



**BUZZ POINTS**

India Clinch Third T20 World Cup Title with Dominant Win



# TRUE POINT

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## Revanth Reddy Congratulates Team India on T20 World Cup Victory



Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

**T**elangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Indian cricket team for their remarkable victory in the T20 World Cup final and for emerging as world champions.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Chief Minister praised Team India for delivering an outstanding performance in the final match against New Zealand held in Ahmedabad. He said the team's victory has brought immense pride and joy to the entire nation.

Revanth Reddy noted that the Indian team displayed exceptional coordination, determination and confidence throughout the match. From the beginning to the end of the game, the players performed with great commitment and showcased their talent on the global stage, he said. The Chief Minister appreciated the players for their all-round performance in batting, bowling and fielding, which played a crucial role in securing



the victory. He said the team's dedication and fighting spirit served as an inspiration to young athletes across the country.

Revanth Reddy also highlighted that such achievements enhance the reputation of India in the international sports arena and further strengthen the country's standing in world cricket. He said the victory reflects the hard work, discipline and teamwork of the players and coaching staff.

The Chief Minister conveyed special congratulations to Team India captain Suryakumar Yadav for his leadership and for

guiding the team to a memorable triumph. He also extended his greetings to all the team members for their outstanding efforts in achieving the prestigious title.

Revanth Reddy expressed hope that the Indian cricket team would continue its winning momentum in future international tournaments and bring more glory to the country.

He concluded by stating that the entire nation is celebrating the historic victory and that the team's success will inspire future generations to pursue excellence in sports.



## Telangana Aims to Become Model for 'FutureReady' Policing – Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

**T**elangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said the state government aims to make Telangana a role model for other states in the country in the field of "future-ready" policing. He said the government is adopting a "Triple-T" strategy—Technology, Trust and Talent—to effectively tackle emerging challenges in law enforcement.

The minister was speaking at the "Telangana Police Officers Retreat 2026", a special workshop organised for senior police officials at the RBVRR Telangana Police Academy in Hyderabad on Sunday. The event focused on preparing the police force to deal with evolving security threats and technological changes in crime patterns.

Addressing the gathering, Sridhar Babu said policing has undergone a major transformation over the years. Earlier, policing was largely focused on maintaining law and order, but today it has expanded to include areas such as data security and digital trust. He noted that crime is no longer confined to physical boundaries and has increasingly shifted into the digital domain.

The minister pointed out that emerging threats such as deepfake videos, voice cloning and automated phishing scams have become major challenges for law enforcement agencies. Criminals, he said, are now using smartphones, digital data and online identities instead of traditional weapons to commit crimes.

Highlighting the scale of cyber-crime, Sridhar Babu said cyber

criminals across the country stole around ₹22,845 crore in 2024 alone, which represents an increase of nearly 206 percent compared to the previous year. He also expressed concern that cybercrime victims increasingly include educated individuals rather than only those with limited awareness.

In this context, the minister stressed the importance of building a future-ready policing system based on professionalism, operational readiness, leadership, innovation, collaboration and strong ethical standards.

He noted that Telangana is already at the forefront of technology-enabled policing in the country. Going forward, the government plans to strengthen predictive policing by using advanced technologies such as data analytics and artificial intelligence to identify and prevent crimes even before they occur.

Sridhar Babu said the role of the police force will be crucial in achieving the state's long-term development vision under the "Telangana Rising 2047" initiative. He emphasized that effective policing can only be achieved when the police earn the trust and confidence of the people.

The minister also paid tribute to police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the fight against Naxalism, stating that their sacrifices would never be forgotten.

The event was attended by Director General of Police Shivadhar Reddy, Telangana Cyber Security Bureau Director Shikha Goel, Telangana Police Academy Director Abhilasha Bisht, retired DGPs H. J. Dora and Mahender Reddy, along with several senior police officials.

## Revanth Reddy Announces Free E-Scooters for Girl Students

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

**T**elangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that the state government is planning to provide free electric scooters to girl students pursuing higher education in the state. The announcement was made during an event held in Hyderabad on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the initiative aims to empower young women by improving their mobility and making it easier for them to travel to colleges and universities. He noted that many girl students face difficulties commuting long distances for education, and the proposed scheme is intended to reduce those challenges.

Revanth Reddy said the government is currently studying the proposal and working on the necessary guidelines for its implementation. He explained that the scheme may not be launched



immediately but will be implemented after completing the required planning and financial arrangements.

The Chief Minister stated that empowering women and supporting their education is one of the key priorities of the government. He added that initiatives like providing electric scooters to female students would help increase access to education and encour-

age more girls to pursue higher studies without transportation barriers.

According to him, the scheme would also contribute to improving safety and convenience for women students who often depend on public transport or other means to reach their educational institutions.

Revanth Reddy also highlighted the government's focus on promoting environmentally

friendly transportation. By encouraging the use of electric vehicles, the state aims to reduce pollution and move towards sustainable mobility solutions.

The Chief Minister said the government is already working on several initiatives to promote electric mobility and reduce dependence on fuel-based vehicles in urban areas. He noted that promoting electric vehicles will help create a cleaner environment while also supporting the state's long-term sustainability goals.

Officials said the proposed free e-scooter scheme is expected to benefit a large number of girl students across Telangana. If implemented, it will help improve accessibility to higher education and provide young women with greater independence in their daily travel.

The announcement has generated positive reactions among students and education stakeholders, who believe the initiative could play a significant role in encouraging women's education and empowerment in the state.

## Revanth Reddy Inaugurates FIH Women's Hockey World Cup Qualifiers 2026+

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

**T**he FIH Women's Hockey World Cup Qualifiers – 2026 tournament commenced on Sunday at the GMC Balayogi Hockey Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy formally inaugurated the international tournament in a grand ceremony attended by ministers, public representatives, sports officials and hockey enthusiasts.

The event witnessed the presence of State Ministers Vakiti Srihari and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, Telangana Government Sports Advisor Jitender Reddy, MLA Arikapudi Gandhi, sports department officials, representatives of hockey associations, players and a large number of

spectators. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said hosting an international tournament of this scale would further strengthen Hyderabad's reputation as a major global sports destination. He noted that the participation of women's hockey teams from several countries would help promote sports culture and inspire young athletes across the state.

Revanth Reddy highlighted the Telangana government's commitment to developing world-class sports infrastructure and encouraging international sporting events in the state. He said the government is focusing on strengthening sports facilities, nurturing young talent and providing better opportunities for athletes to compete at national and international levels.

The Chief Minister also ap-

preciated the efforts of the organisers and sports authorities for successfully bringing the prestigious tournament to Hyderabad. He expressed confidence that the event would be conducted smoothly and would showcase the city's capability to host international sporting competitions.

Officials from the sports department said the tournament will feature competitive matches among several international women's hockey teams, providing a platform for players to qualify for the upcoming Women's Hockey World Cup. The matches are expected to attract sports lovers and hockey fans from across the region.

The tournament was officially kicked off with the opening match between India and Uruguay. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy symbolically launched the competition and wished the



participating teams the very best.

The event created a festive atmosphere at the stadium, with players and fans expressing enthusiasm over the beginning of the international tournament in Hyderabad. Organisers said the matches will continue over the coming days, offering thrilling contests for hockey fans and further promoting the sport in the country.

## Krishna Waters Will Be Utilised Effectively: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

**T**elangana Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said the state government is committed to completing all pending irrigation projects and ensuring effective utilisation of Krishna river waters under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Speaking after a review meeting on irrigation projects in the erstwhile Palamuru (Mahabubnagar) district, the minister said the government is focusing on strengthening irrigation infrastructure to benefit farmers across the region. The meeting reviewed the progress of various ongoing irrigation projects in the combined Mahabubnagar district and discussed steps to accelerate their completion.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that after the formation of Telangana, the state has witnessed record paddy cultivation during the recent Kharif season. He noted that large-scale agricultural activity has taken place in both the Krishna and Godavari river basins, reflecting the growing importance of irrigation infrastructure in supporting farmers and agricultural productivity.

The minister said the government aims to efficiently utilise Krishna river waters and ensure they reach farmers in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts. He stressed that irrigation projects are crucial for improving water availability and expanding agricultural cultivation in drought-prone regions.

During the meeting, officials reviewed the status of multiple projects and discussed land acquisition requirements. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government plans to complete land acquisition for the projects before June 2 with an al-



location of around ₹5,000 crore.

He also addressed funding issues related to the Palamuru–Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project and said the government is determined to complete the project despite the challenges inherited from the previous administration.

Criticising the earlier government, the minister said claims that the Palamuru project was 90 percent complete were misleading. He pointed out that while the project cost was estimated at ₹55,000 crore, only around ₹27,000 crore had been spent, which cannot be considered near completion.

He further alleged that the project estimates were increased to ₹84,000 crore during the previous regime but despite spending significant funds, not a single acre received irrigation water. Uttam Kumar Reddy also said shifting the project's source from Jurala to Srisaillam caused serious setbacks to the project's progress.

The minister assured that the present government is committed to completing all irrigation works by December 2028. He added that funds will be released through a green channel to speed up project execution and ensure timely completion.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government plans to spend about ₹1,550 crore to complete various pending works and deliver irrigation benefits to farmers across the region.

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## Telangana Leads the Nation in Women's Welfare: Ponguleti

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Telangana has emerged as one of the leading states in the country in prioritizing women's welfare and empowerment, said Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, the state Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations. He made these remarks while addressing a special program organized at Praja Bhavan on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Speaking at the event as the chief guest, the minister said that the Telangana government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is giving greater priority to women across various sectors. He emphasized that empowering women economically and socially is a key objective of the state government.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the government has taken several initiatives aimed at strengthening the financial independence of women. As part of the government's vision to help one crore women become financially strong, loans worth nearly ₹23,000 crore have already been provided at zero percent interest to women's groups and beneficiaries. He added that the government plans to extend additional financial assistance of around ₹24,000 to ₹25,000 crore in the coming years to further strengthen women economically.

The minister highlighted that the state government is also encouraging women to become entrepreneurs through various initiatives. These include opportunities to establish solar power units, operate petrol pumps, and even become owners of private buses under government-supported schemes. Such initiatives, he said, are designed to expand employment opportunities and promote self-reliance among



women.

He also pointed out that under the Indiramma housing scheme, which he oversees, the government is prioritizing the allotment of house pattas in the names of women. This measure, according to the minister, aims to provide financial security and stability to families while empowering women with property ownership.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy further noted that the special event held at Praja Bhavan was organized following the suggestion of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to recognize and appreciate the contributions of women journalists on the occasion of International Women's Day. He said the government is committed to supporting women journalists and ensuring that they receive due recognition and opportunities in the field of media.

The minister also mentioned that the government is giving priority to women journalists in the issuance of accreditation cards and other professional support systems. He expressed hope that women journalists would continue to play a vital role in strengthening democracy by acting as a bridge between the government and the people.

The event concluded with the minister congratulating women journalists for their dedication and contributions to society, while reiterating the government's commitment to advancing women's welfare and empowerment across the state.

## Women Wellness Summit Held at HITEX

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

A Women Wellness Summit 2026 was organized at HITEX in Madhapur by Omega Hospitals on the occasion of International Women's Day. Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Seethakka attended the event as the chief guest and emphasized the importance of women's health and awareness.

Addressing the gathering, the minister extended her greetings to all women and said that women can achieve great success only when they remain healthy. She noted that many women, particularly those from rural areas and working professionals, often ignore their health due to family responsibilities and daily struggles. As a result, many women fall victim to serious illnesses, including cancer.

Seethakka highlighted the growing concern of cancer cases in the country and pointed out that India currently ranks among the top countries in the world in terms of cancer incidence. She said that in the last decade, Telangana has also witnessed a significant rise in cases, with nearly 12,000 new cases reported during that period. On average, around 1,000 to 1,200 new cases are recorded every year in the state. She further noted that breast cancer cases are increasing in urban areas such as Hyderabad.

The minister explained that factors such as pollution, changing food habits, lifestyle issues, work pressure, and adulterated food are contributing to rising health prob-



lems among women. She appreciated Omega Hospitals for organizing the summit to spread awareness about women's health and said such initiatives are necessary to educate women about preventive healthcare.

Speaking about the theme "Give to Gain," she suggested that hospitals and medical institutions should organize free health check-ups for women to create awareness and ensure early detection of diseases. She said the state government has already initiated programs that provide around 30 types of free medical tests for women in rural areas with

the aim of identifying diseases at an early stage and providing timely treatment.

Seethakka also emphasized that prevention is always better than cure and urged medical professionals to actively promote health awareness, especially among women. She added that doctors have a responsibility not only to treat diseases but also to provide courage and support to patients battling serious illnesses such as cancer.

The minister further stated that a large number of women in India work in the agriculture sector, and their health must be safeguarded as

they contribute significantly to the nation's economy. She assured that the government would continue to support initiatives aimed at improving women's welfare and health.

As part of the program, the hospital management highlighted the "Stand With Her" initiative launched by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to encourage support and empowerment for women. Omega Hospitals Executive Director Vijaya Vemuri and several doctors and healthcare professionals also participated in the summit, discussing various aspects of women's health and preventive care.

## Bhumi Puja Held for ISKCON Temple in Cyberabad



Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

A grand Bhumi Puja ceremony was conducted on Sunday for the construction of a major ISKCON temple at Nallagandla in the Cyberabad region. Telangana Minister for Forest, Environment and Endowments Konda Surekha attended the ceremony as the chief guest and performed the traditional rituals amid Vedic chants.

Representatives of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) warmly welcomed the minister at the venue. Priests performed the rituals and recited sacred Vedic hymns as the foundation ceremony for the proposed temple was formally carried out.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Konda Surekha praised the ISKCON organisation for its global efforts in promoting spirituality and spreading Indian culture across the world. She said the organisation has played a significant role in introducing the philosophy of Lord Krishna to people across different countries while also carrying out various humanitarian and service activities.

The minister highlighted that ISKCON's initiatives, including providing food to the needy and promoting spiritual values, have earned appreciation worldwide. She said such efforts help strengthen cultural traditions and bring people closer to spiritual practices.

Konda Surekha expressed happiness over participating in the Bhumi Puja ceremony and said she considered it a blessing

to be part of the event. She noted that representatives of the organisation had earlier faced difficulties in securing land for the temple during the previous government's tenure, despite making repeated efforts.

However, she said that after the formation of the present government, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy took a proactive initiative to support the project. According to the minister, the state government allocated around 6,000 square yards of land on a 22-year lease to facilitate the construction of the temple in the area.

She expressed confidence that the construction of the ISKCON temple in Cyberabad would help expand spiritual, cultural and service-oriented activities in the region. The temple, she said, would become a centre for spiritual learning and community welfare, benefiting devotees and residents alike.

Konda Surekha further stated that the government remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote spirituality, culture and social service, while ensuring that such institutions contribute positively to society.

The event witnessed the participation of several public representatives and devotees. Among those present were MLA Arikapudi Gandhi, former MP Ranjith Reddy, leader Jagadeeshwar Reddy, party leaders, local activists and a large number of ISKCON devotees who attended the ceremony with devotion and enthusiasm.

## BRS Spreading False Claims on Irrigation Projects: Vakiti Srihari

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari on Saturday accused leaders of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of spreading false claims regarding the completion of irrigation projects in the state. He said that the opposition leaders were misleading the public by claiming that nearly 90 percent of the irrigation projects were completed during their tenure, while in reality several projects remain incomplete on the ground.

Srihari made these remarks while participating in a review meeting on irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. The meeting was held at Jalasoudha in Erramanzil, Hyderabad, under the chairmanship of State Irrigation Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy. Officials and public representatives discussed the progress and challenges related to major irrigation projects in the region.

Speaking at the meeting, Vakiti Srihari said that several irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district were left incomplete by the previous government. He stressed that farmers in the region



were facing difficulties due to delays in project execution and incomplete infrastructure.

The minister appreciated the state government for providing compensation to farmers for nearly 99 percent of the land acquired for the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kondagal Lift Irrigation Project. He said that timely compensation had helped address

many concerns of the farmers whose lands were taken for the project.

Srihari also raised concerns about the decreasing storage capacity of the Jurala Project due to the accumulation of silt. He urged officials to take immediate steps to remove the silt so that the project can store more water and benefit farmers

across the region.

Referring to the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, the minister emphasized the need to complete key infrastructure including the Bhoothpur, Sanganabanda and Sarjipur pump houses. He said that completing the Sarjipur pump house would help supply water to the Makthal and Narayanpet areas more quickly and efficiently.

The minister also pointed out that negligence in repairing project gates was leading to unnecessary wastage of water. He said that due to poor maintenance, water that should be reaching agricultural fields was being lost.

He further stated that farmers from Bhoothpur and Sanganabanda villages had provided more than 6,000 acres of land for irrigation projects but were yet to receive proper compensation, causing difficulties for local residents.

Srihari urged officials to strengthen security and monitoring systems for project gates and ensure better management of irrigation infrastructure to prevent water wastage and support farmers.

## Mahesh Kumar Goud Presents Awards at 'Vishwa Mahila Bapu Bomma Puraskaram 2026'



Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

The "Vishwa Mahila Bapu Bomma Puraskaram - 2026" awards ceremony was held with great enthusiasm at Hotel Dasappa in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. The event, organised under the leadership of film actress Divyavani, celebrated the achievements of women from various fields who have made notable contributions to society.

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud attended the programme as the chief guest and presented awards to the winners in recognition of their outstanding achievements. The ceremony witnessed the participation of several personalities from the film, cultural and social sectors, making it a vibrant and inspiring gathering.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud said women today are excelling in every field and setting remarkable examples for society. He noted that women are making significant contributions in areas such as arts, literature, social service, media and business, and their achievements play a crucial role in the development of the nation.

He emphasised that recognising and encouraging women's accomplishments through such awards is essential to inspire many others to pursue their dreams and contribute positively to society. According to

him, honouring successful women not only celebrates their efforts but also motivates the next generation to strive for excellence.

Mahesh Kumar Goud also appreciated the initiative taken by actress Divyavani in organising the "Vishwa Mahila Bapu Bomma Puraskaram" programme. He said the event serves as an important platform for identifying talented women and bringing their achievements to the attention of society.

The TPCC president further highlighted the importance of empowering women and providing them with opportunities to showcase their potential in different sectors. He expressed hope that more programmes of this kind would be organised in the future to recognise and encourage women's achievements.

The event featured the felicitation of several women who have been working for women's empowerment and social development. Awards were presented to individuals who have made notable contributions in their respective fields, reflecting the spirit of dedication and service.

The ceremony concluded in an enthusiastic and celebratory atmosphere, with participants appreciating the efforts taken to recognise and honour the accomplishments of women who continue to inspire society through their work and achievements.

## Seethakka Meets Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma



Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Seethakka paid a courtesy visit to Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and his spouse on Sunday as he prepares to assume his new responsibilities as the Governor of Maharashtra. The minister met the Governor at Raj Bhavan and conveyed her greetings on his appointment.

During the meeting, Seethakka enquired about the well-being of the Governor and his spouse and wished them success in their future responsibilities. She congratulated Jishnu Dev Varma on being appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra and expressed hope that he would continue to serve the nation with dedication and commitment.

As a mark of respect and goodwill, the minister presented a memento of the revered Sammakka-Saralamma to the Governor. The Sammakka-Saralamma festival is one of the most prominent tribal festivals in Telangana and represents the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of the state.

Seethakka also presented a traditional Telangana saree to the Governor's spouse as a gesture reflecting the state's cultural traditions and hospitality. The exchange of gifts symbolised Telangana's cultural pride and respect for the outgoing

Governor.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister appreciated the services rendered by Jishnu Dev Varma during his tenure in Telangana. She noted that his tenure contributed to strengthening the relationship between the constitutional office of the Governor and the people of the state.

The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere, with both sides exchanging views and pleasantries. Seethakka expressed gratitude for the Governor's support and cooperation during his time in Telangana and wished him success in his new role.

Jishnu Dev Varma, who has been serving as the Governor of Telangana, is set to take charge as the Governor of Maharashtra following his recent appointment. Leaders from various political and social backgrounds have been meeting him to convey their best wishes ahead of his transition to the new role.

The courtesy meeting highlighted the tradition of mutual respect between public representatives and constitutional authorities. Minister Seethakka once again extended her warm wishes to the Governor and his family for a successful and fulfilling tenure in Maharashtra.

## Seethakka Highlights Role of Women Farmers at Mega Rythu Mela

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Seethakka emphasized the vital role of women in agriculture and called for greater recognition and support for women farmers while addressing a gathering at a Mega Rythu Mela organized by Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University. The minister extended greetings to women on the occasion of International Women's Day and appreciated the university for conducting such farmer-oriented events.

She congratulated the organizers for arranging informative stalls that provide farmers with knowledge about modern agricultural practices, technologies, and allied sectors. According to the minister, initiatives like Mega Rythu Melas help farmers gain valuable insights that can improve agricultural productivity and livelihoods.

Seethakka noted that this year's Women's Day is being observed under the theme "Give to Gain" and highlighted that women play a crucial role in food production. She



said food security is essential for society, and increasing agricultural production is the key to ensuring sufficient food supply. In this process, women farmers make a significant contribution.

The minister pointed out that nearly 60 to 80 percent of the workforce in agriculture consists of women. From sowing seeds to harvesting crops and bringing the produce home, women are actively involved in every stage of farming. Despite their immense contribution, women often do not receive the

recognition and respect they deserve.

She said the state government is implementing several initiatives to economically empower women and increase their participation in agriculture and allied sectors. According to the minister, International Women's Day should not be seen merely as a celebration but as a reminder of the struggles women faced in the past to secure their rights.

Seethakka recalled that women once did not even have the right to vote and that the fight for women's

rights was led by socialist leaders such as Clara Zetkin, who advocated for equality and recognition of women workers. She noted that through such struggles, women gradually secured their rights, leading to the recognition of March 8 as International Women's Day by the United Nations.

The minister highlighted several welfare initiatives undertaken by the state government for women. She said that nearly 30 types of medical tests are being provided free of cost for women to

ensure early detection of health issues. She also mentioned the "Stand With Her" initiative launched by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to provide support and empowerment to women.

Seethakka further explained that through the efforts of Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), around 6.5 million women have been organized into self-help groups, enabling them to improve their economic conditions. She said the government is working toward making one crore women financially strong and has facilitated bank loans worth about ₹36,000 crore to women over the past two years, many of them with zero interest.

Encouraging women farmers to join self-help groups, the minister assured that the government would provide financial support, crop-related assistance, loan insurance, and accident insurance schemes. She said women often work even harder than men in agricultural activities such as sowing, transplantation, and harvesting, and society has a responsibility to give them the respect and recognition they deserve.

## Govt Extends Full Support for Growth of Real Estate Sector



Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government is extending full support to strengthen and expand the real estate sector, Revenue and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said on Sunday. He stated that several revolutionary decisions taken by the government are contributing significantly to the growth of the real

estate and construction sectors in the state.

The minister made these remarks while unveiling Property Pulse, an English weekly newspaper dedicated to real estate, at the State Secretariat in Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said Hyderabad is emerging as a preferred destination for Global Capability

Centers and is moving ahead of many other major cities in the country in attracting international investments.

He noted that the state government is taking a series of new initiatives to promote the construction and infrastructure sectors in Telangana. According to the minister, these measures are expected to create more opportunities

for investors, developers and stakeholders associated with the real estate industry. Highlighting the city's development, the minister said the proposed Future City project has already brought international recognition to Hyderabad. He added that several national and international companies are showing keen interest in investing in the city due to its rapidly growing infrastructure and investor-friendly policies.

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy also said the government is giving special focus to major infrastructure projects that will further enhance Hyderabad's connectivity and urban development. Among them are the Metro Rail Phase-II expansion and the proposed Ratan Tata Greenfield Road project, which are expected to improve transportation and ease traffic congestion across the city.

He emphasized that such large-scale infrastructure initiatives will not only boost the real es-

tate sector but also create employment opportunities and strengthen the state's economic growth.

The minister welcomed the launch of Property Pulse, stating that it is commendable that the country's first weekly newspaper dedicated exclusively to real estate is being launched from Hyderabad. He expressed confidence that the publication will serve as an important platform for sharing information, insights and updates related to the real estate industry.

On the occasion, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy congratulated Property Pulse Editor King Johnson Koyyada and appreciated the efforts of the team behind the publication.

Several media and industry representatives attended the event, including Patilola Kiran, Gotteti Rajesh, Press Club Joint Secretary Chilukuri Hariprasad, EC members Amit Battu and Vanam Nagaraju, along with others associated with the media and real estate sectors.

## Mahesh Kumar Goud Greet Women Journalists Honoured on Women's Day

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud extended his heartfelt congratulations to women journalists who received the Best Journalist Awards on the occasion of International Women's Day.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the media plays a vital role in the development of society and strengthening democratic values. He noted that women journalists are making remarkable contributions to the field by bringing important public issues and social concerns to the forefront with courage, dedication and professionalism.

He praised women journalists for their determination and commitment to highlighting truth and giving a voice to the concerns of ordinary citizens. According to him, the role of journalists is crucial in ensuring transparency and accountability in a democratic system.

Mahesh Kumar Goud said that questioning injustice and presenting facts fearlessly before the public is one of the primary responsibilities of journalists. He appreciated the way women journalists have been fulfilling this responsibility with sincerity and commitment despite facing numerous challenges in the profession.

The TPCC president said women journalists have consistently demonstrated their talent and capability in the media sector and have emerged as powerful voices in society. Their work, he added, has helped bring attention to many issues affecting people at different levels.

He further stated that the Best Journalist Awards given on the occasion of International Women's Day are not only a recognition of the hard work and dedication of women journalists but also an acknowledgment of their growing influence in shaping public opinion. Such honours, he said, serve as motivation for journalists to continue



their efforts in promoting truth, justice and social awareness.

Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed confidence that the award-winning women journalists would continue to work with the same commitment and dedication in the future. He hoped that they would inspire many more women

to pursue careers in journalism and contribute to the strengthening of democratic institutions.

He also reiterated that the Congress Party has always been committed to the empowerment of women and to providing equal opportunities for women in all sectors. Encouraging greater participation of

women in media and other fields is essential for building an inclusive and progressive society, he said.

Mahesh Kumar Goud once again congratulated the award-winning women journalists and wished them continued success and greater achievements in their professional journey.

## Sanitation Workers Honoured on Women's Day



Secunderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

International Women's Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in Patigadda under the leadership of Telangana state activist Narasimha, popularly known as Nani. The event was organized to recognize and honor the contribution of women, particularly those working as sanitation workers under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

On the occasion, Narasimha Nani extended warm Women's Day greetings to women sanitation workers who play a crucial role in maintaining cleanliness across the city. He appreciated their dedication and hard work in ensuring hygienic surroundings for the public despite the challenges associated with their job.

As part of the celebrations, Narasimha Nani distributed sarees to the women workers and felicitated them in recognition of their service to society. He stated that women, who are considered the foundation of creation, deserve respect, dignity, and equal opportunities in all spheres of life.

Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that women have been making significant contributions to the development of society in various fields. In particular, he highlighted the essential role played by sanitation workers in keeping urban areas clean and

safe. He noted that their efforts often go unnoticed, even though they work tirelessly every day to ensure the well-being of the community.

Narasimha Nani said that honoring such workers on International Women's Day is a small gesture to acknowledge their invaluable service. He added that society must recognize and appreciate the sacrifices and hard work of women who contribute to public welfare through their duties.

He also stressed the importance of respecting women in everyday life and ensuring their safety, dignity, and empowerment. According to him, every individual has a responsibility to value and support women, as they are the backbone of families and communities.

The event witnessed the participation of several women sanitation workers from the GHMC limits, along with local leaders and residents of the area. The gathering expressed appreciation for the initiative and highlighted the importance of celebrating and encouraging women who contribute to society in meaningful ways.

The program concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to promote respect for women and recognize their vital role in building a progressive and inclusive society.

## Women's Day Celebrated in Shapur Nagar



Quthbullapur, March 8 | TPN Bureau

International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Shapur Nagar Division under the banner of the BRS party. The event was organized under the leadership of Division BRS Party President Puppala Bhaskar, bringing together women and local leaders to mark the occasion and recognize the important role of women in society.

Former corporator Mantri Satyanarayana attended the program as the chief guest and extended his greetings to women on the occasion of International Women's Day. Addressing the gathering, he stated that women play a vital role in the development of society and are the backbone of every family. He emphasized that empowering women and supporting their aspirations is essential for the progress of communities.

As part of the celebrations, Division TRS Party President Hemalatha Reddy, along with Puppala Vani and Dr. Harshini, cut a cake to mark the occasion and formally begin the festivities. The event was attended by several women from the local community who gathered to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in various fields.

During the program, women who attended the event were honored with shawls as a mark of respect and appreciation. Sarees were also distributed to women as a special Women's Day gift, and the organizers conveyed their best wishes to all the participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Puppala Bhaskar said that the development of women is crucial for the overall progress of society. He stated that providing women with respect, support, and opportunities is the responsibility of everyone. He also assured that similar programs aimed at supporting and encouraging women would continue in the future.

The event witnessed active participation from several local leaders and community members. Welfare President Neti Raja, Party General Secretary Siddiq, former colony president Chekka Suresh Babu, Senior Citizens President Sai Baba, along with Roshan, Raj Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Mukund Rao, David, Lakshman and others attended the program.

The celebration concluded on a positive note with participants appreciating the initiative taken by the BRS party leaders in organizing the event and highlighting the importance of recognizing women's contributions to family, community, and society.

## CBIT Hosts Women Ideathon 1.0 Grand Finale

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

The grand finale of Women Ideathon 1.0 was successfully organized at the Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) in Hyderabad under the initiative of the AICTE IDEA Lab in association with the IEEE Women in Engineering (WiE) affinity group of the institute. The event aimed to encourage innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship, particularly among women students, while providing a platform for young innovators to present their ideas and solutions to real-world problems.

The final round of the Ideathon was conducted on March 6 and witnessed participation from 70 shortlisted teams comprising more than 280 students from various institutions. Each team consisted of three to five members with at least two women participants, ensuring significant representation of women in the ideation and innovation process. Prior to the finale, the teams received mentorship from the IDEA Lab at CBIT, which helped them refine their ideas, improve their presentations, and develop initial prototypes.

The event was inaugurated by chief guest L. Bheema Reddy, Manager of the Innovation Centre in Hyderabad and AICTE IDEA Lab In-charge for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In his address, he encouraged students to utilize the facilities available at the IDEA Lab to convert their ideas into functional prototypes. He



highlighted that several innovative ideas emerging from such platforms have the potential to transition from laboratories to the marketplace, creating real-world impact and entrepreneurial opportunities.

CBIT Principal C. V. Narasimulu congratulated the participants and appreciated the innovative thinking demonstrated by the teams. He encouraged the finalists to continue working on their concepts and transform them into successful products or startups. He also acknowledged the support of What Next Overseas Education Consultancy Service and expressed gratitude to AICTE for establishing the IDEA Lab at CBIT, which enables the institute to host impactful innovation-driven events.

Professor and Advisor (Innovation and Incubation) U. K. Choudhury said that the journey from a simple idea to a well-structured business proposal reflects the true spirit of innovation. He noted that the shortlisted teams underwent more than 40 hours of mentorship over six days, during which they refined their ideas, business plans, and market strategies.

The event was organized by faculty coordinators Siva Priyanka and BVS Rao with support from student coordinators who managed the entire execution of the event, including planning, mentoring sessions, logistics, hospitality, and coordination with participants and judges.

A panel of external and internal judges evaluated the final presentations. The winning teams included Rovera, Tech Titans, STREE Shield, Green Circuit, Sugar Spy 3000, EW Forge, Holographic Lithographers, Bhojakshi Technologies, Eco She, and RxIn-

telli. These teams represented institutions including National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur and several premier engineering and pharmacy colleges across the country.

Organizers stated that the successful completion of Women Ideathon 1.0 reflects CBIT's commitment to fostering innovation and supporting women entrepreneurs. The winning teams will receive incubation support from the AICTE IDEA Lab along with mentorship from industry experts to help transform their ideas into practical solutions and viable startups.

## Huge Pothole Troubles Residents in Green Hills Colony

Quthbullapur, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Green Hills Colony in Bahadurpally under the Dundigal Circle have raised serious concerns over a massive pothole that has developed in the middle of a busy road, causing severe inconvenience to commuters and posing a threat to public safety. The pothole, located on the main road connecting Suraram Rajiv Gruhakalpa to Bahadurpally, has reportedly remained unattended for nearly 45 days.

According to local residents, the road witnesses heavy traffic movement every day, including private vehicles, two-wheelers, and school buses. The presence of the large pothole has made commuting difficult and risky for motorists. Drivers are often forced to slow down abruptly or take sharp turns to avoid the damaged portion of the road, which increases the chances of accidents.



Residents stated that school bus drivers, in particular, face significant difficulty while passing through the stretch, as they must carefully maneuver their vehicles to ensure the safety of the children. The situation becomes even more dangerous during nighttime when visibility is

low. Locals claim that a few minor accidents have already occurred at the spot due to the neglected road condition.

The residents also expressed frustration over what they describe as the negligence of officials. They alleged that despite submitting multiple com-

plaints to authorities under the Dundigal Circle, no action has been taken so far to repair the road. The delay in addressing the issue has increased concerns among people living in the area, who fear that the pothole could lead to a serious accident if left unattended.

Locals further criticized

the authorities for focusing on tax collection while failing to resolve basic civic issues. They pointed out that officials are strict when it comes to collecting house taxes, but appear indifferent when residents raise complaints regarding infrastructure problems such as damaged roads.

Many residents said that the condition of the road reflects a lack of proper maintenance and monitoring by civic authorities. They stressed that roads are essential for daily commuting and that ignoring such issues puts the lives of residents and commuters at risk.

The residents of Green Hills Colony have now demanded that the concerned officials respond immediately and take urgent measures to fill the pothole and repair the road. They urged authorities to ensure the safety of motorists and prevent potential accidents by addressing the issue without further delay.

## Sanitation Drives Gain Pace in Kompally

Quthbullapur, March 8 | TPN Bureau

As part of the 99-day action plan aimed at improving sanitation and waste management, several cleanliness initiatives were carried out on Sunday in the Kompally Circle. The third day of the program focused on identifying garbage-prone areas, mapping dumping points, and conducting awareness activities with the help of Swachh Saathi groups.

According to officials, around 20 Swachh Saathi groups participated in the activities across Kompally Circle-56. These teams worked on mapping Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) to identify locations where waste is frequently dumped. The groups consisted of Swachh Field Assistants (SFAs), Resource Persons (RPs), and members from Self-Help Groups (SHGs), with each team including two to five participants.

An awareness meeting was organized at Rajiv Gruhakalpa in Sai Baba



Nagar with the participation of Swachh Saathi groups and local stakeholders. During the session, officials and volunteers explained the importance of eliminating garbage dumping points, proper management of construction and demolition (C&D) waste, and maintaining household dustbins. Residents were encouraged to cooperate

with sanitation workers and adopt responsible waste disposal practices.

As part of the third day's activities, Swachh Saathis and local community members jointly undertook cleaning drives in six parks and surrounding areas. The teams cleared accumulated waste and worked to restore cleanliness in public spaces. After cleaning the identified gar-

bage vulnerable points, rangoli designs were drawn at the spots to create awareness among residents about the importance of maintaining a clean environment and preventing further dumping of waste.

In addition to sanitation activities, a special medical camp was organized for women sanitation workers on the occasion of Interna-

tional Women's Day. The camp was conducted with the support of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), providing health check-ups and medical guidance for the women workers who play a key role in maintaining public hygiene.

Meanwhile, a "Parishkaram Mela" was also organized at the Kompally Circle office to facilitate property tax payments and resolve related civic issues. The initiative aimed to provide convenient services to citizens and address their queries regarding municipal taxes and other civic matters.

Kompally Deputy Commissioner Krishna Reddy, along with officials from various departments, participated in the day's programs and reviewed the progress of the sanitation initiatives. Officials expressed hope that the continued efforts under the 99-day action plan would significantly improve cleanliness and public awareness in the area.

## Ponnam Orders Immediate Action on Mosquito Menace

Hyderabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

Amid rising complaints from residents about the increasing mosquito menace in the city, Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has directed Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials to take immediate and comprehensive measures to control mosquito breeding and prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases.

The minister issued instructions to GHMC Commissioner R. V. Karnan to intensify mosquito control operations across the city. The directive came after several public representatives raised concerns during the recently conducted Hyderabad district 99-day action plan review meeting, highlighting that residents were facing severe inconvenience due to the growing mosquito population.

Ponnam Prabhakar instructed officials to strengthen entomological surveillance across GHMC limits in order to reduce mosquito density. He emphasized that special attention should be given to areas with a high concentration of mosquitoes and that fever surveillance should be conducted in 100 percent of such locations. Preventive measures must be taken to curb diseases such as Dengue, Malaria, and Chikungunya, which are commonly associated with mosquito breeding.

Officials were also instructed to analyze disease data from the past three years to identify high-risk wards and primary health center (PHC) areas. Based on this data, authorities must conduct primary lar-



val surveys and implement measures to maintain mosquito density within controlled levels. The minister further directed departments to prepare ward-wise micro action plans after identifying high-risk lo-

cations such as schools, construction sites, water storage areas, and slum localities.

The minister suggested organizing weekly "Dry Day" initiatives to eliminate stagnant water sources

that serve as mosquito breeding grounds. Measures such as the use of larvicidal chemicals like temephos, introduction of larva-eating fish, and release of oil balls in ponds and drains were recommended to control larvae growth. He also directed authorities to intensify fogging operations in identified hot-spot areas and ensure regular inspection of construction sites and overhead water tanks.

Field staff were instructed to conduct house-to-house fever surveillance in hot-spot areas and organize fever camps in high-risk localities. Residents experiencing fever for more than two days were advised to undergo mandatory medical testing. The minister also asked officials to submit daily reports through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) to monitor the situation effectively.

In addition, entomology teams have been directed to carry out tagging of mosquito breeding sites and continuously monitor larval density through mapping and periodic surveys. Indoor Residual Spray (IRS) operations will also be conducted in malaria-prone areas.

Ponnam Prabhakar stressed the importance of public participation in mosquito control efforts. He urged residents to ensure that there is no stagnant water in and around their homes. Awareness campaigns will also be conducted in schools and residential areas, and every Sunday a special "10 Minutes for Mosquito Prevention" awareness initiative will be promoted through media outreach.

## Women's Day Celebrated at Raheja Vista Apartments



Nacharam, March 8 | TPN Bureau

International Women's Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at Raheja Vista Apartments located in the industrial area of Nacharam Division. Women residents of the apartment complex organized the event to mark the occasion and highlight the importance of women's empowerment and achievements in various fields.

Nagole Police Station Women Sub-Inspector Uma attended the program as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, she extended her greetings to all women on the occasion of International Women's Day and appreciated the efforts of the residents for organizing the event.

Speaking at the program, SI Uma said that India is a country where women are respected and revered like goddesses. She noted that women today are steadily progressing in all spheres of life and are proving their strength, determination, and independence. She expressed happiness over the increasing participation of women in various professions and their ability to stand on their own through confidence and hard work.

She also said it was a pleasure to be invited by the women of Ra-

heja Vista Apartments and appreciated their initiative in organizing such celebrations that encourage unity and recognition among women. According to her, occasions like International Women's Day serve as a reminder of the need to continue supporting women in their journey toward equality, empowerment, and success.

As part of the celebrations, the organizers conducted several fun and engaging competitions for women residents. Participants enthusiastically took part in the activities, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere within the apartment community.

Winners of the competitions were presented with prizes as a token of appreciation for their participation. The event also provided an opportunity for residents to interact, celebrate their achievements, and strengthen community bonds.

The celebrations concluded with participants expressing their gratitude to the organizers and the chief guest for making the event memorable. Residents said that such programs not only celebrate the spirit of womanhood but also encourage women to continue striving for success and leadership in every field.

## Ancient Vaiduryapuram Heritage Fades Away

Adilabad District, March 8 | TPN Bureau

The historic glory of Vaiduryapuram, a place believed to have a history of nearly a thousand years, is slowly fading into obscurity. Located in Vadur village of Nereddigonda mandal in Adilabad district, the once-flourishing settlement known for its architectural and cultural heritage now remains a quiet rural village, with only remnants of its past grandeur.

Surrounded by the scenic hills of the Sahyadri mountain range and lush greenery, the village currently houses around 500 families who mainly depend on agriculture for their livelihood. However, historians say that this seemingly ordinary village once had the stature of a prosperous city and served as a major centre for trade and commerce.

At the heart of the village lies the ruins of the Vaiduryapuram Fort, which today stands in a severely dilapidated condition. Only parts of the walls and the main entrance gate remain, offering a glimpse into the fort's former magnificence. Historians believe the region played an important role in commerce from the era of the Satavahanas to the period of Venkatarayudu's rule. During its peak, Vaiduryapuram was said to have been a thriving town with nearly a thousand households.



Historical accounts suggest that the rulers of the time used this strategically located settlement as a secure place to store their royal treasury. The village is surrounded by natural hills that served as a protective barrier against enemy invasions. In addition, a large defensive moat was reportedly dug around the settlement, traces of which can still be seen today.

Local folklore and historical references indicate that the town was once a bustling marketplace where precious stones such as diamonds

and vaiduryam (cat's eye gems) were traded in large quantities. It is believed that the abundance and trade of these valuable stones gave the town its name, Vaiduryapuram. Over time, the name gradually changed and the area came to be known as Vadur.

According to historical narratives, the village once had 999 houses. Considering the number inauspicious, the rulers decided to construct the Sangameshwara Temple to symbolically complete the count to a thousand. Today, the tem-

ple has fallen into ruins, with only fragments of the structure remaining. Despite the damage, the sculptures found within the temple still reflect the remarkable craftsmanship of that era.

Along with the Sangameshwara Temple, the village also houses an ancient Venkateswara Temple, which too has fallen into disrepair. The fort complex has been further damaged due to illegal treasure hunting activities in the surrounding areas.

Villagers are now urging authorities to recognize the historical significance of Vaiduryapuram and restore the ancient fort and temples to their former glory. They have appealed to the Archaeology Department to take the site under its protection, conduct research, and uncover its hidden history. Residents also requested that the village of Vadur be officially renamed Vaiduryapuram once again to honor its historic legacy.



**Madi Ganesh Sonala**  
Senior Journalist

## Women's Day Celebrated in Nacharam



Nacharam, March 8 | TPN Bureau

International Women's Day was celebrated with enthusiasm and fervor in Nacharam under the leadership of Congress leader Soma Bhavana Goud. The event, organized by local Congress party members, brought together several women from the surrounding colonies to mark the occasion and highlight the importance of women's empowerment and equality in society.

The celebrations were held at Raghavendra Nagar in Nacharam, where Bhavana Goud joined local women in commemorating the day with a cake-cutting ceremony. Extending her warm wishes to all women on the occasion, she emphasized the need for women to strive for excellence in every field and work toward achieving greater heights in life.

Speaking at the event, Bhavana Goud said that women today are making significant contributions across various sectors, including education, business, politics, and social service. She noted that their growing participation and leadership are essential for building a more balanced and progressive society. She encouraged women to remain confident, determined, and focused on their goals while overcoming challenges that come their way.

Bhavana Goud also interacted with women from the local communities and listened to their

concerns regarding issues faced in their neighborhoods. She assured them that she would make every effort to address and resolve the problems brought to her attention. According to her, effective communication between community members and leaders is essential to ensure that local issues are resolved in a timely manner.

The Congress leader stressed that empowering women is not only about celebrating them on a single day but about creating continuous opportunities for them to grow and succeed. She said that society must support women in education, employment, and leadership roles so they can contribute fully to the nation's development.

Many women who attended the program expressed happiness at being part of the celebrations and appreciated the efforts made by the organizers to recognize their role in society. They said such gatherings help raise awareness about women's rights, responsibilities, and achievements while also encouraging unity among women in the community.

The event concluded with participants sharing their thoughts on women's empowerment and reaffirming their commitment to work together for a more inclusive and supportive society where women can pursue their ambitions and reach their full potential.

## Women Police Honoured at Suraram Station

Quthbullapur, March 8 | TPN Bureau

International Women's Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Suraram Police Station, where women police personnel were honoured for their dedication and service to society. The program was organized to recognize the valuable role played by women in maintaining law and order and contributing to the welfare of the community.

As part of the celebrations, women police staff working at the station were felicitated with shawls and presented with flower bouquets as a token of appreciation for their service. Police officials praised the commitment and hard work of women officers who continue to perform their duties with courage and dedication.

Speaking on the occasion, Suraram Circle Inspector Sudheer Krishna said that women are proving their talent and strength in every field and are playing a crucial role in the progress of society. He highlighted that women in the police department carry out their responsibilities with bravery and determination while ensuring safety and confidence among the public.

He further noted that women police personnel successfully balance both professional and family responsibilities, setting an inspiring example for others. Their con-



tribution to public service and law enforcement is invaluable, he said, adding that their dedication strengthens the functioning of the police department.

CI Sudheer Krishna also emphasized that empowering women and recognizing their efforts is essential for building a strong and progressive society. He appreciated

the commitment shown by women officers who work tirelessly to maintain peace and security in the community.

The event was attended by Sub-Inspectors, women police personnel, and other staff members of the Suraram Police Station. They extended their greetings to women colleagues and acknowledged their

contributions to policing and public service.

The program concluded with a message of appreciation and encouragement for women officers, recognizing their vital role in society and reaffirming the department's support for women's empowerment and professional growth within the police force.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Quality vs. Price debate oc-

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

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

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

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

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

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



Jagat Prakash Nadda

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



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

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

### A Long Political Journey

Nitish Kumar's political career spans several decades. He

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

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

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

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

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

### Coalition Politics and Strategic Alliances

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

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

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

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

### Why the Rajya Sabha?

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

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

vide him with greater flexibility to influence national coalition politics.

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

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

### Changing Power Equations in Bihar

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

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

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

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

### A Possible Generational Transition

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

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

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

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

### National Political Implications

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

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

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

### Supporters and Critics

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

Critics, however, view the

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

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

### The Future of Bihar Politics

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

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

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

### Conclusion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The Prime Minister further

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

connection with the Saradha chit fund probe.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

However, certain groups will not qualify for the scheme.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

After joining the party, Ni-

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**The extra flights will operate on the following routes:**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

a potential target.

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

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

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

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

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

bility of a broader regional conflict.

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

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

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



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

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

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

US President Donald

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the broader Middle East is feeling

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The attacks have already caused casualties in the UAE.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

damage that suggested the impact of precision-guided munitions.

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

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

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

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the in-

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

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

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

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

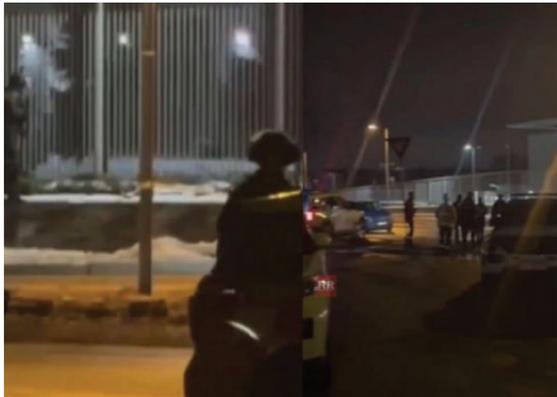
## Explosion Near US Embassy in Norway Prompts Police Investigation

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

with information.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

percent during the week.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

risk tolerance and market outlook.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Just when the situation seemed overwhelming,



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

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

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

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

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

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

Reflecting on the moment later, the rider said

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

However, she clarified that February was not a

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

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

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

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

spending for February reached approximately Rs 1.43 lakh.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## India Clinch Third T20 World Cup Title with Dominant Win

Ahmedabad, March 8 | TPN Bureau

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

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

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

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

In response, New Zealand



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

"No one in the world can bowl

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

India currently hold the ninth position in the world rankings

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

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

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

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

## Novak Djokovic Backs Carlos Alcaraz to Continue Impressive Winning Streak



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

have been one of his final matches for Atletico.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Following the an-

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

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

## Sukumar Ahead of Rajamouli in Mentoring New Directors



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

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

One of the most promi-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Actor Bellamkonda Sai Srinivas Gets Engaged to Kavya Reddy

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' Telugu Trailer Creates Buzz Online

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

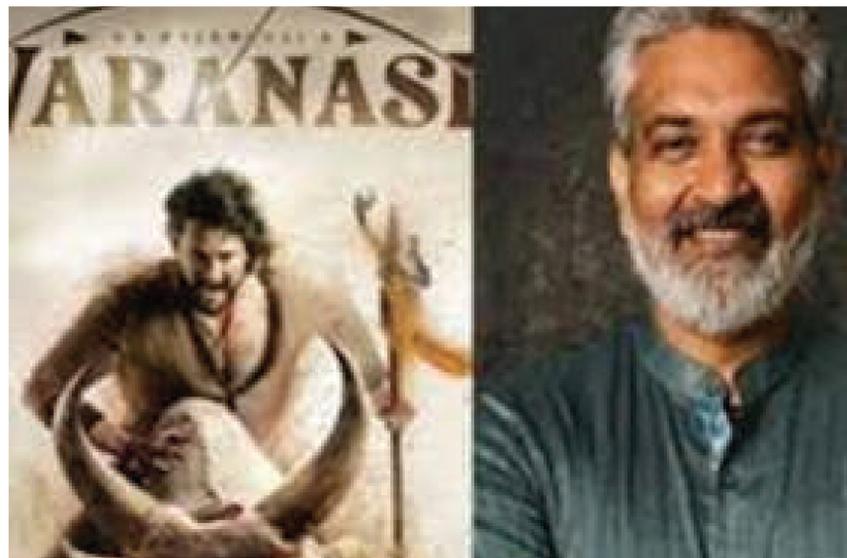
gaining viral attention online. Fans have been sharing clips widely and praising the energetic performance of Ranveer Singh.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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