

BUZZ POINTS

"To all the incredible women who make the world better"
Happy Women's Day 2026

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Revanth Reddy Launches "Stand With Her" to Strengthen Women's Safety

Hyderabad, March 7 | TPN Bureau

Te^langana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated the "Stand With Her" initiative on the occasion of International Women's Day, emphasizing the government's commitment to women's safety, empowerment, and social recognition. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister said that celebrating women's achievements alone is not enough; society must actively ensure protection, respect, and opportunities for women in every sphere of life.

He highlighted the Congress party's historic role in promoting women to positions of power nationally, noting that the people of Telangana entrusted the state government to continue this tradition. "Our government always prioritizes women, giving them responsibility and recognizing their strength," he said, stressing that a state that cannot protect its women cannot command respect.

The Chief Minister observed that while earlier women's harassment was limited, the rise of social media and technology has increased cyber harassment and other forms of abuse. He said protecting women is not just the responsibility of laws or police, but a collective societal duty. "We must treat girls in society with the same respect we give to daughters at home,"



he added.

Under the programme, the Telangana government has been implementing welfare schemes in women's names, including ration cards and Indiramma houses. Self-help groups are supported with loans, and marketplaces near craft centres have been allotted to women entrepreneurs. Solar energy initiatives encourage women to compete alongside industrial leaders. The state's Women's University has been named after Veeranari Chakali Ilamma, symbolizing the spirit of women's empowerment.

CM Revanth Reddy said the government aims to make Telangana the safest state in the

country for women. He called upon every youth to become a brand ambassador for women's protection, emphasizing that women should excel in all fields, not be confined to domestic roles.

He stressed the importance of fostering a culture of standing up against harassment and abuse, especially in the age of increasing cybercrimes. "Whenever a problem arises, each of us must firmly 'Stand With Her,'" the Chief Minister said, urging society to actively support women's safety, dignity, and empowerment in every aspect of life.

This initiative reinforces Telangana's commitment to women's rights, economic independence, and social security, positioning the state as a model for inclusive and proactive governance.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Calls on Maoists to Surrender Peacefully and Join Mainstream

Hyderabad, 07.03.2026 | TPN Bureau:

C^hief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, urged Maoist insurgents to surrender peacefully and integrate into mainstream society during a media briefing at the ICC. He highlighted that, in response to the state government's repeated invitations, several Maoist cadres have voluntarily come forward with arms, trusting that their lives and welfare would be protected.

The Chief Minister commended senior police officials for successfully building trust among the insurgents and ensuring their safe reintegration. "Our nation believes in resolving issues through peaceful means. Just as Mahatma Gandhi won India's independence through non-violence, even the most complex problems today can be solved through dialogue and negotiation," Reddy said.

He reported that, recently, 130 Maoists, including some Central Committee members, surrendered with 124 weapons. Since January 2024, Telangana has seen 721 Maoists surrender voluntarily. The Chief Minister assured that all surrendering individuals will be provided with financial assistance, housing—including Indiramma homes—and access to high-quality medical care. He emphasized that government support will continue in matters of livelihood, health, and education, aiming to integrate

former insurgents fully into society.

Reddy stressed that violence is not a solution. "We want issues to be resolved through the ballot, not bullets. Those who have surrendered voluntarily demonstrate courage and faith in democracy," he said. He invited those still in hiding, including Ganapathi and other Central Committee members, to come forward and contribute to Telangana's reconstruction through peaceful means.

The CM also mentioned that the government is reviewing legal cases against surrendered cadres and is ready to withdraw cases wherever possible. If necessary, a special committee will be formed to ensure fair and speedy resolution. He noted that proposals from recently surrendered Maoists have already been forwarded to the central government for consideration.

Revanth Reddy emphasized that the state government is committed to peace, development, and rule of law. He encouraged surrendered Maoists to actively participate in social and economic development projects, highlighting that their involvement will strengthen Telangana's social fabric and bring them recognition in mainstream society.

"The Telangana government stands ready to provide security, livelihood, and dignity to those who choose peace. We appeal to all insurgents to lay down arms, embrace dialogue, and work together for the state's progress," the CM concluded.

Talent, Ethics, Compassion Key to Medical Profession: Bhatti

Secunderabad, March 7 | TPN Bureau

T^elangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said talent, ethics and compassion form the core principles of the medical profession and emphasized that doctors must remain lifelong learners to succeed in the rapidly evolving healthcare field. He was speaking as the chief guest at the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Army College of Dental Sciences held in Secunderabad on Saturday.

Addressing graduating students, Bhatti Vikramarka said the medical profession constantly evolves with scientific discoveries, technological advancements and changing patient expectations. He stressed that those who continue learning throughout their careers will become the most respected and effective doctors.

He advised the graduating students to remember three important principles during their professional journey. First, they must strive for professional excellence by continuously upgrading their knowledge and skills. Second, they must practice medicine with honesty and strong ethical values because the trust of patients forms the foundation of healthcare. Third, he said doctors must always show compassion, as medical service is ultimately service to humanity.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the Silver Jubilee marked 25 years of dedication to education, discipline and service by the institution. He described the event not only as a celebration of the college's journey but also as a recognition of a new generation of healthcare professionals who will carry forward its legacy.

Bhatti Vikramarka described the convocation as a major milestone for the graduating class of 2026, representing years of dedication, long hours of study and rigorous clinical training. He said the occasion also marks the beginning of a new chapter where the knowledge gained by students must be translated into service to society.

He noted that dentistry, like all



branches of medicine, is not merely a profession but a public trust. Patients approach doctors not only for treatment but also with faith in their judgement and compassion. Through their skills, doctors relieve pain, restore confidence and bring smiles back to people's lives, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also expressed happiness over the increasing number of women graduating in the medical field, calling it a positive transformation in society. He said women are making significant contributions to healthcare, research and leadership across India.

He praised the role of Army College of Dental Sciences in providing quality dental education and affordable healthcare services over the past 25 years. The institution, he noted, has also conducted community health programmes across Telangana, demonstrating how education and service can go hand in hand.

He further said it was a matter of pride that the college is the only dental institution in Telangana to feature in the National Institutional Ranking Framework rankings, reflecting the dedication of its management, faculty and students.

Bhatti Vikramarka congratulated the graduating batch of 2026 and expressed hope that they would serve society with commitment and bring honour to their institution, the state and the nation.

Vice Chancellor of Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences Dr. Ramesh Reddy, Telangana Dental Council President K. Rajesh Reddy, Major General Ajay Mishra, College Principal Dr. Mamata Kaushik and others participated in the programme.

KTR Joins Iftar with Muslim Community, Criticizes Congress for Ignoring Festival Budgets

Jeedimetla, March 7 | TPN Bureau:

A^grand Iftar feast was organized at the TSI-IC Multi-Purpose Function Hall in Suraram Division under the leadership of BRS LP Whip and MLA K.P. Vivekanand. The event saw the active participation of BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) as the chief guest, along with former Deputy Chief Minister Mahmud Ali, MLC Shambhipur Raju, Ragidi Laxmareddy, and other dignitaries.

During the occasion, KTR emphasized that the BRS government has consistently ensured inclusive governance by recognizing all religions and festivals. He cited initiatives such as distributing Ramadan gifts, Bathukamma sarees, and Christmas presents as examples of the administration's commitment to community welfare and harmony.

Criticizing the current Congress government, KTR stated that the opposition has neglect-



ed public festivities by failing to allocate adequate funds in the state budget, causing inconvenience to citizens who celebrate these occasions. "The BRS government has always prioritized cultural and religious inclusivity, ensuring that festivals are celebrated with dignity and support," he said.

KTR highlighted the spiritual significance of Ramadan, describing it as a month that promotes self-purification, pa-

trience, charity, and brotherhood. "Through fasting and devotion, individuals cultivate goodness within themselves, which strengthens love and unity in society," he added.

Extending his personal greetings, KTR wished the Muslim community a blessed Ramadan and prayed for peace, prosperity, and well-being in the lives of all participants. Following the formal address, he joined the Muslim community in partak-

ing of the Iftar meal, reinforcing the message of communal harmony and social cohesion.

The event was attended by minority community members, former public representatives, party presidents, leaders, activists, and members of affiliated organizations. The gathering reflected a strong emphasis on inclusivity, mutual respect, and celebration of diverse cultural practices within the state.

BRS leaders reiterated their commitment to fostering an environment where citizens of all faiths feel respected and supported. They emphasized that such engagements strengthen social bonds, promote understanding across communities, and reflect the government's dedication to secular and inclusive governance.

The Iftar event in Jeedimetla showcased a blend of cultural observance and political engagement, reinforcing the administration's message that festivals are not just religious rituals but also opportunities to enhance social unity and public participation in governance.

Revanth Reddy Meets Delaware Governor

Hyderabad, March 7 | TPN Bureau

T^elangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Delaware Governor Matt Meyer during a meeting held at Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad on Saturday. The discussions focused on cooperation in key sectors such as healthcare, education, and governance reforms.

Minister Sridhar Babu, First Lady of Delaware Lauren Meyer, Chief Minister's advisor Vem Narendar Reddy, and senior officials were also present at the meeting.

During the interaction, Governor Matt Meyer shared insights on several welfare and development initiatives implemented in the US state of Delaware. He explained programmes related to housing support for

poor and middle-class families, loan relief measures, and social welfare policies aimed at improving living standards.

The meeting also included discussions on data protection systems and the concept of universal healthcare. Both sides exchanged views on strengthening public service delivery and exploring policy ideas that could benefit citizens.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy highlighted Telangana's ongoing efforts to improve governance, strengthen welfare schemes, and expand access to quality education and healthcare. He briefed the visiting delegation about the state's development priorities and its focus on innovation-driven growth.

Governor Meyer invited the Chief Minister to visit Delaware along with a delegation from Telangana to further ex-

plore opportunities for collaboration. He expressed interest in building stronger ties between Telangana and Delaware in the coming years, particularly in areas such as education, healthcare, technology, and public policy.

The meeting reflected a shared interest in learning from each other's governance models and strengthening international partnerships that could support social and economic development.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy presented the Telangana-2047 Vision Document to Governor Matt Meyer. The document outlines the state government's long-term development roadmap, focusing on sustainable growth, improved infrastructure, and enhanced quality of life for citizens.

Officials said the interaction



marked a step towards building meaningful cooperation between Telangana and the US state of Delaware, with both sides expressing hope for continued engagement and mutual exchange of ideas in the future.



Green Queens of the Forests: Women Guardians of Telangana's Natural Heritage

In the forests managed by the Telangana Forest Department, women forest personnel are emerging as powerful symbols of courage, dedication and commitment to conservation. Today, women constitute nearly 30 percent of the executive workforce in the department, playing a vital role in safeguarding the state's natural wealth.

Across Telangana, these women are fondly known as "Haritha Ranulu" — the Green Queens. With the first rays of the morning sun, they step into the forests to begin their daily duties, taking responsibility for protecting every tree, bird, and wild animal within their jurisdiction. For them, the forest is not merely a workplace; it is a living ecosystem they nurture with pride and devotion.

Their responsibilities are demanding and often challenging. Regardless of heavy rains, scorching summer heat, or long night patrols, women forest staff remain steadfast in their mission to conserve nature. They work tirelessly to prevent poaching, illegal tree felling and other threats to wildlife and forests. The terrain may be harsh and the risks real—from encounters with wild animals to difficult weather conditions—but their commitment remains unwavering.

In addition to protection duties, these officers actively engage with local communities. They conduct awareness programmes in villages, educating residents and children about the importance of forests, biodiversity, and ecological balance. Through such outreach efforts, they



promote a powerful message: "One Tree - One Life."

Their service extends beyond routine protection work. During forest fires, these Green Queens join their teams and rush into action, often with limited resources, to control the flames and prevent large-scale destruction. When wildlife is injured, they assist in treatment and rescue operations. If animals stray

into human settlements, they carefully guide them back to their natural habitat, ensuring both human safety and wildlife protection.

The increasing greenery across Telangana and the thriving presence of birds and wildlife reflect the tireless efforts of these dedicated officers. Their work helps maintain ecological balance and secures the future of forests for generations to

come.

The guiding principle of these women is simple yet profound: "Where forests exist, life exists. Protecting forests means protecting the future."

As the world observes International Women's Day, it is important to recognise the remarkable contributions of women serving in the forest department. Many of them work in remote areas while simultaneously managing family responsibilities and facing the challenges of difficult terrain and natural disasters.

Women protect homes, but these Green Queens protect forests—the very foundation of life itself.

Their courage inspires society and their dedication safeguards our natural heritage. Each woman forest officer standing guard in the wilderness is truly a "Haritha Rani," a queen of the green landscapes she protects.

Green Queens assures us of one enduring truth: the forests and our future—are safe in their hands.



**Dr. Priyanka Varghese, IFS,
Director, Telangana State Forest
Academy, Dulapally,
Hyderabad.**

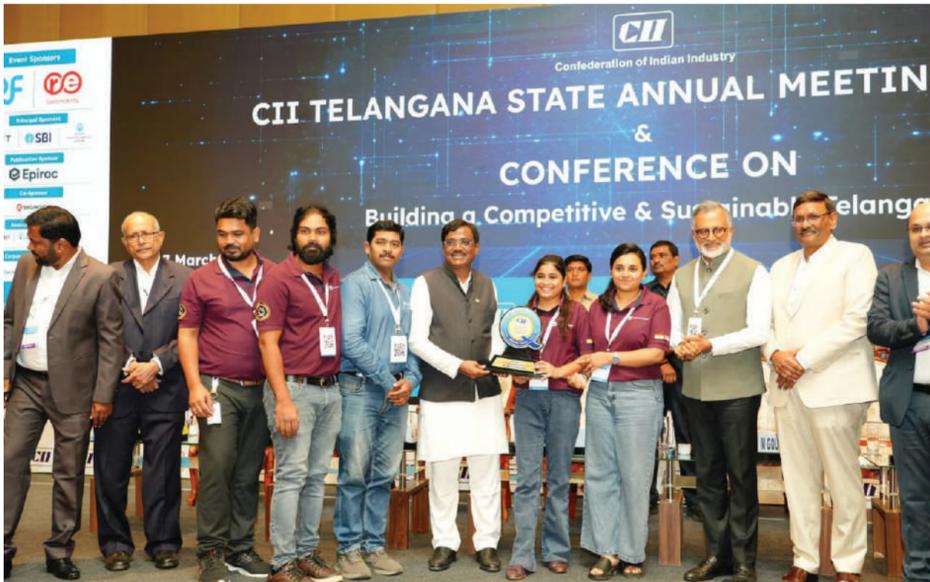
Telangana Aiming for \$3 Trillion Economy with Strong Industry Partnership: Minister Vivek

Hyderabad, March 7 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana is working to become a \$3 trillion economy in the coming years under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, said Labour, Employment and Mines Minister G. Vivek Venkataswamy. Speaking at the annual meet of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Hyderabad, the minister highlighted the government's focus on industry engagement, skill development, and creating an investor-friendly ecosystem.

He said the Employment Department has established Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) to train young people in skills aligned with the requirements of modern industries. The government has also consulted with CII to identify the sector-specific competencies required for emerging industries. Vivek pointed out that Telangana continues to witness a steady inflow of investments, and several new industrial units are expected to be established across the state. Ensuring the availability of a skilled workforce is crucial to meeting the demands of these industries.

The minister emphasized that the government is committed to improving both the ease and speed of doing business, allowing investments to be implemented efficiently. He stressed that industries have an equally important role in complying with statutory norms and safety guidelines set by the Government of India and the Government of Telangana. Proper adherence to these regulations safeguards work-



er interests and prevents losses due to negligence or non-compliance.

Recalling the contributions of former Union Minister Kaka Venkat Swamy, Vivek noted that pension schemes for private sector employees were proposed despite resistance from industries, and today these measures have proven highly beneficial for worker welfare.

Vivek urged industrial units to

actively cooperate with the government to ensure sustainable industrial growth while protecting worker rights. He stressed that skill development initiatives, regulatory compliance, and safety measures together would strengthen Telangana's position as a preferred destination for investment.

By combining strategic industry partnerships, targeted skill development programs, and effective

regulatory enforcement, Telangana aims to boost industrial productivity, create employment opportunities, and move steadily toward the ambitious \$3 trillion economic goal. Minister Vivek said that the government's proactive engagement with industries, coupled with the workforce readiness initiatives, would ensure inclusive growth and long-term economic sustainability in the state.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Greet Women on International Women's Day

Hyderabad, March 7 | TPN Bureau

Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and Member of the Legislative Council, extended warm greetings to women across the state on the occasion of International Women's Day.

In his message, he said women play an extraordinary role in shaping society and contribute significantly to every sphere of life, from family welfare to national development. He noted that the services and sacrifices made by women are invaluable and deserve recognition and respect.

Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasized that the development of society is impossible without women's empowerment. He said women are excelling in diverse fields such as education, employment, politics, science and technology, and sports, thereby becoming key partners in the country's progress. Their confidence, determination, and dedication serve as a great inspiration to



society, he added.

The TPCC president stated that the Telangana government is giving special priority to women's empowerment. He said the government is strengthening self-help groups and implementing several welfare schemes aimed at improving the

economic independence of women.

He particularly highlighted initiatives like the Mahalaxmi scheme, which aims to provide financial security and support to women. According to him, such programmes reflect the government's commitment to ensuring women's welfare

and empowerment.

Mahesh Kumar Goud also stressed that ensuring women's safety, dignity, and equal opportunities remains a key objective of the government. He said an educated woman can guide and uplift society, and therefore special emphasis must be placed on promoting education among girls.

He observed that International Women's Day is not only a celebration of women's achievements but also an important occasion to raise awareness about women's rights and opportunities in society.

Expressing hope for the future, he wished that women would continue to move forward with confidence, achieve greater success in all fields, and scale new heights in their personal and professional lives.

On the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud once again conveyed his best wishes and hoped that every woman in the state would lead a healthy, happy, and dignified life.

SC Corporation Chairman Preetam's Comments on SC Reservation and Political Issues



Hyderabad, March 7 | TPN Bureau

At Gandhi Bhavan, SC Corporation Chairman Preetam made strong remarks regarding the current political scenario and SC reservation issues in Telangana.

Preetam criticized the conduct of certain leaders, stating that Mand Krishna Madiga acts according to external directions, particularly under the influence of BJP leadership, rather than prioritizing the interests of the SC community. He emphasized that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy implemented SC classification based on promises made during his tenure, yet some individuals fail to acknowledge this effort. Preetam highlighted that the CM extended support for protests at Jantar Mantar, showing tangible backing for SC concerns.

He raised a question about why SC categorization is enforced in Congress-ruled states but not in BJP-ruled states. Preetam also recalled alleged corruption during the previous BRS government's Chief Minister Relief Fund, which Congress authorities exposed after coming to power. He noted incidents in Kodad where CMRF checks were allegedly misused and that action was taken against involved officials, including the suspension of the local CI.

Preetam stressed that Dalit

land irregularities under the prior BRS government went unchecked, and leaders like Mand Krishna Madiga were absent during those critical times. He clarified that the movement for Madiga reservations was not initiated by Mand Krishna Madiga himself; it traces back to historical efforts: the 1965 Lokur Commission, the 1975 Punjab SC reservation movement, and the Ushamehra Commission during YSR's tenure.

He lauded Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for implementing SC reservations to protect the Madiga community's rights, stating that reservations are crucial for safeguarding the community's identity. Preetam pointed out that while assembly members in the past had demanded reservations with protests, today, the CM has taken the decisive step to formalize and implement them.

In conclusion, he emphasized that the government's actions on SC classification and reservations are a significant step toward securing Dalit rights in Telangana, asserting that the current administration has actively fulfilled its commitments where previous efforts fell short.

This underscores the CM's role in ensuring SC representation, protecting community interests, and addressing longstanding historical issues.

Hyderabad Emerging as Global Hub for AI-Driven Financial Innovation: Sridhar Babu



Hyderabad, March 7 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana is rapidly establishing itself as a global hub for artificial intelligence-driven financial technology, with several leading international financial institutions setting up major innovation and engineering centres in the city, said D. Sridhar Babu.

Speaking at the CFO Summit organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), the Minister highlighted how artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the role of technology in organisations, shifting it from a traditional cost centre to a strategic value-creation engine that drives growth, innovation, and improved financial decision-making.

Hyderabad has developed one of the world's strongest financial technology ecosystems, with global financial giants such as Vanguard, UBS, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, MassMutual, Franklin Templeton, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, and Citigroup operating large technology and analytics centres in the city. Sridhar Babu noted that the city currently hosts nearly 400 Global Capability Centres (GCCs), employing over three lakh professionals, while Telangana's technology sector generates more than \$40 billion in IT exports annually.

He emphasised that the state is now focusing on the next phase of growth through initiatives such as AI City, Future

City, and AIKAM, aimed at building a robust AI ecosystem, expanding digital infrastructure, and developing a large-scale talent pool to support the AI-driven economy.

Highlighting the evolving role of finance leaders, Sridhar Babu said that CFOs are increasingly becoming key drivers of digital transformation, guiding investments in technology, AI, and data-driven capabilities that will shape the competitiveness of global enterprises. He stressed that integrating AI into financial operations enhances efficiency, risk management, and strategic planning.

The summit also witnessed the participation of prominent personalities, including former Chief Vigilance Commissioner K. V. Chowdary, noted film producer and President of Vignana Jyothi Institute of Management (VJIM) Daggubati Suresh Babu, FICCI CFO Council Chairman Rajneesh Jain, Co-Chairman Subbaiah Kumar, and Vignana Jyothi Institutions CEO and former DGP Anuradha.

Sridhar Babu reiterated that Telangana's vision is to combine financial expertise with AI innovation, creating a globally competitive environment for technology-driven finance. He called on industries and educational institutions to collaborate closely with the government to cultivate the talent and infrastructure necessary for Hyderabad to remain a leading global fintech hub.

Harish Rao Slams CM Revanth Reddy Over Kaleshwaram Project Delays



Karimnagar, March 7 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister T. Harish Rao criticized Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over alleged mismanagement of irrigation projects during his visit to the Choppadandi constituency in Karimnagar district. Harish Rao inspected the Kondannapalli flood canal and expressed strong dissatisfaction with the state government's handling of Kaleshwaram waters and related infrastructure.

Harish Rao pointed out that under the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao and the TRS government, Karimnagar district was transformed into a major water hub. "Recently, the Lakshmi Pump House motors were turned on, releasing Kaleshwaram waters into flood canals. Yet CM Revanth Reddy repeatedly claims the project is non-functional. The very canals carrying water for crops are fed by Kaleshwaram," he said.

He highlighted the extensive work done under Packages 6 and 8, including tunnel completions, reservoirs, and canal networks, which brought irrigation to constituencies like Choppadandi, Jagityal, Korutla, Metpalli, and Balkonda. "The current government is using Kaleshwaram waters, but publicly denies the project's impact. This is shameful for a sitting CM," Harish Rao stated.

The former minister emphasized that Kaleshwaram is not just a single barrage; it comprises three ma-

major barrages, 16 reservoirs, 18 substations, 203 km of tunnels, and 1,600 km of gravity canals. He stressed that the 2022 record rice production in Telangana is a direct result of Kaleshwaram irrigation.

Harish Rao further criticized the state government for failing to construct new canals or check dams over the past two and a half years. While TRS completed key projects like Ellampalli, Mankonduru, and other reservoirs, the Congress government has reportedly focused only on minor works, leaving large-scale irrigation projects pending.

He demanded immediate completion of canal works to ensure water reaches farmers, alongside timely distribution of farmer support funds and urea. Harish Rao accused the CM of prioritizing political theatrics over practical measures, noting that the government's 99-day plan has not addressed critical irrigation or agricultural needs.

"The CM's empty statements will not fill farmers' stomachs. Stop misleading the public, turn on the Kaleshwaram pumps, repair the Medigadda pillars, and provide water for crops immediately," he said, urging urgent action to support agriculture and rural livelihoods.

This visit underscores ongoing political tension over Telangana's irrigation management, with former ministers asserting that TRS-led Kaleshwaram initiatives continue to be vital for the state's agriculture and food security.

Harish Rao Slams CM Revanth Reddy for Neglecting Farmers and Welfare Schemes



Choppadandi, Karimnagar District, 07.03.2026 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao sharply criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy during a large-scale party workers' meeting in Choppadandi constituency. Addressing a gathering that saw massive induction of leaders and workers from Congress and BJP into BRS, Rao accused the CM of prioritising publicity over addressing the real issues faced by farmers and common citizens.

"Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is not a Karna; he is a tyrant. While KCR ensured development and the welfare of farmers, today's administration is causing destruction and neglect," Rao said. He recalled KCR's nine-year

tenure, highlighting initiatives like Rythu Bandhu, crop procurement, irrigation development, and timely support for farmers. According to Rao, these programs turned agriculture into a prosperous sector, while under the current government, essential benefits remain delayed, and farmers' fields are left to dry due to irrigation and input gaps.

Rao also criticised urban development projects such as the Moosi beautification and Hyderabad real estate ventures, alleging they are prioritised at the expense of poor families, whose homes are being demolished. "Revanth Reddy focuses on rhetoric, while the poor and farmers suffer," Rao said. He contrasted this with KCR's record, noting that pensions, educational opportunities for Dalits, and women's colleges were established to uplift marginalized communities. Under the current government, Rao argued, funds are spent on advertisements, events, and football matches rather than welfare schemes.

The former minister also dismissed the so-called 99-day action plan as a publicity gimmick rather than a meaningful effort to deliver services. Rao called on the CM and ministers to visit villages personally and ensure proper implementation of welfare programs, rather than relying on announcements and media coverage.

The meeting was attended by former ministers Gangula Kamalakar, Koppula Eshwar, MLC L. Ramana, MLA Dr. Sanjay Kumar, and former MLAs Vidyasagar Rao and Sunke Ravishankar. Rao emphasised that citizens will judge the government by the timely delivery of pensions, Rythu Bandhu payments, and other welfare initiatives, not political speeches or theatrics.

He urged the administration to act immediately on farmers' grievances, resume stalled schemes, and ensure benefits reach the intended beneficiaries. Rao concluded that public trust and welfare must be restored before any further political narratives could succeed.

99-Day Praja Palana Plan Marks New Governance Approach: Mahesh Kumar Goud

Hyderabad, March 7 | TPN Bureau

Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and Member of the Legislative Council, said the Telangana Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has taken a major step toward transforming "Praja Palana" from a slogan into a structured governance programme through a 99-day action plan.

He stated that the initiative, launched on March 6, aims to take governance directly to the people through a phased process beginning with village-level meetings and culminating in a comprehensive state-level review. According to him, the programme is built on the principles of responsibility, transparency, and public participation, and is expected to set a new direction for governance in Telangana.

Mahesh Kumar Goud explained that the government recognizes citizens as the central pillar of democracy and has therefore designed the 99-day programme in five phases under the concept of "government at the people's doorstep." The initiative began with preparatory meetings in the erstwhile districts on March 6. Village-level Gram Sabhas



are scheduled for April 2, followed by mandal-level meetings on April 16, constituency-level programmes on May 2, district-level reviews on May 22, and a comprehensive evaluation on June 2 coinciding with Telangana Formation Day.

He said the programme is not merely a schedule of events but a responsible administrative process intended to bring governance closer to the public. The feedback, problems, and suggestions raised in village meetings will be incorporated into policy implementation, making the system more responsive to people's

needs. The TPCC chief said the government has divided the 99-day programme into ten major thematic areas to ensure comprehensive development across sectors. Special focus will be given to cleanliness drives and clearing pending government files to improve administrative efficiency and transparency.

He also said the government plans to strengthen rural health centres, conduct health screening camps, and prioritize maternal and child health-care services. Through the "Arrive Alive" initiative, awareness about road safety will be promoted while

preventive measures will be implemented to reduce accidents.

Mahesh Kumar Goud added that the government is taking steps to resolve issues faced by beneficiaries of welfare schemes and ensure that welfare benefits reach people effectively. Special awareness programmes will also be conducted to prevent drug abuse among youth and promote child safety.

He said the government is giving priority to the education sector by improving school infrastructure, recruiting teachers, and encouraging digital learning. Skill development programmes and

sports initiatives will also be promoted to nurture youth talent.

The TPCC president further said the Congress government remains committed to farmers' welfare by ensuring timely supply of seeds and fertilizers, reviewing irrigation facilities, and strengthening market infrastructure.

He added that women's empowerment is being promoted through schemes such as Mahalaxmi and Indiramma Mahila Shakti while strengthening self-help groups to make women economically independent.

Mahesh Kumar Goud said the government is also focusing on environmental protection by safeguarding forests, trees, and water resources to promote sustainable development.

To enhance transparency, the government will monitor the programme through a dedicated mobile application that will provide real-time progress reports.

He concluded that the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" initiative represents a new administrative culture focused on transparency, accountability, and inclusive development, emphasizing that governance has now truly begun reaching the people.

Congress Pushes Education Reform, Criticizes BRS Mismanagement



Hyderabad, March 7 | TPN Bureau

Chanagani Dayakar has strongly criticized the BRS leadership for allegedly dismantling Telangana's

public education system, while highlighting the Congress government's efforts under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to restore and strengthen it.

Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, Dayakar said that the Chief Minister has taken personal responsibility for the education portfolio, signaling the government's commitment to prioritizing education alongside other key sectors such as irrigation.

Dayakar accused former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) of systematically weakening the education system, introducing caste-based "gurukulas" and allowing disparities in school infrastructure and learning opportunities to widen. He said that under the BRS regime, public schools were neglected, teachers' dignity was undermined, and equitable access to quality education was compromised. "KCR's policies disrupted the public education system, leaving children and teachers without proper support," Dayakar stated.

In contrast, he said, the Congress government is working to rebuild the system in a transparent, inclusive, and accountable manner. Integrated schools are being estab-

lished to ensure equitable access for children of all communities. Efforts are being made to provide modern infrastructure, recruit qualified teachers, and implement effective governance mechanisms that prioritize learning outcomes. He emphasized that reforms are guided by fairness and merit, moving away from the caste-based and politicized policies of the previous administration.

Dayakar also accused BRS leaders of actively opposing these reforms, suggesting they are attempting to obstruct the progress of public education through baseless criticism. He said the government's focus on providing quality education to all children should be celebrated, not resisted. Special attention is being given to restoring teacher morale, with timely salaries and professional support, in contrast to the neglect and disrespect they faced under the previous regime.

He further criticized R.S. Praveen Kumar, a BRS-affiliated official, claiming that his public re-

marks on education had been widely ridiculed and did not reflect a constructive approach to improving the system. Dayakar urged opposition leaders to support policies that strengthen education rather than undermine it.

The Congress government, according to Dayakar, is committed to creating a modern, transparent, and inclusive education system that benefits every child in Telangana. By prioritizing teacher dignity, infrastructure development, and equitable access, the government aims to reverse the damage of the past decade and ensure sustainable improvements in public education. He concluded that these reforms are critical for building a skilled, informed, and empowered generation capable of contributing to the state's overall progress.

This approach, he said, reflects the government's determination to place governance at the people's doorstep, ensuring that public education serves as a foundation for long-term development and social equity.

Anurag University Celebrates International Women's Day with Enthusiasm

Ghatkesar, March 7 | TPN Bureau

Anurag University in Hyderabad hosted a vibrant and inspirational International Women's Day celebration at the E-Block Auditorium, highlighting the achievements, strength, and potential of women in society. The event aimed to encourage women to recognize their talents, speak up for their rights, and embrace leadership roles across various fields. Faculty members, students, and distinguished guests attended the program, honoring women's contributions and accomplishments.

The meeting was attended by former ministers Gangula Kamalakar, Koppula Eshwar, MLC L. Ramana, MLA Dr. Sanjay Kumar, and former MLAs Vidyasagar Rao and Sunke Ravishankar. Rao emphasised that citizens will judge the government by the timely delivery of pensions, Rythu Bandhu payments, and other welfare initiatives, not political speeches or theatrics.

She said the government is giving priority to the education sector by improving school infrastructure, recruiting teachers, and encouraging digital learning. Skill development programmes and

Parisaboyina also stressed the significance of workplace safety and dignity for women, advising them to speak out against unsafe conditions or injustices at work. She encouraged women to approach responsibilities with honesty and dedication, rather than relying on shortcuts, reinforcing the values of integrity and perseverance.

Anurag University's Vice-Principal, Archana Mantridi, delivered an inspiring message on women's empowerment, highlighting the need for women to face and overcome challenges with courage. She encouraged them to express their problems and concerns freely, underlining that women are a source of immense strength and should recognize their inherent potential. According to Dr. Mantridi, every woman is naturally a multitasker capable of managing multiple responsibilities



effectively. She emphasized that women have the ability to become strong leaders across sectors and should confidently assume leadership roles.

The program underscored the critical role women play in shaping families, society, and institutions. Speeches by the esteemed guests reinforced the importance of acknowledging women's

contributions, promoting gender equality, and inspiring women to occupy leadership positions.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Women's Welfare Committee Convener Dr. Sireesha, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the chief guest Sangeetha Parisaboyina, Vice-Principal Archana Mantridi, Associate Dean Dr. Srinivasa Chalapati, department

heads, faculty, and students. She also commended the organizing team for their efforts in making the Women's Day celebration a success.

The celebration at Anurag University served as a powerful reminder of the transformative potential of women in society and encouraged attendees to actively support and foster women's empowerment across all spheres of life.

BJP Stages Protest Over Mosquito Menace, Storms Nizampet Circle Office



Quthbullapur, March 7 | TPN Bureau:

BJP leaders on Tuesday staged a protest at the Nizampet Circle office of the Cyberabad Corporation, expressing strong dissatisfaction over the authorities' inaction on the escalating mosquito problem in the area. The protest, which drew large participation from local residents, highlighted the health hazards faced by women and children due to the persistent mosquito menace.

Chanting slogans such as "Commissioner Down, Down" and "Congress Down, Down," the BJP leaders accused the officials of neglecting citizen complaints and demanded immediate action to control mosquito-borne diseases. "Despite repeated requests, the authorities have failed to address the problem, causing immense distress to residents," said a senior BJP leader.

During the protest, BJP leaders also brought local residents, particularly women from the colonies, to the forefront, ensuring that their grievances were directly communicated to the Commissioner. The party demanded immediate coordination among all relevant departments to initiate fogging and other mosquito control measures without delay.

BJP leaders warned that they would not disperse from the site until officials personally visited the colonies and implemented fogging operations. The protest emphasized that prolonged negli-

gence could worsen public health risks, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Responding to the demonstration, the Commissioner assured the protesters that a review meeting would be conducted immediately. He confirmed that all concerned officials would be directed to start fogging and other mosquito control measures promptly. Satisfied with the prompt assurance, the BJP leaders ended their protest.

The event saw participation from several prominent leaders, including three divisional presidents—Prasad Raju, Narendra Chaudhari, and Bikshapati Yadav—as well as Dalit Morcha state leaders Dasi Nagaraju, Kasani Santosh, Gajjali Santosh, Santosh Goud, Prahlad, Karthik, Atheesh Babu, and BJYM leader Raju, among others.

The protest underscores the growing concern over mosquito-borne diseases in urban colonies and the urgency for civic authorities to respond swiftly. Local residents expressed relief that their complaints received immediate attention from the administration following the BJP demonstration.

The party emphasized that such civic issues require continuous monitoring and prompt action, warning that repeated negligence could result in more aggressive public protests in the future.

Telangana Dairy Federation Raises Concerns Over AP's Handling of Milk Collections



Lalapat, March 7 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Dairy Development Federation Chairman Gutta Amit Reddy has expressed serious concerns over the Andhra Pradesh government's handling of milk collection and distribution under the Vijay Dairy brand, saying the process is not being conducted transparently.

Speaking at a media briefing held at Vijay Bhavan in Lalapat on Saturday, Amit Reddy said that Vijay Dairy, established in 1984, currently collects around four lakh liters of milk daily. He emphasized that the federation has been consistently providing high-quality milk to consumers in Telangana.

However, the chairman highlighted that following the bifurcation of the Telugu states, the Vijay Dairy brand was split, and attempts are now being made by the Andhra Pradesh government to hand over the brand to private players. "We have repeatedly brought this matter to the attention of the AP government, but under the leadership of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the brand has been franchised to Meghana Foods, a Gujarat-based company, for ghee production," he said.

Amit Reddy warned that reports indicate the ghee produced under this franchise is substandard, with investigations revealing the presence of vegetable oil instead of pure ghee. He cautioned that allowing private entities to

manage the Vijay Dairy brand could lead to further adulteration and jeopardize the reputation of the iconic brand.

"We are committed to protecting the quality and trust associated with Vijay Dairy. If any fraudulent or fake products are sold under the Vijay Dairy name in Telangana, the federation will take strict action," he added.

The chairman also announced that a one-week deadline would be given to ensure no counterfeit products are sold in the Telangana market. He warned that failure to comply would result in severe consequences for the parties involved.

Amit Reddy's statement underscores the ongoing tensions between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh over shared dairy assets and brand rights following the state bifurcation. He reiterated the federation's commitment to maintaining transparency in milk collection and ensuring that Telangana consumers receive high-quality dairy products.

The Telangana Dairy Development Federation has been actively monitoring milk collection and distribution processes to prevent adulteration and protect farmers' interests. The federation urged the public and authorities to remain vigilant against the circulation of fake products under the Vijay Dairy label and assured that all necessary steps would be taken to safeguard both the brand and consumers.

No Parking Zone Turns Into Parking Hub



Quthbullapur, March 7 | TPN Bureau:

Traffic rules appear to be openly flouted near Malla Reddy Narayana Hospital at Suraram under the Suraram-Jeedimetla Traffic Police Station limits in Quthbullapur, where vehicles are frequently parked in a clearly marked "No Parking" zone. Despite the presence of warning boards, motorists continue to park their vehicles along the roadside, raising questions about enforcement and traffic management in the busy area.

Local residents say the problem has been persist-

ing for a long time and has gradually worsened due to the lack of adequate parking facilities provided by the hospital management. As a result, visitors and motorists reportedly leave their vehicles along the main road without hesitation, effectively ignoring the traffic restrictions in place.

The road in front of the hospital is part of the busy Narsapur-Balanagar main route, which witnesses heavy vehicular movement throughout the day. Thousands of vehicles pass through this stretch daily, making it one of the key

traffic corridors in the locality. However, the presence of vehicles parked right under "No Parking" boards has become a common sight, creating bottlenecks and disrupting the smooth flow of traffic.

Residents point out that the issue is not limited to traffic congestion alone. The absence of a proper pedestrian pathway has further worsened the situation. The footpath that once existed along the road has virtually disappeared due to encroachments and the installation of pipes and ropes along the edge of the road. Portions of the space

meant for pedestrians have also been taken over by parked vehicles.

As a result, pedestrians are forced to walk on the busy road alongside moving vehicles, putting their safety at risk. Locals say this situation is particularly dangerous during peak hours when traffic density is high.

Residents also recalled that accidents involving pedestrians have occurred in the past at the same location when people attempted to cross the road amid the congestion. Despite such incidents, they allege that no concrete measures have

been taken so far to address the issue.

People in the area are urging the traffic authorities to take strict action against illegal parking and ensure that vehicles are not allowed to stop in designated "No Parking" zones. They also called for the restoration of pedestrian pathways and better traffic monitoring to prevent further inconvenience.

Locals hope that authorities will respond to their concerns and take timely steps to resolve the issue before it leads to more accidents or serious traffic disruptions.

MPs State President Criticizes CM Revanth Reddy Over SC Community Issues

Hyderabad, 07.03.2026 | TPN Bureau:

MP State President of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti (MRPS), Govind Naresh Madiga, criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, claiming that the recent felicitation ceremony was not an honor for the community but a recognition of betrayal against it. The comments were made at a media briefing organized by the MRPS at Osmania University Arts College in Hyderabad.

Naresh questioned why Revanth Reddy was being honored despite failing to implement SC community reservations in government employment. He highlighted that, despite previous notifications promising SC categorization, 70,000 jobs were filled without reservation, leaving many unemployed Madigas struggling. Even after the Supreme Court ruling, the government did not implement the SC quota law, issuing employment notifications under pressure that resulted



in injustice for Madiga aspirants.

"The SC community was entitled to 11% reservation, but only 9% was allocated, causing further injustice," Naresh said. He also criticized the reduction of legislative assembly tickets allotted to Madigas during state elections and the absence of any Madiga representation in Lok Sabha

seats. "There has been no reconciliation or benefit for Madigas. Yesterday's Chief Minister's felicitation ceremony was a poor, self-serving event," he added.

Naresh emphasized that such ceremonies diminish the Chief Minister's credibility and do not reflect the respect or dignity of the SC community. "Participating

in such hollow events distances the CM from the Madiga community rather than bridging gaps," he said.

The media briefing was attended by several senior MRPS leaders, including National President Dr. Chippalapalli Somashekar Madiga, State General Secretary Dr. Kommu Shekar Madiga, National Secretary

Dr. Pallerla Sudhakar Madiga, State Vice President Ramaravu Srinivas Madiga, State Leader Veerapakula Parashuram Madiga, State Secretary Bairapogu Shivakumar Madiga, Hyderabad District Presidents Janapala Mahesh Madiga and Kola Harish Madiga, along with Kanakpudi Mahendra Madiga, Duda Vamsi Madiga, Narsing Rao Madiga, and Venkatesh Madiga.

Naresh urged the Chief Minister to prioritize the rights and welfare of the Madiga community, implement reservation laws fully, and ensure equitable representation in jobs and politics. He called on Revanth Reddy to refrain from participating in self-serving ceremonies that do not address the real issues faced by the community.

The MRPS leader stressed that political gestures without substantive action are meaningless and will only deepen the disconnect between the administration and the marginalized communities it claims to serve.

MRPS Criticizes Telangana Education Commission Over Fee Reimbursement Recommendation

Hyderabad, 07.03.2026 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana's education system is facing serious concern after the state Education Commission Chairman, Akunuri Murali, reportedly recommended to the government the removal of the fee reimbursement scheme for private engineering colleges. This recommendation drew strong criticism from MRPS State Secretary Nagaram Prashanth during a media briefing organized by the MRPS at Osmania University Arts College.

Prashanth described the recommendation as "deeply troubling" and warned that removing the scheme would severely affect thousands of underprivileged students. "Fee reimbursement is not a favor—it is the right of poor students. This scheme enables thousands to pursue engineering and higher education who would otherwise be unable to afford it," he said.

He accused the Chairman of attempting to distance



underprivileged students from education. "Taking away this program is nothing short of a conspiracy to block access to higher education for the poor. The government must abandon this recommendation immediately," he added.

Prashanth also emphasized that Telangana has, over the years, implemented several schemes under the leadership of Chief

Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) to strengthen the state's education system. "These initiatives were designed to ensure equitable access to higher education, especially for marginalized communities. Unfortunately, the current Congress government appears to be gradually dismantling these achievements," he said.

Highlighting the impor-

tance of the fee reimbursement program, Prashanth urged policymakers to recognize that this initiative has been a lifeline for economically disadvantaged students seeking technical education in the state. "Denying this support will directly impact their ability to pursue careers in engineering and technology, affecting the socio-economic mobility of thousands of

families," he noted.

The media briefing was attended by several MRPS leaders and OU activists, including Kuruvupally, ELpukonda Ramakrishna, Konda Ganesh, Medhi Pawan Devans, Rakesh, Nikhil, Santosh, Karthik, and Venkatesh, among others.

Prashanth concluded by urging the Telangana government to uphold the rights of underprivileged students and ensure that schemes like fee reimbursement remain intact. He emphasized that weakening or removing such initiatives not only undermines the state's educational progress but also betrays the trust of marginalized communities who rely on government support for higher education.

The MRPS leader warned that any attempt to dismantle the fee reimbursement programs would be met with strong opposition from social organizations and community groups committed to protecting educational access for all students.

Chamala Kiran Reddy Counters BRS, BJP Leaders

Bhuvanagiri, March 7 | TPN Bureau

Bhuvanagiri Lok Sabha Member Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy strongly countered criticism from BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao as well as BJP leaders over the Telangana government's "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" 99-day programme. He said the initiative launched by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy aims to connect directly with people and assess public opinion on governance, welfare, and development carried out by the Congress government.

Speaking to the media, the MP said the programme was introduced after the completion of Gram Panchayat and municipal elections, enabling the government to understand the views and expectations of citizens across the state. According to him, the initiative will help evaluate both the welfare measures implemented by the Congress government and the public's perception of its performance.

Kiran Kumar Reddy said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had taken a constructive decision to interact with people through the programme. However, he alleged that BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao were uncomfortable with the government reaching out to the public. He claimed that the opposition leaders were attempting to create obstacles because they did not want the Congress government to strengthen its connect with people.

The MP stated that BRS leaders had never imagined losing power after ruling the state for a decade and believed that authority would remain permanently with them. He



said the discomfort expressed by opposition leaders stems from the government's move to present its governance record before the public during the programme.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy further criticised the previous BRS administration, alleging that despite constructing the Pragathi Bhavan complex, the state did not witness meaningful progress. He also accused the previous government of pushing Telangana into heavy debt during its ten-year rule. According to him, people are aware of the

loans raised through what he described as "secretive government orders" during that period.

The MP also alleged that when the BRS government left office, several financial liabilities such as salary payments and pensions were pending. He said the present Congress government is working hard to stabilise the state's finances and put Telangana back on a stable administrative track.

Kiran Kumar Reddy asserted that criticism from opposition leaders would not destabilise the govern-

ment. He said the ultimate judges are the people of Telangana, who had placed their trust in the Congress party by electing it to power.

He also called upon opposition leaders, including K.T. Rama Rao, Harish Rao and BJP representatives, to participate constructively in the Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika programme. Instead of spreading misinformation, he said they should attend district and village-level meetings and offer constructive suggestions as part of a responsible opposition.

Jeedimetla Police Recover 50 Stolen Mobile Phones Using Technology

Jeedimetla, March 7 | TPN Bureau:

In a major technological success, the Jeedimetla Police recovered 50 stolen mobile phones and returned them to their rightful owners, officials said. The operation was conducted under the guidance of senior police officials, with CI Gaddam Mallesh and DI Dhanunjay supervising the Crime Branch team.

The stolen devices were traced using the CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) portal, a digital tool established by the Central Government to track lost or stolen mobile phones. The recovered phones, with a combined market value of 8,82,300, were officially handed over to the complainants during a formal ceremony held at the Jeedimetla Police Station.

CI Gaddam Mallesh urged the public to immediately register complaints with the nearest police station in case of a lost or stolen device. He highlighted the importance of entering device details in the CEIR portal, as it allows the authorities to trace and recover stolen phones efficiently.



"Prompt reporting and digital tracking make recovery faster and more effective. Citizens should remain alert and immediately notify the police of any suspicious activity," the CI added.

Officials explained that integrating technology into policing has significantly enhanced crime resolution and property recovery.

The recovery of 50 phones in one operation marks one of the largest recoveries in the Jeedimetla area using the CEIR system.

ESI Sathyanarayana, along with other Jeedimetla Police Station staff, participated in the handover ceremony, ensuring that all recovered devices were returned transparently and promptly to the

owners.

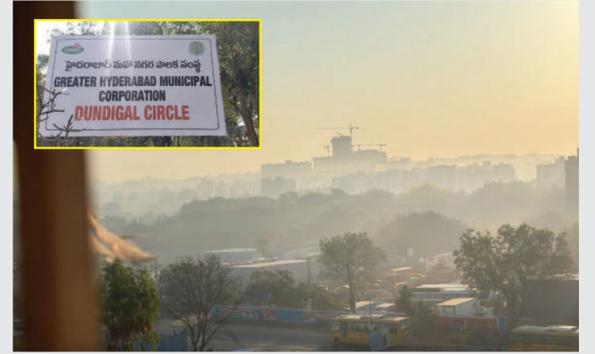
The police also stressed that citizens should be proactive in safeguarding their devices and consistently use official channels, such as the CEIR portal, to report missing or stolen phones. Such initiatives not only help protect personal property but also deter mobile theft in the region.

Officials noted that mobile phones are increasingly essential for daily life, and timely reporting combined with digital tracking can prevent losses and ensure justice.

The Jeedimetla Police reiterated their commitment to leveraging modern technology for efficient law enforcement. They assured the public that similar tech-driven operations would continue to maintain public trust, enhance safety, and showcase the effective use of digital tools in crime prevention and property recovery.

This operation demonstrates the Telangana Police's proactive approach to combining technology with policing to address challenges and safeguard citizen property effectively.

Chemical Odor Worries Residents of Simhapuri: Calls for Immediate Action



Jeedimetla, March 7 | TPN Bureau:

Residents of Simhapuri Colony E and F in Bourampet, under Dundigal Circle, have been struggling with a persistent chemical odor in the air for the past few months, causing widespread discomfort. The stench is particularly noticeable during early mornings and evenings, leading to growing concerns about its impact on public health, especially among children and the elderly.

Simhapuri is primarily a residential area, with several schools and educational institutions located nearby. Parents are increasingly anxious about the potential health effects of constant exposure to chemical fumes, citing respiratory issues, eye irritation, headaches, and other related problems. Several residents have reported difficulty in breathing, burning sensations in the eyes, and persistent headaches, which they attribute to the prevailing air pollution.

Local inhabitants suspect that the odor is emanating from some industrial units located in the nearby ALEAP industrial area. While this theory is widely discussed in the community, the exact source of the chemical emissions has not yet been confirmed. Residents are demanding urgent intervention from authorities to identify the source of the pollution and implement corrective measures.

In response to the growing distress, residents have appealed to the Telangana State Pollution Control Board (PCB) to conduct immediate inspections in Simhapuri and surrounding areas. They emphasized the need for quality testing to determine the chemicals responsible for the odor and to ensure that any industry violating environmental norms is penalized promptly.

"If action is not taken, the people of Simhapuri Colony E and F are ready to stage a protest to demand accountability and relief from this environmental hazard," local representatives warned.

The community has urged the PCB to carry out comprehensive monitoring, particularly during early mornings and evenings when the odor is most severe. Parents stressed that children attending nearby schools are most vulnerable, and delaying action could have long-term health implications.

Residents also called on industrial authorities to adopt safer emission practices and maintain transparency regarding the chemicals being used. They insisted that collaboration between industrial units, the PCB, and local authorities is critical to ensure both public safety and industrial compliance.

As of now, authorities have yet to release a statement regarding inspection schedules or preventive measures. Meanwhile, the residents of Simhapuri continue to live under the shadow of persistent chemical fumes, hoping for swift government intervention to restore clean air and safeguard public health.

Telangana Housing Board Launches Digital Portal to Complete 5,000 Pending Registrations in 99-Day Plan



Hyderabad, 07.03.2026 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Housing Board has launched a new digital registration portal to ensure transparency and faster service delivery to citizens, announced Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, on Saturday. The initiative is part of the government's 99-day "Governance Progress Report" program, aimed at achieving key developmental targets across the state.

Minister Srinivas Reddy said the Housing Board is committed to completing the pending registration process of approximately 5,000 properties—including houses, flats, and plots—within the stipulated 99-day period. These include cases where some buyers have pending installments, overdue payments, or registration delays. He emphasized that the registrations must be completed in accordance with government rules, taking into account principal amounts, interest, and current market values.

The newly launched portal will enable citizens to complete registrations without the need for repeated visits to officials. It will provide complete information on registration procedures, payments, and other transactions in a transparent and easily accessible manner. The portal will also allow allotment beneficiaries to

monitor the status of their registrations, verify payments, and track other related processes on a single platform.

"The digital system not only ensures transparency but also brings government services closer to citizens," Minister Srinivas Reddy said. "It will strengthen trust between the Housing Board and beneficiaries, while enabling efficient governance in line with government policies."

The Minister further instructed officials to work with full dedication to achieve the targets set under the 99-day action plan. He highlighted that the program is in line with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision for efficient, citizen-centric governance and emphasized that all officers must actively participate to ensure its success.

During the event, Minister Srinivas Reddy also unveiled a poster outlining the 99-day action plan of the Housing Board. The launch ceremony was attended by Housing Board MD VP Gautam, CEO R. Ramana Reddy, and other senior officials.

The Housing Board's digital registration portal is expected to streamline property registration processes, reduce delays, and enhance transparency, ultimately benefiting citizens while reinforcing confidence in the government's initiatives.

Ministers Unveil Statue of Renowned Journalist M.S. Acharya in Rangareddy

Rangareddy, March 7 | TPN Bureau:

Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Sridhar Babu unveiled the statue of eminent journalist and freedom fighter M.S. Acharya at Gopanapalli Phase-3 on Tuesday. The event was attended by media personalities including Media Academy Chairman Srinivas Reddy, senior journalist Ramachandra Murthy, former Information Commissioner Madabhushi Sridhar, and BC Study Circle Director Mamidi Harikrishna.

The ministers also felicitated sculptor Upender, who designed the statue, honoring his contribution to commemorating the legacy of M.S. Acharya. They emphasized the importance of remembering Acharya not only as a journalist but also as a social reformer who inspired generations through his work.

Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar highlighted Acharya's pioneering role as the editor and founder of the influential newspaper Janadhama, which he established in November 1958. The newspaper became known for its unbiased reporting and efforts to raise social awareness. Acharya also launched Warangal Vani in 1980, contributing significantly to the editorial landscape of the region with thought-provoking articles that encouraged civic consciousness.

"Acharya's unwavering commitment to truth and social justice, combined with his steadfast principles, made him a guiding light for Telangana journalism. His legacy continues to inspire journalists and citizens alike," said Prabhakar.



The ministers also recognized the contributions of Acharya's son, Madabhushi Sridhar, who has excelled in multiple fields, including his tenure as Information Commissioner. They underscored that Acharya's vision of responsible journalism and dedication to the public interest should guide future generations.

Speaking on the occasion, the ministers noted that the Congress

party has always valued democratic principles, but regional journalism and media infrastructure supporting historical narratives remain crucial for preserving public knowledge. They stressed the need for younger generations to follow Acharya's example, upholding integrity, social responsibility, and impartial reporting in all spheres of journalism.

The statue unveiling event, or-

ganized to honor Acharya's contributions to the press and society, marked a significant step in acknowledging the role of journalists in shaping public discourse and promoting social awareness. The ministers concluded by urging citizens and journalists to draw inspiration from Acharya's dedication and continue his work to strengthen democracy and community consciousness in Telangana.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Quality vs. Price debate oc-

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

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

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

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

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

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



Jagat Prakash Nadda

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



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

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

A Long Political Journey

Nitish Kumar's political career spans several decades. He

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

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

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

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

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

Coalition Politics and Strategic Alliances

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

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

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

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

Why the Rajya Sabha?

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

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

vide him with greater flexibility to influence national coalition politics.

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

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

Changing Power Equations in Bihar

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

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

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

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

A Possible Generational Transition

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

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

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

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

National Political Implications

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

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

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

Supporters and Critics

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

Critics, however, view the

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

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

The Future of Bihar Politics

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

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

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

Domestic LPG Price Hiked By Rs 60, Commercial Cylinder Up Rs 115 Amid Iran War



The price of domestic LPG cylinders has been increased with effect from Saturday, March 7, with the cost of a 14.2-kg household cooking gas cylinder rising by Rs 60 across the country, according to sources.

Similarly, the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder has also been increased by Rs 115 from the same date, impacting businesses such as hotels, restaurants and small commercial establishments.

As per sources, the price of a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi has increased from Rs 853 to Rs 913. In Mumbai, the new rate of a domestic LPG cylinder now stands at Rs 912.50, up from Rs 852.50 earlier. In Kolkata, the price has risen from Rs 879 to Rs 930, while in Chennai it has increased from Rs 868.50 to Rs 928.50. The revised rates have come into effect immediately.

The hike also applies to commercial LPG cylinders used by businesses. In Delhi, the price of a 19-kg commercial cylinder has increased from Rs 1768.50 to Rs 1883. In Mumbai, the price has risen from Rs 1720.50 to Rs 1835. In Kolkata, the price has gone up from Rs 1875.50 to

Rs 1990, while in Chennai it has increased from Rs 1929 to Rs 2043.50.

Earlier, the price of a domestic LPG cylinder had remained unchanged since April 2025, when the non-subsidised rate in Delhi stood at Rs 853. The latest revision marks a significant increase for household consumers as well as commercial users who rely on LPG for daily operations.

The increase comes amid discussions around India's energy supply and fuel availability. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri earlier assured that there is no shortage of energy in the country and that consumers need not worry about supply disruptions.

"Our priority is to ensure the availability of affordable and sustainable fuel for our citizens, and we are doing it comfortably. There is no shortage of energy in India, and there is no cause of worry for our energy consumers," the minister said in a post on X.

Meanwhile, Indian Oil Corporation also dismissed reports circulating on social media suggesting a shortage of

petrol and diesel in the country, terming them baseless.

"India has sufficient fuel stocks, and supply and distribution networks are functioning normally. IndianOil is committed to maintaining uninterrupted fuel supply across the country. Citizens are requested not to panic or crowd fuel stations and to rely only on official sources for accurate information," the company said in a statement on X.

Earlier, government sources said India is in a "very comfortable position" regarding crude oil, petroleum products and LPG supplies despite concerns over disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the sources, the country currently has access to more energy supplies from diversified sources than the volume that could potentially be impacted through the Strait of Hormuz. India's existing stock of crude oil and petroleum products is also adequate to meet domestic demand.

Sources said the government is closely monitoring the situation and plans to ramp up supplies from alternative geographies to offset any potential

supply constraints linked to the Strait of Hormuz. They highlighted that India has significantly diversified its crude import basket over the past few years.

Since 2022, India has been importing crude oil from Russia. While Russia accounted for only 0.2 per cent of India's total crude imports in 2022, the share has risen substantially in the following years. In February, India imported about 20 per cent of its total crude oil imports from Russia, amounting to around 1.04 million barrels per day, government sources said.

On the LPG front, the government has directed all LPG refineries to increase production to ensure adequate availability across the country. Officials said India currently remains in a comfortable position regarding LPG stocks.

LPG from the US has started coming to India since January, the sources said. Indian public sector oil companies in November 2025 signed a one-year contract to import around 2.2 MTPA of LPG from the US Gulf Coast for the contract year 2026.

India Says It Never Needed Permission to Buy Russian Oil Amid US 30-Day Waiver



India has clarified that it has never relied on permission from any country to purchase Russian oil, responding to reports about a 30-day waiver granted by the United States that allows Indian refiners to continue buying Russian crude during the ongoing geopolitical tensions.

The clarification came after comments suggesting that the US had given India "permission" to import Russian oil for a limited period. Government officials stressed that India's energy procurement decisions are made independently and based on national interests rather than external approval.

The waiver comes at a time when global oil markets are facing uncertainty due to rising tensions in the Middle East. Concerns about the security of key shipping routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, have increased fears of possible supply disruptions. As a result, many countries are taking steps to secure stable energy supplies.

India has significantly increased its imports of Russian crude in recent years, especially after Western countries imposed sanctions on Moscow following the Ukraine conflict. Russian oil has often been available at discounted prices, making it an attractive option for Indian refiners looking to reduce import costs and maintain fuel supply stability.

Officials noted that India sources crude oil from multiple countries and chooses suppliers based on price, availability and national energy requirements. They reiterated that the country's oil purchasing strategy is guided by economic and strategic considerations rather than political pressure.

The reported waiver is understood to apply mainly to cargoes that have already been loaded or are currently in transit. The move is intended to prevent sudden disruptions in global oil trade and ensure that markets remain stable during a period of heightened geo-

political tension. Meanwhile, energy experts warn that continued instability in the Middle East could affect global oil supply chains. The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the most critical maritime routes for crude oil shipments, with a significant portion of the world's oil passing through the narrow waterway each day. Any disruption in this route could push international oil prices higher.

In response to the uncertain global environment, Indian refiners are closely monitoring developments and diversifying supply sources where necessary. The government has maintained that ensuring energy security remains a top priority.

India's latest statement reinforces its long-standing position of maintaining strategic autonomy in energy policy. Officials emphasised that the country will continue purchasing oil from any reliable source that meets its economic and energy needs.

International Women's Day 2026: 10 Indian Women Who Changed The Country



International Women's Day, celebrated on March 8, honours women who have made significant contributions to society and inspired generations. From science and sports to governance and entrepreneurship, many Indian women have broken barriers and reshaped the nation. Here are 10 such women who helped change India:

Kalpana Chawla

Kalpana Chawla became the first Indian-born woman to travel to space. Born in Karnal, Haryana, she joined NASA in 1994 and flew on the Space Shuttle Columbia. Her life and legacy continue to inspire millions of young Indians to pursue careers in science and space exploration.

Tessy Thomas

Often called the "Missile Woman of India," Tessy Thomas was the first woman scientist to lead a missile pro-

ject in India. She played a key role in developing the Agni-IV and Agni-V missiles, strengthening India's defence capabilities.

Kiran Bedi

Kiran Bedi made history in 1972 by becoming the first woman officer in the Indian Police Service (IPS). Known for bold prison reforms at Tihar Jail, she later served as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Founder of Biocon, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw built one of India's leading biotechnology companies. Starting from a small garage in Bengaluru, she turned Biocon into a global biotech enterprise delivering affordable medicines worldwide.

Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi

Anandi Gopal Joshi is regarded as India's first female

doctor trained in Western medicine. She earned her medical degree in the United States in 1886, a remarkable achievement during a time when women rarely pursued higher education.

Bachendri Pal

Bachendri Pal became the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest in 1984. Her achievement opened doors for women in adventure sports and mountaineering.

Mary Kom

A six-time world boxing champion, Mary Kom rose from humble beginnings in Manipur to become an Olympic medalist. She is widely admired for her resilience and for inspiring women to enter competitive sports.

Sushmita Sen

Sushmita Sen broke a global barrier by becoming the first Indian woman to win the Miss

Universe title in 1994. Her win elevated India's presence on the global stage and inspired many young women.

Saina Nehwal

Saina Nehwal became the first Indian badminton player to win an Olympic medal and also achieved the world No. 1 ranking. She played a major role in popularising badminton in India.

Shaliza Dhani

Group Captain Shaliza Dhani made history as the first woman officer to command a frontline combat unit in the Indian Air Force, marking a significant milestone for women in the military.

These women come from diverse fields but share one common trait—they challenged norms and paved the way for future generations. Their achievements reflect the growing role of women in shaping India's progress.

Middle East Conflict Disrupts Flights as IndiGo and Air India Operate Limited Services



Air travel between India and the Middle East continues to face major disruptions as the ongoing conflict in West Asia has forced airlines to revise their flight schedules. Several countries in the region have either closed or restricted their airspace, leading to cancellations, delays and partial suspension of services by major carriers.

Airspace over Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar has been closed or heavily restricted following missile and drone attacks linked to the conflict. As a result, airports in key aviation hubs such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi have reduced operations significantly, affecting international travel across the region.

Indian airlines including IndiGo and Air India have resumed limited operations to certain destinations while closely monitoring the situation. These airlines are operating a restricted number of flights to ensure passenger safety and help

stranded travellers return home. However, many routes remain suspended or subject to frequent changes depending on the evolving security conditions.

IndiGo has announced that it will continue operating flights to a few Middle Eastern cities despite the instability in the region. The airline stated that many passengers are still trying to reach their destinations or reunite with family members, and it is working to assist them while maintaining strict safety measures.

Air India and Air India Express have also modified their schedules. The airlines are continuing operations on selected routes that have been assessed as safe, including services to cities such as Jeddah and Muscat. Additional flights have also been planned to connect several Gulf destinations with major Indian airports in order to help travellers affected by earlier cancellations.

Meanwhile, major Gulf carriers such as Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways have also adjusted their operations. Some flights have been suspended, while others are running on limited schedules as airlines deal with airspace closures and security concerns in the region.

The disruptions have also affected flights operating between India and Europe. Many airlines are now taking longer alternative routes that avoid restricted airspace. These rerouted flights often pass over Central Asia or other regions, increasing travel time and fuel consumption.

Passengers have been advised to check their flight status regularly before heading to the airport, as schedules may change quickly depending on developments in the conflict. With tensions still high, airlines continue to review the situation and adjust their operations to ensure passenger safety while gradually restoring connectivity.

Iran President Apologises to Neighbouring Countries but Refuses to Surrender to US and Israel



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has apologised to neighbouring countries after Iranian missile and drone attacks affected parts of the Middle East. At the same time, he made it clear that Iran will not surrender to pressure from the United States or Israel despite the escalating conflict in the region.

The tensions between Iran and Israel have intensified in recent days, with both sides carrying out military strikes. Israeli and US attacks on Iranian targets triggered retaliatory action from Iran, which launched missiles and drones toward Israeli positions and locations in the Gulf region where American military bases are stationed.

In a televised address, Presi-

dent Pezeshkian expressed regret over the impact of these attacks on neighbouring countries. He said the strikes were not meant to harm regional nations and assured that Iran does not intend to target them. According to him, Iran will only respond if those countries become directly involved in attacks against Iran.

However, despite the apology, the Iranian president took a firm stance against the United States and Israel. Responding to demands from Washington for Iran's "unconditional surrender," Pezeshkian strongly rejected the idea. He stated that Iran would continue to defend its sovereignty and would not give in to external pressure or threats.

The ongoing conflict has already caused widespread damage and raised fears of a larger regional war. Israeli airstrikes have targeted several locations inside Iran, while Iran has responded with missile and drone attacks aimed at Israel and areas in the Gulf region. These attacks forced countries such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain to activate air-defence systems to intercept incoming threats.

The rising tensions have also disrupted daily life across parts of the Middle East. Missile alerts and defence operations have affected air travel and increased security concerns in several Gulf countries. In some areas, flights were temporarily sus-

pended and residents were advised to take shelter during missile warnings.

The crisis is being closely watched by the international community because of its potential impact on regional stability. The conflict has already influenced global oil prices and increased fears of further escalation. If the situation continues to intensify, it could have serious economic and geopolitical consequences for the entire region.

While Iran's apology to neighbouring countries appears to be an attempt to reduce tensions with regional partners, the ongoing military confrontation between Iran and Israel shows that the situation remains highly volatile and uncertain.

Trump Demands 'Unconditional Surrender' as US-Israel Conflict With Iran Intensifies

The conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran has intensified, with US President Donald Trump demanding that Iran agree to an "unconditional surrender." The statement signals a tougher stance from Washington and has raised concerns about a prolonged and more dangerous conflict in the Middle East.

Trump made the remark through his social media platform, stating that there would be no negotiations or agreements with Iran unless it surrendered completely. He added that once such a surrender takes place and new leadership is established in Iran, the United States and its allies could help rebuild the country and support its economic recovery.

Since the beginning of the conflict, Trump has outlined several objectives behind the military campaign against Iran. These include destroying Iran's missile capabilities, preventing it from developing nuclear weapons, and weakening its military power. He also claimed that Iran's air defence systems, navy, air force, and leadership structure had already been significantly damaged during the ongoing attacks.



Iranian officials, however, have strongly rejected the demand for surrender. Senior Iranian leaders criticised the statement and accused the United States of attempting to interfere in the country's internal political system. They argued that calls for regime change represent an unacceptable approach and insisted that Iran would continue to defend its sovereignty.

The conflict has already led to military actions across several parts of the Middle East. Iran has launched missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and locations in Gulf countries that host American military bases. In re-

sponse, Israel activated its air-defence systems to intercept incoming missiles and expanded its military operations with additional strikes on Iranian targets.

The situation has also affected several neighbouring countries in the Gulf region. Nations such as United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia have reported missile or drone threats because they host US military installations. Air-defence systems in these countries have been activated to intercept the threats and protect key infrastructure.

The conflict has also spread to

other parts of the region. Israeli forces carried out strikes in Beirut in Lebanon after ordering evacuations in parts of the city's southern suburbs. At the same time, Israel launched another wave of airstrikes inside Iran, targeting military and strategic facilities.

The escalating war has begun to impact global markets as well. Concerns about a prolonged conflict and disruptions to energy supplies have pushed global oil prices above \$90 per barrel. Financial markets have also shown signs of volatility as investors worry about the broader economic consequences of the conflict.

Despite concerns over rising fuel prices, Trump said he is not worried about short-term increases in gasoline costs in the United States. According to him, the military campaign and national security objectives are more important than temporary economic fluctuations.

Overall, Trump's demand for unconditional surrender has increased tensions and raised fears that diplomatic solutions may become more difficult, potentially prolonging the conflict and increasing instability across the Middle East.

Did Iran Fire a Ballistic Missile at Dubai Airport? UAE Officials Clarify

Authorities in the United Arab Emirates have clarified reports about a possible missile strike near Dubai International Airport after videos circulated online showing smoke rising in the area during the ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel, and the United States.

According to officials, there was no direct missile strike on the airport. Authorities said the reports spreading on social media were misleading and confirmed that the airport itself was not directly attacked.

Residents in Dubai reported hearing loud explosions in the sky as the country's air-defence systems were activated to respond to possible aerial threats. During the security alert, passengers at the airport were temporarily moved to safer areas, including underground train tunnels within the airport complex.

Officials explained that the smoke seen in several videos



was likely caused by debris falling after missiles or drones were intercepted in the air. The government said that a minor incident occurred elsewhere in the city due to falling debris, but no injuries were reported at the airport.

The alert came amid rising

tensions in the Middle East as the conflict between Iran and the US-Israel alliance continues to escalate. In response to potential threats, the United Arab Emirates increased security measures and activated its air-defence systems to intercept missiles and drones that might

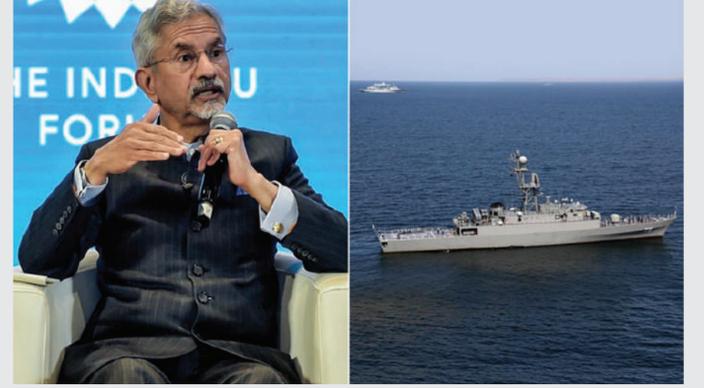
approach its territory.

Air travel in the region was also affected for a short time. Several flights were delayed or temporarily suspended as a precaution during the security alert. Air traffic over parts of the Gulf region decreased while authorities assessed the situation and ensured the safety of passengers and airport operations.

Despite the tense situation, UAE officials said the alert was handled quickly and airport operations gradually returned to normal. Authorities also advised residents and travellers to rely only on official government announcements and avoid spreading unverified information on social media.

The incident shows how the wider Middle East conflict is beginning to affect neighbouring countries and major international travel hubs like Dubai, even when they are not directly involved in the fighting.

"Indian Ocean Doesn't Mean India Controls It": S. Jaishankar After US Sinks Iranian Warship



S. Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister, said the recent sinking of an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean highlights the reality that India does not control everything that happens in the region, even though the ocean carries the country's name. His remarks came after the United States sank an Iranian naval vessel amid the escalating conflict involving Iran and Israel.

The Iranian frigate IRIS Dena was reportedly torpedoed by a US Navy submarine in waters near Galle off the coast of Sri Lanka. The warship had recently taken part in a multinational naval exercise hosted by India before the attack occurred while it was returning home. The incident resulted in casualties among Iranian sailors and increased tensions in the region.

Speaking about the development, Jaishankar said the Iranian ships were essentially "caught on the wrong side of

events." He explained that the Indian Ocean is a vast international maritime zone where many countries operate their naval forces. Because it is an international waterway, India cannot control military actions carried out by other countries in those waters.

At the same time, India allowed another Iranian naval vessel, IRIS Lavan, to dock at the port of Kochi after it requested assistance due to technical issues. The decision was taken on humanitarian grounds, and more than 180 crew members were accommodated at Indian naval facilities while the ship received support.

Officials said the vessel had originally come to India to participate in the International Fleet Review and other naval exercises before the regional conflict intensified. As tensions rose between Iran and the US-Israel alliance, the ship sought safe harbour while navigating the increasingly volatile situation.

Jaishankar's com-

ments highlight India's delicate diplomatic position amid the widening Middle East conflict. India maintains strong relations with several countries in the region, including Iran, Israel, and the United States. Because of these relationships, the government is trying to maintain a balanced approach by offering humanitarian assistance while avoiding direct involvement in the conflict.

The incident has also raised broader concerns about maritime security in the Indian Ocean region. Despite its name, the ocean is an international sea route where several major powers maintain naval presence and conduct military operations under international maritime law.

Overall, the sinking of the Iranian warship and India's response show how global conflicts can quickly affect strategic maritime regions like the Indian Ocean, placing countries such as India in a complex geopolitical situation.

Pakistani Man Convicted in US Over Iran-Linked Plot to Assassinate Trump, Biden and Nikki Haley



A Pakistani national has been convicted in a United States court for plotting to assassinate prominent American political leaders, including Donald Trump, Joe Biden, and Nikki Haley. The case has attracted global attention as prosecutors said the plan was linked to Iran's powerful paramilitary organisation, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

The man, identified as Asif Merchant, was found guilty in a federal court in Brooklyn in the United States on charges including murder-for-hire and attempting to commit terrorism across national boundaries. According to prosecutors, Merchant tried to organise the assassination of a US political leader during the 2024 presidential election campaign.

Investigators said Merchant travelled to the United States with the aim of recruiting individuals to carry out the killings. However, the plot began to unravel when a person he approached alerted authorities and cooperated with law enforcement. That individual later intro-

duced Merchant to undercover agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who posed as hired assassins.

During meetings with the undercover agents, Merchant allegedly offered \$5,000 in cash as an advance payment for the assassination plan. He reportedly discussed targeting high-profile American political figures and talked about possible methods to carry out the attack. Authorities recorded the conversations as part of the investigation.

Prosecutors argued that Merchant was acting on instructions from contacts connected to Iran's Revolutionary Guards. The alleged assassination plan was believed to be linked to tensions between the United States and Iran, particularly following the 2020 killing of Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani in a US drone strike during Trump's presidency.

During the trial, Merchant admitted he had been involved in the plan but claimed he had been pressured to participate. He told the court that he feared for the safety of

his family living in Tehran and felt forced to cooperate with Iranian operatives. However, prosecutors argued that there was little evidence to support his claim that he acted under duress.

Merchant was arrested in July 2024 while preparing to leave the United States. Authorities said they had been monitoring his activities for several months before taking him into custody. After a week-long trial, the jury quickly delivered a guilty verdict.

Following the conviction, Merchant now faces the possibility of life imprisonment when he is sentenced. The case has raised fresh concerns in the United States about foreign-linked plots targeting American political leaders and has added further strain to the already tense relationship between Washington and Tehran.

Officials said the investigation and swift action by law enforcement prevented the attack from taking place and demonstrated how undercover operations can help stop potential acts of political violence before they occur.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

percent during the week.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

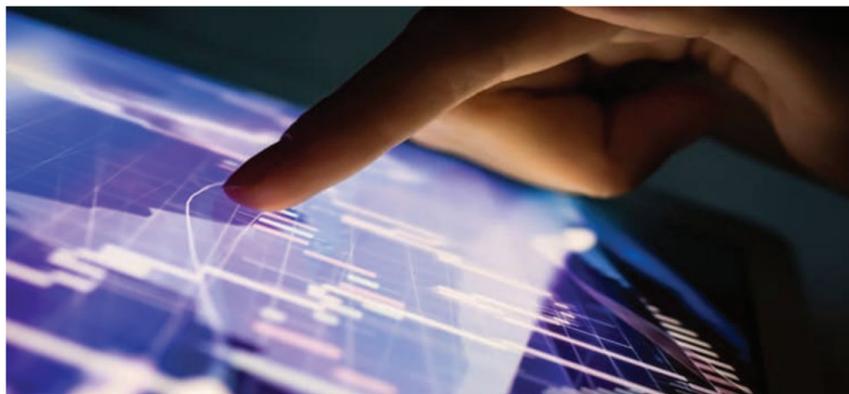
Market volatility also increased sharply during the session. The Cboe Volatility Index (VIX), often referred to as Wall Street's "fear gauge," climbed to its highest closing level since April 2022. The rise in the volatility index reflects growing uncertainty and nervousness among investors about future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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

risk tolerance and market outlook.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Just when the situation seemed overwhelming,



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

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

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

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

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

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

Reflecting on the moment later, the rider said

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

However, she clarified that February was not a

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

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

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

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

spending for February reached approximately Rs 1.43 lakh.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Friends who were with

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mixed-Soil Pitch Prepared for T20 World Cup 2026 Final Between India and New Zealand

The pitch for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final between India and New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad has become a major talking point ahead of the big clash. For the summit match, curators have prepared a surface using a combination of red and black soil, a move that is expected to create balanced conditions for both batters and bowlers.

According to reports, the pitch contains a higher proportion of red soil compared to black soil. Red-soil surfaces typically offer better bounce and carry, allowing the ball to come onto the bat nicely. As a result, batters are expected to find it easier to play their shots, which could lead to a high-scoring contest in the final.

Black-soil pitches at the venue are known to behave differently. They can sometimes become slow and two-paced as the match progresses, making it difficult for batters to time the ball. In the past, such surfaces have produced low-scoring encounters where bowlers, particularly spinners, enjoyed greater control over the game. The mixed-soil approach is aimed at avoiding such conditions and ensuring a more balanced playing surface.

The decision to prepare a pitch with more red soil is also believed to be influenced by previous experiences at the stadium. Certain matches played on black-soil tracks at the venue have produced unpredictable re-



sults due to the slowing nature of the pitch. By using a mixed-soil composition, the curators are attempting to provide a more consistent wicket that maintains even bounce throughout the match.

Interestingly, only one game in the current tournament has been played on this particular strip so far. In that match, South Africa posted a total of more than 200 runs against Canada, indicating that the surface could support aggressive batting. This

has raised expectations that the final might turn into a run-filled encounter, especially given the strong batting line-ups of both teams.

While the pitch is likely to favour batters, fast bowlers could still get some assistance early in the innings due to the pace and bounce available. The ball may carry well to the wicketkeeper and slips, which could help seamers extract movement in the initial overs. However, spinners might not receive signifi-

cant turn from the surface and may have to rely on variations and control to make an impact.

Overall, the mixed-soil pitch is intended to create a fair contest between bat and ball. With two strong teams battling for the championship, the conditions are expected to allow skill and strategy to determine the outcome of the T20 World Cup 2026 final.

Dale Steyn Warns New Zealand Could Earn 'Chokers' Tag If They Lose T20 World Cup Final to India



Former South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn has made a bold statement ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final, warning that New Zealand national cricket team could be labelled "chokers" if they fail to defeat India national cricket team in the title clash.

India and New Zealand are set to face off in the T20 World Cup final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The match has generated huge excitement among cricket fans, but Steyn

believes India will enter the contest as clear favourites.

Speaking ahead of the final, Steyn suggested that it would take a "monumental choke" from India for New Zealand to win the trophy. The former pacer said the Black Caps have reached several ICC tournament finals in recent years but have struggled to convert those opportunities into titles.

Steyn pointed out that New Zealand have appeared in multiple major finals, including the

2019 ODI World Cup and the 2021 T20 World Cup, yet have not managed to secure the trophy. According to him, if the team falls short again in another major final, the long-standing "chokers" label often associated with South Africa could shift to New Zealand.

The legendary fast bowler said that people frequently describe South Africa as "chokers" because of their past disappointments in knockout matches. However, he argued that New

Zealand have also had several chances on the biggest stage and have not always managed to win when it mattered most.

Interestingly, Steyn made it clear that his remarks were not meant as criticism of New Zealand's quality as a team. He admitted that the Black Caps have been one of the most consistent sides in international cricket and have regularly performed well in ICC tournaments. Despite this, he believes their inability to secure multiple world titles leaves them vulnerable to criticism if they lose another final.

Former South African captain AB de Villiers also shared similar thoughts during the discussion, agreeing that New Zealand have reached several finals and therefore face pressure to finally win a global trophy.

The upcoming final promises to be a thrilling contest, with India aiming to continue their impressive run in the tournament while New Zealand hope to finally claim a major world title. With the stakes so high, the result could have a lasting impact on how the cricket world views both teams' legacy in global tournaments.

Santner Expects High-Scoring Pitch Ahead of India vs New Zealand T20 World Cup Final



New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner believes the pitch for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final against India is likely to favour batters, predicting a high-scoring contest at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The two teams are set to face each other in the title clash, and Santner said the surface appears to be one where plenty of runs could be scored.

Speaking ahead of the final, Santner acknowledged that there had been significant discussion in the past about the nature of the pitch at the Ahmedabad venue during major matches. However, based on what he has observed so far, the New Zealand skipper expects the wicket to be relatively flat and good for batting. Such conditions, he suggested, could lead to an exciting match with both teams having the opportunity to post big totals.

While the pitch may help batters, Santner admitted that India's bowling attack remains a major challenge for the Black Caps. He particularly highlighted the threat posed by India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has been one of the standout performers in the tournament. Santner noted that Bumrah's ability to deliver crucial overs and control the flow of runs makes him a dangerous opponent in any format of the game.

The New Zealand captain also em-

phasised that India's strength lies not only in individual players but in the overall balance of their bowling unit. According to him, several Indian bowlers have contributed consistently throughout the competition, which has made their attack difficult to counter. For New Zealand, handling this collective bowling threat will be a key factor in the final.

Despite the challenge, Santner sounded confident about his team's chances. He said New Zealand have played strong cricket throughout the tournament and are prepared to compete hard in the final. The team's consistent performances have boosted their confidence, and they are focused on executing their plans effectively on the big stage.

The Ahmedabad final will take place in front of a massive crowd, with strong support expected for the Indian team. Santner acknowledged the atmosphere but said his players are experienced enough to handle the pressure of playing in a packed stadium. Instead of being overwhelmed by the occasion, the New Zealand side plans to remain calm and treat the final like any other important match.

With a batting-friendly pitch expected and two competitive teams facing off, the T20 World Cup 2026 final promises to be an exciting and high-scoring contest.

T20 World Cup 2026 Closing Ceremony: Performers, Time and Key Details



The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 is set to conclude with a grand closing ceremony ahead of the highly anticipated final between India and New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The ceremony will add glamour and excitement to the cricketing spectacle, combining entertainment with the celebration of the tournament's successful run.

The closing ceremony is scheduled to take place shortly before the final match begins on March 8. Organisers have planned a vibrant show featuring music, dance and visual performances to entertain the massive crowd expected at the stadium as well as millions of viewers watching around the world. The event will serve as a celebratory finale after weeks of intense cricketing action involving several international teams.

One of the major highlights of the ceremony will be a performance by global pop star Ricky Martin. The internationally renowned singer is set to headline the entertainment segment, bringing a touch of global pop culture to the cricketing event. His presence is expected to add extra excitement and draw worldwide attention to the tournament's closing celebrations.

The organisers have designed the

ceremony to be a short yet energetic event that captures the spirit of the tournament. Spectators at the stadium will witness a colourful display of music, choreography and stage production, creating a festive atmosphere before the final begins. The aim is to celebrate the sport, the players and the fans who have followed the tournament closely.

The T20 World Cup 2026 has delivered several thrilling matches, memorable performances and dramatic moments throughout the competition. Teams from around the world competed fiercely for a place in the final, making the tournament one of the most exciting editions in recent years.

As the tournament reaches its climax, the closing ceremony will mark the end of the event on a celebratory note while building anticipation for the title clash. The grand show will set the stage for the final showdown between India and New Zealand, two teams that have performed consistently throughout the competition.

With a packed stadium expected in Ahmedabad and millions of fans watching worldwide, the combination of entertainment and top-level cricket promises a memorable conclusion to the T20 World Cup 2026.

Aspect Sports and Pinkathon Partner for International Women's Day Run in New Delh

Aspect Sports has partnered with Pinkathon to organise a special run in New Delhi to celebrate International Women's Day. The event aims to encourage women to participate in fitness activities and promote a healthier lifestyle through running. Scheduled for March 8, the run is expected to attract thousands of women participants from across the city.

Pinkathon is one of India's most popular running events dedicated exclusively to women. Since its launch in 2012, it has grown into a nationwide movement promoting women's health, fitness and empowerment. The event welcomes participants of all ages and fitness levels, encouraging them to take the first step toward an active lifestyle.

As part of the collaboration, Aspect Sports will serve as the official sports partner for the Delhi edition of the event. The company plans to support participants through training programmes, preparation sessions and interactive runners' meets. These initiatives will help runners prepare better for the event while also providing guidance on maintaining fitness and endurance.

The partnership is designed not only to celebrate Interna-



tional Women's Day but also to promote long-term engagement in sports and fitness. Organisers believe that structured training and community support can motivate more women to adopt running as a regular activity rather than treating it as a one-time event.

The run will feature different race categories to accommodate participants with varying levels of experience. Beginners will have shorter distances to choose from, while more experienced runners can take part in longer

races. This inclusive approach ensures that women from diverse backgrounds feel comfortable joining the event.

Pinkathon founder Milind Soman has long championed the cause of women's health and fitness through the initiative. The event encourages women to prioritise their well-being and break barriers that may prevent them from participating in physical activities.

Organisers say the event is about much more than just a race. It aims to create a support-

ive community where women inspire and motivate one another to pursue healthier and more active lives. By bringing together participants from different walks of life, the run celebrates strength, determination and unity.

With strong participation expected and growing interest in women's fitness initiatives, the International Women's Day run in New Delhi is set to be a vibrant celebration of health, empowerment and community spirit.

Chiranjeevi To Receive NTR National Award At Telangana Gaddar Film Awards

Megastar Chiranjeevi will be honoured with the prestigious NTR National Award at the upcoming Telangana Gaddar Film Awards, recognising his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema. The award will be presented as part of the newly introduced film awards instituted by the Telangana government to celebrate excellence in Telugu cinema.

The Telangana Gaddar Film Awards have been established to recognise achievements in the Telugu film industry and honour personalities who have made remarkable contributions to cinema. Named after the revolutionary poet and balladeer Gaddar, the awards aim to celebrate the cultural and artistic heritage of Telangana while encouraging creative excellence in filmmaking.

Chiranjeevi, one of the most influential and celebrated actors in Telugu cinema, has had a remarkable career spanning more than four decades. With over 150 films to his credit, he has delivered numerous blockbuster hits and built a massive fan base across India and abroad. His dynamic screen presence, versatile performances and contribution to popularising Telugu cinema have made him one of the most iconic figures in the industry.

Apart from his achievements in films, Chiranjeevi is also known for his philanthropic initiatives and social service. Through his charitable organisation, he has supported several causes including blood donation and eye donation cam-



paigns, which have helped thousands of people over the years.

The NTR National Award is named after legendary actor and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR). It is presented to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Indian cinema and have left a lasting impact on the film industry. Receiving this honour is considered one of the most prestigious recognitions for artists in the South Indian film industry.

The Telangana Gaddar Film Awards ceremony is expected to be a grand celebration of Telugu cinema, bringing together prominent actors, filmmakers, technicians

and industry veterans. In addition to lifetime achievement honours, awards will also be presented across various categories recognising excellence in acting, direction, music, cinematography and technical achievements.

The event will highlight the achievements of the Telugu film industry and celebrate the artists and technicians who have played a vital role in its growth over the years.

With Chiranjeevi set to receive the NTR National Award, the ceremony is expected to draw significant attention from fans and the film fraternity, marking a special moment in honouring one of the most celebrated stars of Indian cinema.

Netflix Acquires 'Ustaad Bhagat Singh' OTT Rights in Just 20 Minutes



Powerstar Pawan Kalyan's upcoming film Ustaad Bhagat Singh has already generated huge buzz in the film industry even before its theatrical release. The action entertainer, directed by Harish Shankar, has reportedly secured a massive OTT deal with Netflix, said to be worth around 80 crore.

Interestingly, the deal was finalised in an unusually short time. According to director Harish Shankar, the agreement happened after a few edited scenes from the film were shown to the Netflix team. The footage was

initially prepared for internal review during production. When the streaming platform's representatives watched the clips, they were highly impressed by the film's presentation, scale and commercial appeal.

Harish Shankar revealed that Netflix took only about 20 minutes to decide on acquiring the digital rights after viewing the footage. The swift decision highlights the confidence the streaming giant has in the film's potential and the strong market value of Pawan Kalyan's projects.

Ustaad Bhagat Singh

marks the much-anticipated reunion of Pawan Kalyan and Harish Shankar after their blockbuster film Gabbar Singh. Their earlier collaboration was a massive success at the box office and continues to remain a fan favourite, which has raised expectations for their upcoming project.

The film is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers on a grand scale. Actress Sreeleela is playing the female lead, while other prominent actors are also part of the cast. The music for the film is composed by Devi Sri Prasad, who has delivered several hit albums in Telugu cinema.

With a large-scale production and strong commercial appeal, the film is expected to attract audiences across multiple languages. Industry insiders believe the impressive OTT deal reflects the strong demand for star-driven Telugu films on digital platforms.

Securing such a significant deal even before the film's theatrical release is considered a major advantage for the producers, as it helps recover a substantial portion of the film's budget in advance.

Ustaad Bhagat Singh is expected to release in theatres next year. With the OTT rights already sold at a high price and the combination of Pawan Kalyan and Harish Shankar creating excitement among fans, the film has quickly become one of the most awaited projects in Telugu cinema.

Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025

Chiranjeevi To Receive NTR National Award; Small Films Dominate Winners List

It has been nearly a decade since Telugu cinema witnessed state film awards being presented regularly. In the past, the prestigious Nandi Awards were organised by the undivided Andhra Pradesh government. However, after the bifurcation of the state, the award ceremony was discontinued. While the Andhra Pradesh government is now working on reviving the Nandi Awards, the Telangana government took the initiative last year by launching the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards to honour talent in the Telugu film industry.

The awards were introduced to recognise outstanding actors, filmmakers and technicians. Last year's ceremony cleared several pending awards and was widely appreciated. Encouraged by its success, the Telangana government has expanded the awards this year as well. Like the previous edition, smaller films that highlighted Telangana's culture and lifestyle received significant recognition.

Selection Through Five Committees

The winners of the Telangana Gaddar Film Awards for the year 2025 were selected by five committees. Renowned music director Mani Sharma served as the chairman of the Mainstream Awards committee. The committee for Short Films and Documentaries was headed by Kanakammedala Vijay Krishna, while veteran actor and writer Tanikella Bharani chaired the Books and Film Criticism category. The Special Awards committee was led by producer Tammarreddy Bharadwaja.

The results were announced by Telangana Deputy Chief Min-



ister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who noted that many awards went to smaller films that reflected Telangana's social and cultural backdrop.

Small Films Shine

The film "Raju Weds Rambai" won the Best Film award, while "Dandora" was named Second Best Film and "The Great Pre-Wedding Show" secured the Third Best Film honour. "Thandel" received the award for Best Film Promoting National Integration, while "EZWG" was selected as the Best Environmental Film. "Little Hearts" won the Best Debut Feature Film award.

In the entertainment category, the Dr. M. Prabhakar Reddy Award for Best Entertaining Film went to "Sankranthiki Vasthunnam." "Mirai" won the Best Special Effects Film award and "Anaganaga" was recognised as the Best Children's Film.

Acting and Technical Awards

Director Sailu Kampati won the Best Director award for "Raju Weds Rambai." Actor Naga Chaitanya won Best Actor for "Thandel," while Rashmika Mandanna received Best Actress for "The Girlfriend."

In supporting roles, Shivaji won Best Supporting Actor for "Dandora," and Bhumika won Best Supporting Actress for "Euphoria." Krishna Teja Reddy was named Best Comedian for "Jigris," while Master Rohan won Best Child Artist for "The Great Pre-Wedding Show."

Music director Mark K. Robin won Best Music Director for "Dandora." Singer Anurag Kulkarni won Best Male Singer for "Raju Weds Rambai," and Sahithi Chaganti won Best Female Singer for "Kannappa."

Special Honours

Among the special honours, Jayasudha will receive the newly instituted Akkineni Nag-

eswara Rao Award, while lyricist Suddala Ashok Teja will receive the Dr. C. Narayana Reddy Award.

Other honours include the Raghupathi Venkaiah Award for Ramesh Prasad, the T. L. Kantha Rao Award for R. Narayana Murthy, the Nagireddy-Chakrapani Award for C. Ashwini Dutt, the B. N. Reddy Award for Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, and the Paidi Jairaj Award for Kamal Haasan.

Megastar Chiranjeevi will be presented with the prestigious NTR National Award for his immense contribution to Indian cinema.

The Telangana Gaddar Film Awards ceremony will be held on March 19, on the occasion of Ugadi, at HITECH in Hyderabad. Last year, some film personalities did not attend the event despite winning awards, drawing criticism from government officials. It remains to be seen whether all awardees will attend the ceremony this year.

Lyrical Video of 'Ziddi Ziddi' Released From Sharwanand's Biker

The makers of the upcoming Telugu film Biker have released the second lyrical song titled "Ziddi Ziddi", giving fans an early glimpse of one of the motivating tracks from the movie's soundtrack.

Biker, starring Sharwanand in the lead role and directed by Abhilash Reddy, is touted as the first Indian film centred around motocross racing. It is scheduled to hit theatres on April 3, 2026, and has been generating anticipation for its unique subject and energetic presentation.

The newly released lyrical video of "Ziddi Ziddi" has been described as an inspiring and high energy number that reflects the spirit of the film and the mindset of its hero. The song's lyrics were penned by Krishna Kanth, known for his impactful and contemporary writing style. The music is composed and performed by Ghibran, whose pow-



erful vocals add enthusiasm and momentum to the track.

Visually and thematically, "Ziddi Ziddi" encapsulates the journey of a determined racer who pushes himself beyond limits. The repetitive phrase "Ziddi Ziddi," meaning stubbornness or persistence, reinforces the

core theme of refusal to give up despite obstacles — a perfect match for a film that explores the relentless drive required in competitive motocross racing. Alongside Ghibran's energetic delivery, the inclusion of additional vocals from supporting artists enhances the track's

vigour.

Biker blends high octane visuals with motivational storytelling. In the song's montage, fans will see glimpses of Sharwanand preparing for the gritty and dangerous world of motocross — from intense training sessions and strenuous workouts to scenes of him mastering his bike and pushing himself physically and mentally. The visuals are expected to build excitement for the film's racing sequences and the character's growth arc.

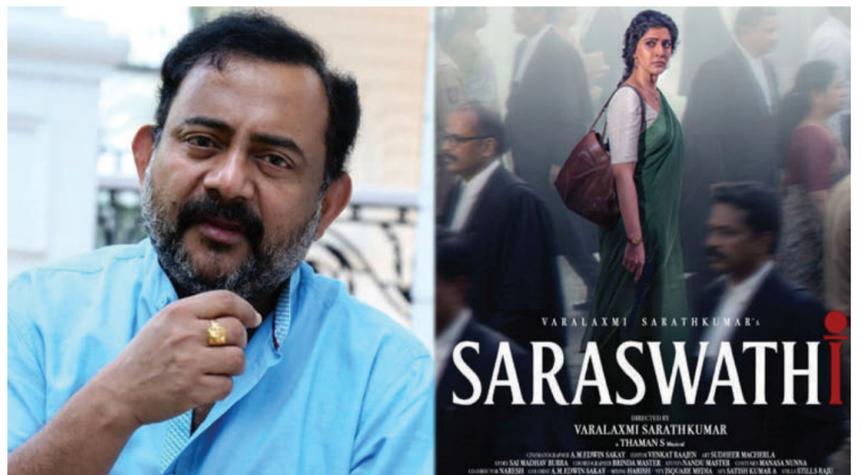
By releasing "Ziddi Ziddi" ahead of the film's release, the makers aim to engage audiences with a feel good anthem that not only entertains but also resonates with anyone striving to achieve their goals with grit and tenacity. The lyrical song is already creating a buzz online, contributing to the rising hype around Biker as it approaches its theatrical launch.

Vara Lakshmi and Sarathkumar Hit Back at Sai Madhav Burra Over Controversial Remarks

Actors Vara Lakshmi and Sarathkumar have responded strongly to recent comments made by dialogue writer Sai Madhav Burra, escalating a brewing controversy in Tollywood. The dispute, which has been making headlines in Telugu film circles, began when Burra shared his candid views about certain actors and their contributions to cinema. His remarks did not sit well with some members of the industry, leading to rebuttals from those he mentioned.

Vara Lakshmi, known for her versatile performances in films and web series, reacted firmly to the situation. She expressed her disappointment over the insensitive tone of Burra's comments and said that constructive criticism can be delivered without disrespecting artists who have worked hard to build their careers. In her response, she emphasised the need for professionalism and mutual respect in creative discussions. Vara Lakshmi also pointed out that cinema is a collaborative art form, and every contributor — whether in front of the camera or behind it — deserves acknowledgment for their efforts.

Veteran actor Sarathkumar also weighed in on the controversy. A respected figure in the South Indian film industry with a long career, Sarathkumar said that public debates about the industry should be handled with



care. While acknowledging that opinions on art and performance can vary, he stressed that personal attacks or sweeping generalisations ultimately hurt the spirit of the cinematic community. He urged industry professionals and commentators to engage in healthy and respectful dialogue that promotes growth rather than conflict.

Sai Madhav Burra, celebrated for his work as a dialogue writer and lyricist in Telugu cinema, had sparked the debate with remarks that some interpreted as critical of established actors' bodies of work

and their impact on film quality. While Burra was likely aiming to express his artistic perspective, the choice of words triggered reactions from actors and fans alike. The debate has now caught attention on social media, where fans of all sides are sharing their opinions and supporting their favourite artists.

The exchange highlights a broader issue in Tollywood and the entertainment world in general — the line between critique and criticism. While honest commentary can contribute to artistic discussions, many in

the industry believe that maintaining respect for colleagues is equally important. Statements made by influential figures tend to have a ripple effect, influencing public perception and industry relations.

As the controversy continues to unfold, it remains to be seen whether the parties involved will engage in further dialogue or let the matter settle down. Meanwhile, fans and followers are engaging actively online, expressing support or disagreement and keeping the conversation alive in Tollywood's vibrant film community.