographic could significantly influence the outcome of the election.

What Happens After Results

Once the final results are declared, political parties will begin negotiations to form a government. Since Nepal's political system often produces coalition governments, alliances between parties are likely to play a crucial role in determining who becomes the next prime minister.

The outcome of the election will shape Nepal's political direction and economic policies at a time when the country is dealing with economic challenges and demands for political reform.

For many voters, the 2026 election represents an opportunity to push for change and redefine the future of the Himalayan nation's democratic system.

Two Indians Killed After Oil Tanker Attacked Near Strait of Hormuz Amid Rising War Tensions

Two Indian nationals were killed after an oil tanker was attacked near the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important shipping routes, amid escalating tensions linked to the ongoing conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel. The incident occurred near the coast of Oman and highlights the increasing risks faced by commercial vessels operating in the region.

The victims have been identified as Captain Ashish Kumar, a resident of Bihar, and Dixit Solanki from Mumbai. Another crew member from Rajasthan, Dalip Singh, has been reported missing following the attack. Authorities and rescue teams are continuing efforts to determine the full extent of casualties and damage.

The oil tanker involved in the incident, named Skylight, was sailing under the flag of Palau when it was attacked off Oman's Musandam Peninsula, close to the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The strike reportedly took place near Khasab Port, a key location along the busy maritime route used by global oil shipments.

At the time of the attack, the vessel had a crew of 20 members on board, including 15 Indian nationals and five Iranian crew members. Following the incident, most of the crew were rescued and evacuated through a coordinated operation involving maritime authorities and emergency responders.

US Tests 'Doomsday' Minuteman III Missile Capable Of Striking Anywhere On Earth Amid Rising War Tensions

The United States has carried out a test launch of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), a nuclear-capable weapon often referred to as a "doomsday missile," at a time when tensions are escalating in the Middle East due to the ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel and the US.

The test was conducted from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California and involved an unarmed missile equipped with two test re-entry vehicles. The launch was part of a long-standing testing programme designed to ensure the reliability and effectiveness of the United States' nuclear deterrent systems.

Officials from the US Air Force Global Strike Command clarified that the missile test had been scheduled years in advance and was not carried out as a direct response to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. However, the timing of the launch has drawn global attention because it coincided with heightened military tensions between Iran and the US-Israel alliance.

During the test, the missile travelled thousands of kilometres across the Pacific Ocean before reaching a predetermined target near Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Military engineers and defence experts collected data during the flight to evaluate the missile's accuracy, reliability and overall performance.

The Minuteman III is one of the most powerful weapons in the United States' nuclear arsenal. It is a land-based ballistic missile stored in underground silos and forms a key component of the country's nuclear



Officials said the bodies of the two deceased Indian crew members were badly burned due to the explosion and fire that followed the strike. One of the victims was reportedly found inside the captain's cabin after rescue teams reached the vessel.

The attack is believed to be linked to the wider conflict in the Middle East, which has intensified in recent weeks. Several ships have reportedly been targeted in or near the Strait of Hormuz as hostilities escalate, raising concerns about maritime safety in one of the world's most sensitive trade corridors.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global energy route through which a significant portion of the world's oil supply is transported every day. Any disruption in this narrow waterway can have serious consequences for global energy markets and international trade.

Following the latest attacks, maritime authorities and shipping companies have issued warnings to vessels traveling

through the Gulf region, urging them to exercise extreme caution. Some ships have reportedly changed their routes or delayed their voyages due to the increased risk of attacks.

Insurance costs for ships passing through the area have also risen sharply as the security situation continues to deteriorate. Shipping operators are closely monitoring developments while assessing the safety of crew members and vessels operating in the region.

The attack on the Skylight tanker highlights the broader global impact of the ongoing conflict. As tensions continue to rise across the Middle East, concerns are growing about the safety of commercial shipping, the stability of global oil supply chains, and the risks faced by seafarers working in high-risk waters.

Authorities are continuing investigations into the attack while efforts remain underway to locate the missing crew member and assess the full scale of damage caused by the incident.



triad, which also includes submarine-launched ballistic missiles and strategic bombers.

The missile has a range of roughly 13,000 kilometres, allowing it to strike targets almost anywhere in the world within a relatively short period of time. It travels at extremely high speeds and is capable of carrying nuclear warheads far more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima during World War II.

Originally, the Minuteman III system was designed to carry multiple independently targetable warheads that could strike different locations from a single launch. However, under international arms-reduction agreements between the United States and Russia, the missile currently carries only a single warhead.

Although the launch was part of a routine testing programme, it has attracted considerable attention because it occurred during a period of escalating geopolitical tensions. The conflict in the Middle East has intensified in recent weeks following military actions involving Iran, Israel and the United States.

The situation has raised concerns about the potential for a broader regional conflict, prompt-

ing many countries to closely monitor military developments in the area.

Military experts say regular missile tests are an essential part of maintaining a nation's strategic defence capabilities. Such tests help ensure that the weapons systems remain operational and allow engineers to analyse performance data that can be used for upgrades and modernization.

Over the decades, the United States has conducted hundreds of similar missile tests as part of its strategic defence programme. These launches are typically unarmed and are carried out strictly for testing and evaluation purposes.

However, given the current geopolitical climate, the latest test has sparked discussions among analysts who believe it could send a strong signal of military readiness. Demonstrations of advanced military capability often carry symbolic importance, particularly during periods of global tension.

As the conflict in the Middle East continues to unfold, developments such as this missile test are likely to remain under close scrutiny by governments, military analysts and international observers concerned about global security and stability.

Iran-Israel War Disrupts Global Air Travel: Air India, IndiGo, Emirates And Qatar Airways Cancel Or Delay Flights

The escalating conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States has significantly disrupted international air travel, forcing several major airlines to cancel or delay flights across the Middle East and beyond. The crisis has affected carriers such as Air India, IndiGo, Emirates, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways, leaving thousands of passengers stranded and creating widespread travel uncertainty.

Airspace closures across multiple Middle Eastern countries have been the primary reason for the disruptions. Nations including Iran, Iraq, Israel, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates imposed restrictions on their airspace after military strikes and missile attacks intensified in the region. As a result, airlines have been forced to suspend flights, reroute aircraft or delay departures for safety reasons.

Several international airlines temporarily halted operations to destinations in the Gulf region. Indian carriers were among the most affected because many of their international routes pass through West Asian airspace. Air India suspended flights to and from key destinations including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Qatar while monitoring the evolving security situation.

IndiGo also reduced or suspended several international routes that normally pass through the Middle East. The airline offered passengers the option to rebook their tickets or receive full refunds for cancelled flights. Similar advisories were issued by other airlines operating in the region.



Gulf carriers such as Emirates, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways also suspended or scaled down operations temporarily. These airlines rely heavily on major transit hubs such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, which are among the busiest international aviation centres in the world. With regional airspace either closed or considered unsafe, airlines were forced to significantly cut schedules or reroute flights.

Although some airports in the Gulf region later reopened partially, operations remain limited. Airlines have been running only select services, mainly to help stranded passengers return home or reach safe destinations. Authorities have warned that flight schedules could continue to change depending on developments in the conflict.

The disruption has had a ripple effect on global travel. Flights

that normally pass through Middle Eastern airspace—including routes between Europe, Asia and North America—have had to take longer alternative routes. These diversions increase travel time, fuel consumption and operational costs for airlines, while also causing delays for passengers.

Aviation experts say the conflict has created one of the most significant air travel disruptions in recent years. With several key flight corridors closed simultaneously, airlines have had limited options to safely reroute aircraft. As a result, thousands of flights worldwide have been cancelled or delayed.

Passengers travelling to or from the Middle East have been advised to check their flight status before heading to the airport. Airlines have also urged travellers to stay updated through official websites, mobile applica-

tions and customer service channels for the latest information regarding cancellations or schedule changes.

To reduce inconvenience for affected travellers, most airlines are offering flexible options such as free rescheduling, travel vouchers or full refunds depending on the booking conditions.

As tensions in the region continue, aviation authorities and airlines are closely monitoring the situation. While limited services have resumed in some areas, a complete return to normal flight operations may take time and will largely depend on how the geopolitical situation evolves and when regional airspace can safely reopen.

For now, the conflict in the Middle East continues to have far-reaching consequences not only for global politics and security but also for international travel and the aviation industry.

Sensex Surges Over 1,100 Points as Markets Rebound; Nifty Reclaims 24,800



Indian stock markets staged a strong recovery on Thursday, with benchmark indices rebounding sharply after several days of losses. The rally was driven by improved global sentiment, strong buying in heavyweight stocks, and easing fears around geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

The BSE Sensex surged by more than 1,100 points during the session, reclaiming the 80,000 level, while the Nifty 50 climbed back above the crucial 24,800 mark. This marked one of the biggest single-day gains in recent weeks and helped the markets snap a three-session losing streak.

Relief After Recent Market Decline
The rebound came after Indian equities had experienced significant volatility earlier in the week. Escalating tensions in the Middle East and rising crude oil prices had triggered a sharp sell-off in the previous sessions, sending benchmark indices to lower levels.

Investors had grown cautious amid fears that geopolitical tensions could disrupt global oil supply and push inflation higher. Since India imports a large portion of its crude oil needs, any sharp increase in energy prices tends to weigh heavily on market sentiment.

However, signs of possible diplomatic engagement and hopes of easing tensions between global powers helped calm investor nerves. This shift in sentiment encouraged investors to return to equities, triggering a broad-based rally across sectors.

Global Cues Boost Investor Sentiment

Positive global market cues played a key role in supporting the rally in Indian equities. Asian and U.S. markets showed signs of recovery amid reports suggesting potential de-escalation in the geopolitical conflict.

The improvement in global risk appetite helped restore confidence among investors, encouraging fresh buying across several sectors in the domestic market.

Additionally, expectations that oil supply disruptions may remain limited also helped stabilize market sentiment. Concerns over energy markets had previously triggered fears of rising inflation and economic pressure on oil-importing nations like India.

Heavyweight Stocks Lead the Rally

Large-cap stocks were among the biggest contributors to the market rebound. Shares of Reliance Industries, one of the most influential stocks in the benchmark indices, recorded strong gains during the session. The rally in the company's shares was supported by positive brokerage views that suggested the recent decline in the stock had been excessive.

Strong buying interest in Reliance and other heavyweight companies helped lift the overall market. Gains in energy, metals, and infrastructure stocks also provided significant support to the indices.

Metals and Commodity Stocks

Shine

Metal stocks were among the top performers during the rally. Companies such as Hindalco and National Aluminium witnessed notable gains, supported by rising global aluminium prices and supply concerns in global markets.

Supply disruptions linked to geopolitical tensions have pushed commodity prices higher, which in turn benefited metal-producing companies listed on Indian exchanges.

The rally in these sectors contributed significantly to the broader market momentum and helped strengthen investor confidence.

Broader Market Participation

The rally was not limited to a few heavyweight stocks. A majority of listed shares advanced during the session, reflecting broad participation across sectors.

Out of thousands of stocks traded on the National Stock Exchange, a large number registered gains. This indicates that the rebound was widespread and not confined to a handful of large-cap companies.

Sectors such as metals, oil and gas, real estate, and pharmaceuticals posted notable gains, while some defensive sectors like IT and FMCG witnessed relatively modest movement.

Rupee Recovery Adds Support

Another factor supporting market sentiment was the recovery in the Indian rupee. The domestic currency strengthened against the U.S. dollar after recent weakness triggered by global uncertainties.

A stronger rupee tends to attract foreign institutional investors, as it reduces currency risk for global funds investing in Indian equities. The improvement in the currency also contributed to the overall positive mood in the market.

Analysts Remain Cautious

Despite the strong rally, market experts have advised investors to remain cautious. The broader geopolitical situation remains uncertain, and further escalation in the Middle East could once again affect global markets.

Oil prices remain a key factor to watch. Any sharp increase in crude prices could reignite concerns about inflation and economic stability, particularly for energy-importing countries like India.

Analysts believe that while the current rally reflects relief in the markets, volatility may persist in the near term.

Outlook for Investors

Market experts suggest that investors should focus on fundamentally strong companies and avoid excessive risk during periods of geopolitical uncertainty. Diversification and careful portfolio management are likely to be important strategies in the current environment.

While short-term fluctuations may continue, the long-term outlook for the Indian economy remains relatively strong due to stable

SEBI Seeks Details From Force Motors Over Earnings Disclosure and Share Price Movement



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has asked Force Motors to provide detailed information regarding its financial results announcements and the movement of its share price during specific periods. The request is part of the market regulator's ongoing efforts to ensure transparency and compliance with disclosure norms in India's capital markets.

The Pune-based automobile manufacturer informed stock exchanges that it had received a communication from SEBI seeking clarification on certain financial announcements made by the company. The regulator has asked the company to provide details about the timing and sequence of events related to these disclosures, along with information about the movement in its share price during the same period.

According to the company's statement, SEBI has specifically asked for

clarification regarding an earlier announcement made on February 12, 2024. That announcement contained the company's unaudited standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and the nine months ending December 31, 2023. The regulator has asked the company to explain the price movement in its shares between February 15 and February 20, 2024.

In addition to this, SEBI has also sought details related to another financial results announcement made on October 29, 2024. This announcement included the company's unaudited financial performance for the quarter and half-year ending September 30, 2024. As part of its inquiry, the regulator has requested a detailed chronology of events connected to this disclosure.

SEBI has also asked for information regarding insiders who may have had access to the financial data before it became public. This includes de-

tails of designated persons within the company who were aware of the results before the official announcement. The regulator has also requested extracts from the company's structured digital database as well as records from its internal management information systems.

Such information helps regulators determine whether sensitive financial data was handled appropriately and whether any unusual trading activity occurred before the information was officially disclosed to the market.

Requests of this nature are part of SEBI's standard oversight process aimed at preventing insider trading and ensuring that listed companies follow strict disclosure rules. By examining the timeline of corporate announcements and stock price movements, the regulator can assess whether all investors had access to the same information at the same time.

Force Motors stated that it will respond to SEBI within the permitted timeframe and provide the information requested. The company also clarified that the communication from the regulator does not indicate any confirmed violation or non-compliance at this stage.

The company further noted that there has been no material impact on its financial operations as a result of the regulatory query. It also confirmed that no penalties, restrictions, or sanctions have been imposed by SEBI in connection with the matter so far.

Following the disclosure about the regulator's inquiry, shares of Force Motors witnessed some volatility during trading. The stock declined from its intraday highs as investors reacted cautiously to the development.

Market experts say that regulatory queries related to stock price movements around financial announcements are not

uncommon. Regulators often review such situations to ensure that companies comply with disclosure norms and that no group gains an unfair advantage through early access to price-sensitive information.

Force Motors is a well-known Indian automobile manufacturer that produces a range of vehicles including commercial vehicles, utility vehicles, and engines. The company has longstanding collaborations with global automotive brands and holds a notable position in India's commercial vehicle market.

For investors, the key takeaway is that SEBI's current communication is limited to seeking clarification and additional information. The company has stated that it is cooperating fully with the regulator, and the matter will likely remain under review until SEBI examines the company's response and decides whether any further action is required.

Rupee Volatility Puts Focus on Banking System Liquidity and RBI's Policy Tools

Recent volatility in the Indian rupee has brought renewed attention to liquidity conditions within the country's banking system and the measures available to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to stabilize the currency.

The rupee recently touched a fresh intraday low of around ₹92.30 against the US dollar amid rising crude oil prices and concerns over the expanding conflict in West Asia. The surge in global oil prices—moving above \$80 per barrel—has placed pressure on several emerging market currencies, including India's, as the country relies heavily on imported crude oil.

Despite the currency's weakness, analysts say the Indian banking system currently has sufficient liquidity to absorb short-term volatility. The RBI is believed to have intervened in both the spot currency market and offshore forward markets to prevent a sharper fall in the rupee.

Liquidity Surplus Provides Cushion

Data indicates that the banking system continues to operate with a comfortable liquidity surplus. According to the latest available figures, the surplus liquidity in the system stands at about ₹2.1 lakh crore. This surplus helps ensure that financial markets remain stable even during periods of currency stress.

Liquidity within the banking system plays a crucial role in determining how effectively the central bank can manage exchange-rate volatility.



When liquidity conditions are healthy, the RBI has greater flexibility to intervene in currency markets without disrupting domestic financial stability.

Strong Forex Reserves Offer Support

Another important factor supporting the rupee is India's substantial foreign exchange reserves. The country's reserves were estimated at over \$723 billion in late February. Even after minor declines in recent weeks, the reserves remain among the largest globally and provide a strong buffer against external shocks.

Large forex reserves allow the central bank to sell dollars in the market when the rupee comes under pressure. This helps smooth excessive currency movements and maintain investor confidence.

RBI Using Multiple Liquidity Tools

To maintain adequate liquidity in the financial system, the RBI has al-

ready deployed several policy tools. These include open market operations (OMOs) and dollar-rupee buy-sell swap auctions.

The central bank injected around ₹2 lakh crore into the banking system through multiple liquidity measures during December and January. One of the key steps included a \$10 billion dollar-rupee buy-sell swap with a three-year maturity.

In such a swap operation, the RBI buys dollars from banks in exchange for rupees, immediately injecting liquidity into the system. At the same time, it agrees to sell those dollars back at a predetermined premium at a later date. This allows the central bank to manage both currency volatility and liquidity levels simultaneously.

Interest Rate Environment

The RBI has also eased monetary policy over the past year. Since February

2025, the central bank has reduced interest rates by a total of 125 basis points, bringing the repo rate down to 5.25 percent.

Lower interest rates generally encourage borrowing and support economic activity, while also helping maintain adequate liquidity within the financial system.

Recent indicators suggest that short-term money market rates have even slipped below the policy repo rate, highlighting the presence of ample liquidity in the banking system.

Global Factors Continue to Influence Rupee

Despite these supportive conditions, the rupee remains vulnerable to global developments. Currency markets are currently being influenced by geopolitical tensions, oil price movements, and shifts in global capital flows.

The ongoing conflict in West Asia has heightened

concerns about potential disruptions to global energy supplies. Higher oil prices tend to weaken the rupee because they increase India's import bill and widen the current account deficit.

In addition, global investors often move funds toward safer assets during periods of geopolitical uncertainty, which can lead to outflows from emerging markets.

RBI's Balancing Act

Economists believe the RBI will continue to strike a careful balance between stabilizing the rupee and maintaining adequate liquidity in the banking system.

Intervening heavily in the currency market can sometimes reduce domestic liquidity, so the central bank often offsets this by injecting funds through other policy tools.

Experts expect the RBI to remain active in currency markets if volatility persists, using its combination of foreign exchange reserves, liquidity management tools, and monetary policy measures to maintain stability.

Outlook

While the rupee may remain under pressure in the near term due to global uncertainties, analysts believe India's strong forex reserves and surplus liquidity provide a significant cushion.

As a result, even if the currency experiences fluctuations, the banking system is expected to remain stable and well-supported by the RBI's policy framework.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Just when the situation seemed overwhelming,



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

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

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

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

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

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

Reflecting on the moment later, the rider said

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

However, she clarified that February was not a

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

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

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

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

spending for February reached approximately Rs 1.43 lakh.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fernando Alonso Could Risk Permanent Nerve Damage Due To Aston Martin's 2026 F1 Car

Fernando Alonso could face the risk of permanent nerve damage if he spends too long behind the wheel of Aston Martin Aramco Formula One Team's 2026 Formula One car, according to a startling revelation by renowned engineer Adrian Newey.

The warning comes just ahead of the opening race of the Formula One World Championship season. Newey revealed that severe vibrations coming from the team's new car are creating serious physical strain for the drivers.

According to Newey, Alonso believes he cannot drive more than around 25 consecutive laps before risking nerve damage in his hands due to the intense vibrations transmitted through the car. His teammate Lance Stroll reportedly faces an even lower tolerance, estimating that he could only manage about 15 laps before reaching a similar risk level.

The issue is linked to the car's power unit and chassis, which are producing unusually strong vibrations that travel directly into the cockpit and steering wheel. These vibrations then pass through the drivers' hands and arms, potentially leading to numbness, nerve strain or long-term injury if exposure continues for extended periods.

The alarming situation has forced the team to consider limiting the number of laps their drivers complete during the season-opening race at the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne.



Team officials are reportedly exploring the possibility that the car may not complete the full race distance if the problem is not resolved in time.

Engineers believe the vibrations are largely coming from

the car's new power unit, which has been integrated into a redesigned chassis for the 2026 regulations. During testing sessions, the vibrations were strong enough to create reliability issues, with certain external com-

ponents loosening due to the constant shaking.

Beyond mechanical concerns, the biggest worry remains the impact on the drivers. Continuous exposure to such vibrations can damage nerves in the hands and arms, especially during long race stints that typically last more than an hour.

The team has already attempted several adjustments to reduce the vibration levels. Engineers have made modifications to the engine operation and other technical components in an effort to limit the intensity of the vibrations reaching the cockpit. However, these efforts have not yet fully solved the problem.

As a precaution, Aston Martin may adopt a cautious strategy during the opening race weekend. The team could restrict the number of laps driven or operate the car below its maximum performance levels while engineers continue working on a long-term fix.

The situation represents a difficult start to the season for Aston Martin, which had entered the year with high expectations following major investments in infrastructure and technical leadership.

Despite the setback, the team remains hopeful that further engineering adjustments will resolve the issue. Until then, protecting the health and safety of the drivers will remain the top priority as the team navigates the early stages of the new Formula One season.

Lakshya Sen Enters Quarterfinals Of All England Championships After Gritty Win

Lakshya Sen delivered a determined performance to reach the quarterfinals of the prestigious All England Open Badminton Championships with a hard-fought victory over Ng Ka Long Angus in Birmingham.

The Indian shuttler showed remarkable resilience and tactical sharpness to overcome his opponent in a thrilling three-game contest. Sen won the match 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 in the Round of 16, securing his place in the last eight of one of badminton's most prestigious tournaments.

The contest proved to be a demanding battle, with both players engaging in long rallies and high-intensity exchanges. Sen started strongly and narrowly took the first game 21-19, displaying excellent control and precision during crucial points. However, Ng Ka Long fought back in the second game, edging past the Indian in a closely contested finish to level the match at one game apiece.

Despite losing the second game, Sen quickly regained momentum in the decider. The



24-year-old raised the intensity of his attacking play and dominated the final game with aggressive strokes and strong court coverage. He raced ahead with a commanding lead and comfortably closed out the match 21-10, sealing victory in emphatic fashion.

Sen's progress in the tournament continues a strong campaign at the historic event held annually in Birmingham, widely regarded as one of the most

prestigious competitions in the sport. The Indian player has previously enjoyed success at the tournament, most notably finishing as the runner-up in the 2022 edition, which remains one of the highlights of his career.

Earlier in the tournament, Sen had already produced a major upset by defeating top seed Shi Yuqi in a gripping three-game encounter. That victory boosted his confidence and set

the tone for an impressive run in the competition.

With this latest win, Sen has kept India's hopes alive in the men's singles category at the tournament. His aggressive style, swift footwork and ability to control long rallies have made him one of the standout performers in the competition this year.

The tournament, which began in 1899, is considered badminton's oldest and most prestigious championship. Winning the title is regarded as one of the greatest achievements in the sport.

Sen will now look to maintain his strong form as he prepares for the quarterfinal clash, where the level of competition is expected to be even tougher. A victory in the next round would bring him closer to another deep run at the historic tournament and potentially a chance to compete for the title.

For Indian badminton fans, Sen's progress in Birmingham offers renewed hope of another memorable performance on one of the sport's biggest stages.

Harry Kane To Miss Bayern Munich Match Against Borussia Mönchengladbach Due To Calf Injury



Harry Kane will miss FC Bayern Munich's upcoming match against Borussia Mönchengladbach after suffering a minor calf injury.

Bayern head coach Vincent Kompany confirmed that the England captain picked up a knock to his calf and has not fully recovered in time for the Bundesliga clash. While the injury is not believed to be serious, the striker will be rested as a precaution to avoid aggravating the issue.

Kompany explained that Kane was close to being availa-

ble for selection but ultimately did not have enough time to regain full fitness before the match. The coach emphasised that the club's medical team is monitoring the situation closely and expects the striker to return soon.

Kane has been in exceptional form this season and remains Bayern Munich's top scorer. Since joining the German giants, the striker has played a key role in their attacking success and has consistently delivered goals in both domestic and European competitions.

The England international recently scored twice in Bayern's dramatic victory over Borussia Dortmund, a performance that further strengthened the team's position at the top of the Bundesliga standings. His consistent scoring run has also placed him among the league's leading goal scorers this season.

Kane's absence will be a setback for Bayern, given his importance to the team's offensive play. His ability to score goals, create chances and lead the attacking line has made him one of the most influential players

in the squad.

However, Bayern still have several attacking options who could step in to fill the gap for the match against Mönchengladbach. The team will aim to maintain its strong league form despite the temporary absence of its star striker.

The club is also dealing with other injury concerns within the squad. Hiroki Ito and Alphonso Davies are currently sidelined, adding to the challenges for the coaching staff as they prepare for the upcoming fixtures.

Despite these issues, Bayern Munich remain in a strong position in the Bundesliga title race. The club currently holds a comfortable lead at the top of the standings and will look to continue their winning momentum.

The medical team is optimistic that Kane's injury is minor and that he will recover quickly. The decision to rest him is primarily aimed at ensuring he returns fully fit for the important matches ahead.

With crucial fixtures approaching in both domestic and European competitions, Bayern will be hoping their star striker returns soon to continue his impressive goal-scoring form and help the team maintain its push for major trophies this season.

Gautam Gambhir Attends Arjun Tendulkar's Wedding Ahead of Crucial T20 World Cup Semifinal



India's head coach Gautam Gambhir was spotted attending the wedding of Arjun Tendulkar in Mumbai just hours before India's high-stakes semifinal clash against England national cricket team in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.

The wedding ceremony took place on March 5 in Mumbai and drew several prominent personalities from the cricketer fraternity and the entertainment industry. Arjun, the son of cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, tied the knot with entrepreneur Saaniya Chandhok in a grand celebration attended by close friends, family members and well-known figures from the sports world.

Gambhir, who currently serves as the head coach of the India national cricket team, arrived at the event dressed in traditional attire along with his wife. His presence quickly caught the attention of fans and media because the wedding took place just hours before India's crucial semifinal match against England.

The timing of Gambhir's appearance became a talking point among cricket followers, given the significance of the upcoming knockout match. India is scheduled to play the semifinal at the iconic Wankhede Stadium later in the evening, making it one of the most important games of the tournament for

the defending champions.

Reports suggest that the wedding celebration was held at the same hotel where members of the Indian team were staying ahead of the semifinal. This made it convenient for Gambhir and possibly a few other team members to attend the ceremony briefly without interrupting preparations for the big game.

Arjun Tendulkar, 26, has been building his cricket career over the past few years. A left-arm fast bowler and lower-order batsman, he has played in the Indian Premier League and domestic cricket. Earlier in his career, he represented Mumbai before moving to Goa in domestic competitions. His wedding marked a significant personal milestone for the Tendulkar family and drew widespread attention within the cricketing community.

The celebration also turned into a star-studded gathering, with several former and current cricket stars reportedly in attendance, highlighting the close relationships among members of India's cricket fraternity.

Meanwhile, the focus quickly shifted back to the field as India prepared to take on England in the semifinal of the tournament. With a place in the final at stake, the match is expected to be one of the most intense encounters of the competition.

Finn Allen Credits 'India Factor' For Record 33-Ball Century In T20 World Cup Semifinal



Finn Allen delivered one of the most explosive innings in T20 World Cup history, smashing a stunning 100 off just 33 balls to power New Zealand national cricket team into the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. After the match, the opener revealed that recent experience playing in India played a crucial role in his record-breaking knock.

Allen's breathtaking innings came during the semifinal against South Africa national cricket team at the iconic Eden Gardens. Chasing a target of 170, New Zealand stormed to victory with remarkable ease, reaching the total in just 12.5 overs to seal a dominant nine-wicket win. The explosive century not only helped the Black Caps reach the final but also became the fastest hundred in the history of the men's T20 World Cup.

The 24-year-old batter credited New Zealand's recent tour of India as a key factor behind his success in the high-pressure match. According to Allen, the team had already gained valuable experience by playing several matches in Indian conditions before the tournament. That exposure helped them understand the nature of the pitches and adjust their approach accordingly.

Allen explained that playing on Indian surfaces earlier gave the New Zealand players useful insights into how the ball behaves on subcontinental pitches. The team had developed a clear strategy based on those experiences, which allowed them to attack confidently during the semifinal.

His innings was a display of fearless hitting and exceptional timing. Allen hammered boundaries all around the

ground, combining powerful sixes with crisp fours to dismantle the South African bowling attack. By the time the innings ended, he had struck a total of 18 boundaries, leaving the opposition with little chance of making a comeback.

New Zealand's chase began with an aggressive approach from the start. Allen and opening partner Tim Seifert built a rapid partnership that put South Africa under immediate pressure. Seifert also contributed with a quickfire half-century, ensuring that the momentum never shifted away from the Black Caps.

South Africa had earlier posted 169 runs in their allotted 20 overs, a total that initially appeared competitive in a knockout game. However, New Zealand's explosive batting made the target look far less challenging.

Allen's remarkable innings drew widespread praise from fans, teammates and cricket experts. The knock also highlighted the growing influence of aggressive power-hitting in modern T20 cricket, where matches can turn dramatically within a few overs.

With the victory, New Zealand secured their place in the final and now await the winner of the other semifinal between India national cricket team and England cricket team. Allen said the team is focused on maintaining momentum and delivering another strong performance in the title clash.

The young opener's historic century has already become one of the defining moments of the tournament and a reminder of how quickly a T20 match can change when a batter finds his rhythm.

Nandamuri Balakrishna, Gopichand Malineni Film NBK 111 Officially Goes on Floors



After months of anticipation and fan excitement, the much talked about collaboration between Nandamuri Balakrishna and filmmaker Gopichand Malineni has finally kicked off production. The movie — currently referred to as NBK 111 — began shooting on Thursday night, marking the official start of one of Tollywood's most eagerly awaited projects of the year.

The launch event was a quiet yet significant affair, held with key members of the cast and crew in attendance. Rather than a loud public ceremony, the makers chose an intimate start to principal photography, underlining a professional focus on the work ahead. The first clap and inaugural shot were captured late in the evening, signalling that the team is now fully geared up to bring the story to life.

NBK 111 brings together two of the industry's big names: Balakrishna, known for his larger than life screen presence and loyal fan base, and Gopichand Malineni, one of Telugu cinema's most reliable directors of mass action entertainers. Their collaboration has generated considerable buzz, with fans and trade

circles alike anticipating a hard hitting commercial film that plays to the strengths of both the actor and the director.

Although plot details have been kept tightly under wraps, industry insiders suggest that the film will be a high octane action drama with a strong emotional core — a formula that has worked well in recent pan Telugu successes. The production team has reportedly lined up an experienced technical crew to support the project, including top tier cinematography, choreography and stunt coordination teams that promise to deliver impactful visuals and thrilling sequences.

Balakrishna's fans have expressed their excitement across social media, celebrating the commencement of NBK 111 with trending hashtags and fan art. Many devotees of the star have posted messages of support and good wishes, reinforcing the massive anticipation surrounding the project. Meanwhile, trade analysts see this venture as a strategic step for Balakrishna's ongoing streak of big budget entertainers.

The film is also expected to bring in a strong ensemble cast, although of-

ficial confirmations are still awaited. Casting updates are likely to be revealed in the coming weeks as the team progresses further into production. Music too — always a major component in Balakrishna's films — is expected to be handled by a leading composer, adding to the overall excitement.

With shooting now underway, the focus will shift to how quickly and smoothly the production develops. The makers are understood to be planning a structured shoot schedule, with multiple schedules lined up across key locations. At this stage, there are strong expectations that NBK 111 could target a theatrical release in late 2026 or early 2027, potentially timed with a major festival window to maximise box office impact.

For now, the commencement of NBK 111 is being celebrated as a solid moment for Tollywood — a film that promises to add another memorable chapter to the careers of both Nandamuri Balakrishna and Gopichand Malineni. Fans are watching closely as the journey of this highly anticipated entertainer officially begins.

Kona Venkat's Band Melam Release Postponed — New Date To Be Announced Soon

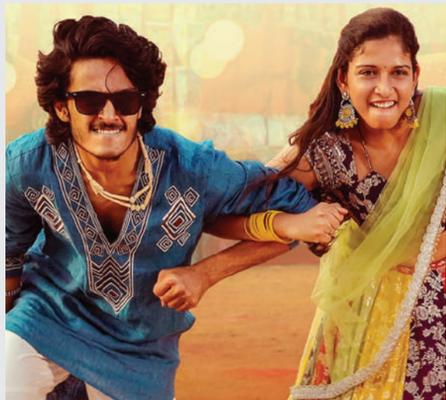
The release of the much anticipated Tollywood film Band Melam, written and produced by popular screenwriter Kona Venkat, has been postponed, disappointing fans who were eagerly waiting for its theatrical debut.

Band Melam was scheduled to hit screens in the near future, and early buzz around the movie had generated strong interest among audiences and industry watchers alike. However, the makers have now decided to delay the release, citing the need for additional time to perfect the film's post production work and promotional activities.

In an official announcement, Kona Venkat expressed gratitude to fans for their enthusiasm and support. He explained that while the team had hoped to meet the original release timeline, they ultimately agreed that delaying the launch would ensure the movie reaches audiences in its best possible form. He emphasised that the additional time will allow editors, technicians and creative departments to fine tune the final product and elevate its overall quality.

The decision to postpone the release of Band Melam came after careful discussions between the film's creative team, producers and distributors. Such choices are not uncommon in the industry, especially when filmmakers feel that more time is needed to deliver a compelling cinematic experience.

While an official new



release date has not yet been announced, insiders suggest that the makers are exploring alternative dates in the coming months that may coincide with an upcoming festive window or holiday period, which traditionally boost box office performance.

Fans have reacted to the postponement with mixed emotions on social media. Some supporters expressed disappointment at the delay, while others praised the team for prioritising quality over expediency. Many also took the opportunity to share their high expectations for the film, believing the extra work will result in a stronger final product.

Band Melam is expected to offer a blend of entertainment elements that appeal to a wide audience. Although plot details and the full cast have not been officially disclosed, industry analysts believe the movie will showcase vibrant storytelling, engaging charac-

ters and a soundtrack designed to complement the narrative.

Kona Venkat, known for his successful track record as a writer and producer, has been actively involved in the project. His involvement has only increased viewer interest, as fans anticipate a fresh and impactful cinematic experience backed by his creative vision.

The postponement also gives the promotional team more time to build anticipation and engage with audiences through marketing campaigns and sneak peeks, which could further heighten excitement ahead of the eventual release.

For now, audiences will have to wait a little longer for Band Melam to arrive in theatres. The film industry and fans alike are watching closely for updates on the new release date, hopeful that the extra preparation will make for a memorable cinematic experience when Band Melam finally hits the big screen.

Sonu Sood Steps In To Help Stranded Passengers In Dubai Amid Travel Disruptions

Actor Sonu Sood has once again come to the aid of people in distress by extending support to passengers stranded in Dubai due to recent travel disruptions. The actor, known for his humanitarian efforts, personally intervened to assist travellers facing challenges abroad, providing essential help at a time when many were struggling far from home.

Reports indicate that a large number of passengers found themselves stranded at Dubai airport after flights were cancelled or delayed because of ongoing disruptions in air travel. With limited support available on the ground and mounting uncertainty about when flights could resume, travellers were left in difficult and stressful conditions.

Upon learning about the situation, Sood — who has a history of assisting Indians abroad during crises — immediately got involved to provide relief. He reached out to those affected and offered support in coordinating logistics, including arranging accommodation and helping passengers navigate travel arrangements until they could return home or continue their journeys.

The actor's intervention was widely appreciated by the stranded passengers, many of whom expressed gratitude for his prompt assistance. Sood's efforts included helping families with children, elderly travellers, and those facing additional hardships due to the unexpected travel complications.



Sood's support comes at a time when a number of countries have experienced travel chaos due to factors such as flight cancellations, airspace restrictions and shifting airline schedules. Passengers caught in these disruptions often struggle to find immediate help, especially when away from home, making individual acts of assistance like Sood's particularly meaningful.

Over the years, Sonu Sood has built a reputation not just as an actor, but as a humanitarian who consistently steps in during challenging times. He first rose to national prominence for his work during the COVID 19 pandemic, when he helped thousands of migrant workers return to their hometowns and

assisted families with essential needs. His efforts during that period drew widespread praise and earned him a lasting place in the public's admiration.

Since then, Sood has continued to extend support to people facing crises, offering help during emergencies, natural disasters, and travel difficulties. His work often includes arranging shelter, transportation, medical assistance and other essentials for those in need.

In the current situation in Dubai, his assistance has made a significant difference for many travellers who were unsure of what to do amid extended layovers and disrupted flight plans. Passengers who received help from Sood noted that his involvement offered not just prac-

tical support but also a sense of reassurance during an uncertain time.

Sood's ongoing commitment to helping people in distress — whether in India or abroad — reinforces his image as a public figure who uses his influence and resources for social good. His latest efforts in Dubai once again highlight the impact that individual initiative can have in easing the hardships faced by people amid unforeseen circumstances.

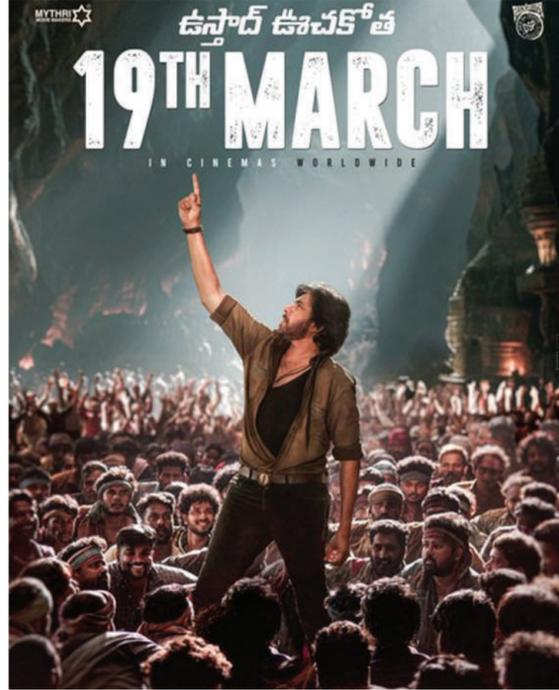
As travel disruptions continue to affect people across regions, many have praised Sood for stepping forward and offering assistance, demonstrating how one person's actions can provide relief and hope when it is needed most.

Pawan Kalyan's Ustaad Bhagat Singh Preponed to March 19 Ahead of Ugadi

The much-anticipated Telugu action drama Ustaad Bhagat Singh, starring Pawan Kalyan and directed by Harish Shankar, will now release a week earlier than initially planned, with the new theatrical release date set for March 19, 2026. The change comes as several films originally scheduled in the March release window have been postponed, leaving a prime slot during the festive period of Ugadi and Ramzan that the makers are eager to utilise.

Originally slated for March 26, 2026, the film will now reach audiences sooner, providing fans with an extended theatrical window and a better chance for strong box-office returns. The production house, Mythri Movie Makers, officially announced the updated release plan, generating excitement among audiences ahead of the Ugadi festival.

Ustaad Bhagat Singh marks a reunion between Pawan Kalyan and director Harish Shankar, following their previous successful collaboration. The movie is expected to be a high-voltage mass entertainer, blending action and drama in a style designed to appeal to mainstream Telugu cinema fans. Alongside Pawan Kalyan, the film features actors Sreeleela and Raashii Khanna in pivotal roles, supported by a strong ensemble



cast.

The decision to advance the release date was influenced by the postponement of Toxic, a multilingual film starring Yash,

which moved to a June release due to logistical and market considerations. With the March 19 slot now available, the Ustaad Bhagat Singh team seized the op-

portunity to capitalise on the holiday season and reach a wider audience.

The film's music has added to the anticipation. Celebrated composer S. Thaman has been brought on board to deliver the background score, complementing songs composed by Devi Sri Prasad. The combination of a popular lead actor and a strong musical team has heightened expectations among fans.

March 19 also sees the release of other major films, including Dhurandhar 2, setting the stage for a significant box-office clash. Despite the competition, the Ustaad Bhagat Singh team remains confident that the festive release and Pawan Kalyan's star power will attract audiences in large numbers.

With its official release date now confirmed, excitement is building among fans and trade analysts, who view the film as one of Tollywood's biggest events of the year. The advanced launch ensures Ustaad Bhagat Singh occupies a prime slot in the summer calendar, giving it the best opportunity for a successful box-office run.

Ustaad Bhagat Singh is scheduled to premiere in theatres worldwide on March 19, 2026, marking a high-octane start to the festive season with action-packed entertainment and mass appeal.

Naga Chaitanya's Next Pan India Film Vrushakarma Officially Announced

Popular actor Naga Chaitanya is all set to headline a new pan India film titled Vrushakarma, marking another major milestone in his career. The announcement has sparked excitement among fans, with the project expected to expand the actor's presence beyond Telugu cinema and appeal to audiences across the country.

The film's title, Vrushakarma, evokes the name of the divine architect in Hindu mythology, hinting at a story with powerful themes and larger than life elements. Producers say the movie will be crafted as a high impact action entertainer with a rich emotional core — a combination that has become a signature style for pan India films aiming to resonate with viewers across multiple languages.

Vrushakarma is being backed by experienced production teams who are known for delivering big scale cinema. The filmmakers aim to position this venture as one of the most ambitious in Naga Chaitanya's career to date, with plans to shoot simultaneously in several Indian languages to maximise its reach in



key markets such as Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada and Malayalam.

Industry insiders indicate that pre production work for Vrushakarma is already underway. With a story designed to blend mass appeal with a compelling narrative, the team has been finalising locations, key crew members, and a musical composer to complement the film's

theme. While the complete cast and crew details are yet to be officially revealed, speculation is already rife about potential collaborators from across Indian cinema.

Fans of Naga Chaitanya have welcomed the announcement with enthusiasm on social media, celebrating the actor's continued growth in challenging and high visibility roles. Many

see Vrushakarma as a defining moment in his career trajectory, especially as he positions himself more prominently in the pan India space following previous successes.

The decision to make Vrushakarma a pan India film reflects a broader trend in Indian cinema, where regional stars are increasingly taking on projects that transcend language barriers. This strategy has helped several actors and films achieve widespread recognition and commercial success across states and linguistic markets.

While the official release date has not yet been confirmed, observers expect Vrushakarma to commence shooting soon, with a planned theatrical release in late 2026 or early 2027. The production team is likely to announce further details, including the film's director and full cast, in the coming weeks.

With its ambitious scope and star led cast, Vrushakarma is shaping up to be one of the notable pan India films in the coming years, and will be eagerly followed by fans of Naga Chaitanya and Indian cinema alike.