



BUZZ POINTS

Gold Set for Second Weekly Loss as Strong Dollar, High Yields Weigh



TRUE POINT

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Farmer Welfare Core Focus of Government: Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, said that farmer welfare remains the primary objective of the state government and directed officials to strengthen agricultural initiatives through innovation and community participation.

He made these remarks during a pre-budget meeting of the Agriculture Department held at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Friday. The meeting was attended by Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, who reviewed departmental proposals ahead of the upcoming state budget.

During the meeting, Bhatti Vikramarka advised agricul-



ture officials to involve Self-Help Groups in promoting organic and natural farming practices. He suggested that Self-Help Groups could take up cultivation of vegetables and flowers and that the government should ensure proper marketing facilities so that these groups receive fair returns for their produce.

The Deputy Chief Minister also recommended installing solar rooftop systems on agriculture department infrastructure such as Rythu Vedikas, agricul-

tural market godowns and warehousing facilities. He explained that solar power generation would help reduce electricity costs for the department while enabling surplus electricity to be sold, thereby strengthening the department financially.

He instructed officials to coordinate with the Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation to take necessary steps for installing solar rooftop systems across Agriculture Department institutions.

Bhatti Vikramarka further stated that the government has introduced several farmer welfare initiatives which were not implemented during the previous administration.

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said the government is supporting farmers by distributing agricultural machinery at subsidised rates

and providing seeds on subsidy. He added that significant funds are being allocated for farmer welfare and directed officials to ensure that information about these schemes reaches farmers effectively.

During the meeting, the ministers also reviewed key agricultural issues including cropping patterns under various lift irrigation schemes, water supply management, the extent of paddy cultivation during the Yasanagi season, expected paddy arrivals in markets and procurement arrangements.

Finance Department Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Agriculture Commissioner Gopi, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Aldas Janaiah and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Revanth Reddy Defends Musi Rejuvenation Project at 'Musi Invites' Event

Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister of Telangana, on Friday defended the state government's Musi river rejuvenation initiative and said the project aims to protect the city's history, environment and future generations. Speaking at the "Musi Invites" programme in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister said misinformation and half-truths were being spread intentionally to create panic among the public.

He said the government believes power should be used as a responsibility to safeguard people's interests rather than to dominate them. The event was organised to present facts about the project and to clarify concerns surrounding the rejuvenation of the Musi River.

Revanth Reddy noted that human civilisation historically developed around rivers and stressed that cities must evolve with time. If society fails to progress while the rest of the world moves forward, future generations will not forgive such inaction, he said. The Chief Minister added that the government had consulted intellectuals and experts from various fields before preparing development plans for the river.

Referring to the devastating 1908 Musi Floods, he said the disaster once submerged Hyderabad and led to major reforms in flood management. Following consultations with legendary engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, the Nizam administration constructed the Himayat Sagar Reservoir and Osman Sagar Reservoir to control floods and supply drinking water to the city. These reservoirs, he noted, have protected the city for more than a



century. The Chief Minister said Hyderabad has a rich heritage that must be preserved while ensuring modern development. He questioned why some political leaders were opposing the Musi rejuvenation initiative despite having governed the state for years.

Highlighting the cultural significance of the river, he said the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were immersed near the confluence of the Musi and Isa rivers at Babu Ghat. However, pollution has turned the river toxic over time, making restoration essential.

Revanth Reddy clarified that the project is not intended to harm anyone or seize property. Instead, he said, it focuses on

environmental restoration, tourism development and economic growth, including the creation of blue-collar jobs and strengthening the city's night economy.

The Chief Minister assured that the government has complete details of families living in the Musi river basin and is working with community groups to provide housing, schools and employment opportunities for affected residents.

He said the rejuvenation of the Musi would become a growth engine for the state and called on citizens, experts and stakeholders to cooperate with the government to successfully complete the project for the benefit of future generations.

No LPG Shortage in Telangana Despite Global Tensions: Uttam

Hyderabad, March 13, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy assured citizens that there is no shortage of domestic LPG in the state despite concerns triggered by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. He said the government has taken several measures to ensure uninterrupted supply and strict monitoring to prevent hoarding and black marketing.

The minister chaired a high-level video conference from the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat in Hyderabad to review the state's Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supply situation. The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Principal Secretary (Civil Supplies) Stephen Ravindra, Irrigation Secretary E. Sridhar, GHMC Commissioner R. V. Karnan, district collectors, police officials, and representatives of oil marketing companies.

Addressing the participants, Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasized the need for close coordination among all departments to maintain adequate LPG stock and ensure timely distribution. He also warned that strict action would be taken against hoarding, diversion, or black marketing of cylinders under the Essential Commodities Act.

Officials informed the meeting that Telangana currently has about 10,611 metric tonnes of LPG in stock, which is equivalent to nearly 6.97 lakh cylinders. The state has a strong LPG distribution network with around 12.9 million active domestic connections served by 810 distributors.

The daily LPG requirement in the state is approximately 2.5 lakh cylinders. Of this, nearly 86 percent is used for household consumption, while commercial users account for around 14 percent. Officials confirmed that no bottling plants in the state have experienced disruptions and that more than 90 percent of domestic demand is being consistently met.

To prevent misuse of subsidized LPG cylinders, the government has implemented revised booking intervals. Urban consumers can book a new cylinder only after a gap of



25 days, while rural consumers must wait for 45 days between bookings. Officials explained that this aligns with realistic household consumption patterns and helps prevent diversion of domestic cylinders to hotels or commercial establishments.

The government has also established dedicated coordination committees at both state and district levels. A State-Level LPG Supply Coordination Committee headed by the Chief Secretary will monitor real-time stock levels and distribution. At the district level, committees led by District Collectors will conduct daily reviews and address local issues.

The minister said there will be zero shortage for essential institutions such as hospitals, schools, orphanages, old-age homes, and welfare hostels. Authorities will ensure that these institutions receive uninterrupted LPG supplies.

Officials also highlighted the OTP-based delivery verification system, where the delivery of LPG cylinders is confirmed only after the customer shares a one-time password sent to their registered mobile number. This system helps ensure that cylinders reach the rightful consumers.

Uttam Kumar Reddy urged citizens not to panic or make unnecessary bookings based on rumors circulating on social media. He reiterated that the state government is fully prepared to maintain stable LPG supplies and ensure equitable distribution across Telangana.

Hyderabad Emerging as Global Hub for Innovation: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, March 13:

Telangana Minister for IT, Industries and Commerce D. Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad is rapidly emerging as a global hub for innovation and investments, supported by world-class infrastructure and a strong industrial ecosystem. He noted that the city has transformed into a major centre not only for the IT and electronics sectors but also for pharmaceuticals, defence, and aviation industries.

The minister made these remarks during a meeting with a German delegation that visited India to study industrial development across BRICS nations, investment-friendly ecosystems, and the impact of advanced technologies on economic growth. The delegation, which included representatives from the international non-profit organisation Global Bridges, met Sridhar Babu at the Telangana Secretariat in Hyderabad.

During the interaction, the minister highlighted Telangana's industrial opportunities and the incentives offered by the state government to global investors. He said Telangana has been implementing innovative policies to effectively address challenges in a rapidly evolving global economy. According to him, the state government has ensured reliable infrastructure support for industries, including uninterrupted power supply and adequate water resources.

Sridhar Babu emphasized that Telangana has maintained consistent and progressive industrial policies over the years, regardless of changes in government. This stability, he said, has strengthened investor confidence and contributed significantly to the state's rapid industrial growth.

He also pointed out that Hyderabad's central location in India, pleasant climate, and vibrant cosmopolitan culture make it an attractive destination for international investors and professionals. These factors have helped the city attract global companies and talent from across the world.

The minister further spoke about



the ambitious Future City project currently taking shape in the southern part of Hyderabad. As part of this initiative, several advanced projects are being developed, including an AI City, a Net Zero City, and the Young India Skills University. These initiatives, he said, will play a crucial role in shaping Telangana's long-term economic and technological growth.

Highlighting the state's talent pool, Sridhar Babu said Telangana has abundant human resources and a strong ecosystem for skill development. The government has been conducting large-scale skilling and reskilling programmes to equip working professionals and engineering graduates with advanced technological skills to meet global industry demands.

He also noted that the semiconductor sector is gaining momentum in Telangana, with companies from Taiwan and South Korea already initiating activities in chip design and manufacturing. Additionally, several global firms are planning to establish data centres in the state, further strengthening the technology ecosystem.

The minister said collaboration with technologically advanced nations like Germany could further boost engineering and innovation sectors in Telangana. He reiterated that the state government is committed to steering Telangana towards becoming a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, coinciding with 100 years of India's independence.

Members of the German delegation who attended the meeting included Stefan Traeger, Christian Altenhofen, Frank Bierhorst, Alexander von Kramm, Malte Hohlfeld, Philipp Meyerhofer and Max Millan von Leyer. Director of Industries Nikhil Chakravarty was also present.

Modi Flags Off Amrit Bharat Train Linking Assam with Telugu States

New Delhi, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Amrit Bharat Express train connecting Assam with the Telugu-speaking states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, significantly enhancing long-distance railway connectivity between the Northeast and southern India.

The new train service will operate between Kamakhya Railway Station and Charlapalli Railway Terminal. The Prime Minister flagged off the inaugural service during an official programme in Assam, marking a major step toward improving transport links between the northeastern region and the

Telugu states.

Railway officials said the Amrit Bharat train is designed to provide affordable long-distance travel with sleeper class and general second-class coaches, making it accessible for a large number of passengers. The initiative is part of the central government's broader efforts to strengthen railway infrastructure and connectivity across the country.

The train will pass through several key stations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, improving accessibility for passengers traveling between the Northeast and the southern states. Major stations on the route include Srikakulam Road Railway Station, Vizianagaram Junction Railway Station, Duv-



vada Railway Station, Samalkot Junction Railway Station, Rajahmundry Railway Station, Vijayawada Junction Railway Station, Guntur Junction Railway Station and Nalgonda Railway Station before reaching its final destination in Hyderabad.

Officials stated that the new rail service will greatly benefit passengers traveling between the Northeast and the Telugu states by providing a direct and

economical transportation option. It is also expected to boost tourism, trade and cultural exchanges between the regions.

The launch of the Amrit Bharat Express reflects the government's focus on expanding railway connectivity, improving passenger facilities and strengthening national integration by linking distant regions of the country through efficient rail networks.



Need to Expand Agricultural Exports: Minister Tummala

Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Tummala Nageswara Rao, Telangana's Agriculture Minister, emphasized the need to expand agricultural exports from the state, stating that Telangana's farm and horticulture products have significant potential in international markets. He was speaking as the chief guest at an awareness seminar on agricultural exports organized by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) at the KLN Auditorium, Federation House in Red Hills, Hyderabad.

The event brought together officials from Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), exporters, industry representatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and farmers to discuss strategies for strengthening agricultural exports.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said that due to farmer welfare initiatives and agricultural development policies implemented in Telangana, the state has emerged as one of the leading producers of paddy in the country. He noted that horticulture production has also increased significantly, with crops such as fruits, vegetables, turmeric, and chilli witnessing strong demand both in domestic and international markets.

He stated that increasing production alone is not sufficient to ensure higher incomes for farmers. To tap international markets effectively, there is a need for proper grading, processing, packaging, branding, and adherence to global quality standards. Expanding agricultural exports, he said, would help farmers receive better prices and open new market opportunities.

The minister highlighted that the state government is giving special priority to the development of food processing infrastructure. Under the leadership of Chief Minister



Revanth Reddy, several initiatives are being undertaken to promote agriculture-based industries. He cited the Mega Food Park at Buggapadu in Khammam district as an example, which provides modern processing facilities, cold storage, logistics support, and opportunities for value-added food production. Such initiatives, he said, would not only improve market access for farmers but also create employment opportunities in rural areas.

Tummala Nageswara Rao also noted that Telangana has vast potential for horticulture exports. Strengthening supply chains, pack houses, cold storage facilities, and logistics infrastructure would enable the state to gain a stronger presence in global markets.

At the same time, he stressed the importance of safeguarding farmers' interests. Referring to the re-

cent reduction in import duties on palm oil and edible oils by the central government, he said such decisions have raised concerns among farmers. Policy decisions should consider the potential impact on domestic producers, he remarked.

He further cautioned that while international trade agreements are important, they should not adversely affect the interests of Indian farmers. Trade policies must strike a balance between global market engagement and protecting local agricultural communities.

The minister said Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can play a crucial role in expanding agricultural exports by aggregating produce, ensuring quality standards, and connecting small farmers directly with exporters. Strengthening FPOs would help even small-scale farmers participate in global markets.

He also noted that the state government is working closely with APEDA, DGFT, and industry bodies to promote agricultural exports and create greater awareness among farmers and entrepreneurs through training programs and seminars.

The Vision-2047 roadmap prepared by the state government, he added, focuses on long-term development of agriculture and horticulture sectors, including increasing production, promoting value-added products, expanding food processing, and boosting agricultural exports.

Expressing confidence in Telangana's potential, the minister said that with strong policies, improved infrastructure, and collaboration between farmers and industry stakeholders, the state can emerge as a leading hub for agricultural exports in India.

N. Shailaja Murthy Inaugurates Portable X-Ray Facility at Tarnaka RTC Hospital



Hyderabad, March 13:

Medical services at the RTC Hospital in Tarnaka received a major boost with the introduction of a modern mobile digital portable X-ray machine, enabling faster and more convenient diagnostic services for patients. The advanced equipment, worth 20 lakh, was donated by Can Fin Homes, an associate company of Canara Bank, as part of its corporate social responsibility initiative.

The new portable X-ray facility was formally inaugurated on Friday by Guda Laxman, Telangana Zonal Head of Canara Bank, along with hospital Superintendent and Chief Medical Officer N. Shailaja Murthy. The inauguration ceremony took place at the TSRTC Hospital in Tarnaka in the presence of doctors, bank officials, and hospital staff.

Officials said the initiative was made possible with the support of TSRTC Vice Chairman and Managing Director V. C. Sajjanar (commonly referenced as the corporation's leadership support in such upgrades) and under the continued efforts to improve healthcare facilities for RTC employees and their families.

Speaking on the occasion, Superintendent Dr. Shailaja Murthy appreciated the contribution of Canara Bank and its associate company, stating that such support from banking institutions for healthcare infrastructure is highly commendable. She explained that the newly introduced mobile digital portable X-ray machine will allow doctors to conduct diagnostic imaging directly at pa-

tients' bedsides in hospital wards.

Earlier, patients often had to be moved to the radiology unit for X-ray examinations, which could be difficult for critically ill or immobile patients. With the new system, medical staff can carry the equipment to the patient's location, making the diagnostic process faster and more efficient. This facility will significantly improve patient care and help doctors make timely treatment decisions, she added.

Canara Bank Zonal Head Guda Laxman said the Tarnaka RTC Hospital has been providing quality medical services to RTC employees and their families. He praised the efforts of the hospital administration and staff in delivering healthcare services and noted that the bank remains committed to supporting social welfare initiatives through its CSR activities.

Hospital Medical Administrator P. Srinivas also highlighted the importance of modern medical equipment in improving healthcare delivery and thanked the bank for its generous contribution.

The event was attended by Canara Bank managers T. T. Achyutanandam and Ashok Gautam, along with several doctors, hospital staff, and representatives of the bank.

Officials said the introduction of the portable X-ray facility marks another step forward in strengthening medical services at the Tarnaka RTC Hospital, ensuring quicker diagnosis and improved treatment for patients.

Telangana Seeks Greater Central Support for Jal Jeevan Mission

Hyderabad, March 13:

Telangana Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka participated in a video conference with Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil and ministers from various states to review the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The meeting focused on strengthening drinking water supply systems and ensuring safe water access to households across the country.

The video conference was attended by state representatives from Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad. During the discussion, Minister Seethakka highlighted Telangana's ongoing efforts to provide safe drinking water to every household and sought additional financial support from the central government.

She informed the Union minister that the Telangana government has already sent several proposals seeking funds to strengthen drinking water infrastructure across the state. According to her, the state has invested thousands of crores of rupees to ensure the supply of clean and safe drinking water to rural



households.

Seethakka noted that apart from building infrastructure, maintaining the drinking water supply systems is equally important. She pointed out that the Telangana government spends hundreds of crores every year on operation and maintenance of drinking water schemes. In this regard, she urged the central government to share the burden of

maintenance costs so that the systems can function efficiently in the long run.

The minister emphasized that the ultimate goal of both the central and state governments is to provide safe drinking water to the public. She explained that contaminated drinking water can cause several diseases and severely impact public health, making reliable water sup-

ply systems essential for the welfare of communities.

Seethakka also thanked the central government for extending the Jal Jeevan Mission for another two years, stating that the extension will help states continue improving drinking water coverage and infrastructure.

She further explained that the Telangana government is taking up new projects to supply drinking water to newly established residential areas. In locations where existing water sources have dried up, the government is creating alternative arrangements and developing local water sources to ensure uninterrupted supply.

Responding to these proposals, Union Minister C. R. Patil expressed a positive response and assured that the issues raised by Telangana would be discussed further at the central level. He said the concerns would be examined in upcoming meetings and appropriate decisions would be taken to support states in strengthening drinking water supply systems.

Hyderabad to Host 2nd National Mobility Summit 2026

Hyderabad, March 13:

Telangana Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar held a review meeting with senior officials regarding the upcoming 2nd National Mobility Summit 2026, which will be held on March 17 at the Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre in Hyderabad. The meeting was attended by Transport Commissioner Ilambarthi, Joint Transport Commissioner Chandrasekhar Goud, and representatives from Elets Technomedia, the organisers of the summit.

The summit will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, technology experts, and mobility innovators from across the country to discuss the future of transportation in India. The Telangana Transport Department is a key partner in the event, which aims to promote discussions on smart mobility, sustainable transportation systems, and electric vehicle adoption.

Officials said the summit will serve as a major platform to explore new ideas and policy initiatives for improving urban mobility in India. Key topics expected to be discussed include electric vehicles, green transportation, and strategies to reduce carbon emissions in the transport sector.

The event will also highlight ad-



vanced smart mobility technologies such as artificial intelligence-based traffic management systems, digital ticketing solutions, and data-driven fleet management. Experts from various sectors will share insights on how technology can help modernize public transportation and improve efficiency in urban mobility networks.

Another major focus of the summit will be the need for strong mul-

ti-modal connectivity that integrates metro rail, buses, electric vehicles, and other modes of transportation. Officials believe that coordinated transport systems can significantly improve commuting convenience and reduce congestion in rapidly growing cities.

The summit will also emphasize collaboration between governments, industries, and startups to create innovative mobility solu-

tions. Discussions will focus on how partnerships between public and private sectors can accelerate the development of sustainable transport infrastructure.

Participants at the summit will include officials from central and state governments, transport department representatives, urban development agencies, automobile and EV manufacturers, technology companies, startup founders, investors, and academic experts.

The discussions will cover several themes including sustainable urban mobility, electric and green transport, multi-modal transport integration, digital transport technologies, smart traffic systems, and last-mile connectivity solutions. Experts will also deliberate on innovative transport models that can help build safer, faster, and environmentally friendly urban transportation systems.

Officials said the National Mobility Summit will further strengthen Hyderabad's position as an emerging hub for mobility innovation and transport technology in India. The event is expected to encourage policy discussions and investment opportunities that can shape the future of smart and sustainable transportation in the country.

KTR Writes to Amit Shah Seeking Probe into KLSR Infratech



Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

K. T. Rama Rao, working president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, has written a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah alleging a decline in law and order in Telangana and accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of involvement in alleged benami business dealings linked to KLSR Infratech.

In the letter, KTR alleged that evidence related to cases registered against KLSR Infratech was tampered with during the course of the investigation. According to him, state government officials informed the court that key evidence collected during the probe had gone missing. He claimed that officials were pressured by the Chief Minister to alter or remove the evidence to protect the company.

The BRS leader further alleged that public confidence in the state's investigative and policing systems had weakened due to the alleged interference. He stated that the situation has raised serious concerns about the integrity of investigations being conducted in the state.

KTR also claimed that despite KLSR Infratech undergoing insolvency proceedings, the Telangana government continued to award major contracts to the firm. He alleged that more than 2,500 large contracts had been allotted to the company even after it reportedly entered financial distress.

According to the letter, the con-

tracts include projects related to irrigation, drinking water supply, road construction and works linked to the Young India Schools initiative. KTR alleged that the government had been awarding these contracts to the company in an irregular manner.

He further claimed that the alleged links between Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the company were widely known and alleged that the Chief Minister had intervened even in proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal.

KTR also stated that the Supreme Court of India had earlier suggested that the state government ensure a proper inquiry into the financial allegations related to the company. However, he alleged that the state administration had failed to act decisively on the matter.

In his letter, KTR urged the Union Home Minister to ensure a fair and impartial investigation into the financial allegations and the contracts awarded to KLSR Infratech. He requested that central agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate, and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office conduct a comprehensive probe.

Copies of the letter were also sent to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister Piyush Goyal, and Union Minister of State for Law Arjun Ram Meghwal.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy Highlights Welfare, Development in Khammam Visit



Tirumalayapalem, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Telangana's Minister for Revenue, Housing and Information, said the state government is committed to ensuring welfare for the poor while simultaneously accelerating welfare works across the state.

The minister made these remarks during his visit to Tirumalayapalem mandal in Khammam District on Friday. He toured several villages in the mandal along with District Collector Anudeep Durishetty, where they inaugurated and laid foundation stones for multiple development projects and distributed welfare benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that since the formation of the present "people's government," priority has been given to improving the living standards of economically weaker sections while strengthening basic infrastructure in rural areas. He noted that development and welfare were being carried forward simultaneously as part of the government's policy.

Highlighting specific initiatives, the minister said that ₹29.92 crore had been sanctioned for development works in Beerolu village alone over the past two years and three months. As part of these projects, he performed the foundation ceremony for a ₹2.59 crore BT road connecting Beerolu and Eluvargudem. Additionally, works for CC roads in the SC Colony at a cost of ₹64 lakh were also launched.

The minister also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a high-level bridge between Dammaidem and Solipuram in Bandhampalli village, which will be built at a cost of ₹5.5 crore. He stated that the government had prioritised the completion of pending infrastructure works such as roads, culverts and repairs of irrigation tanks that were left unfinished in the past.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the government is implementing several welfare initiatives including the Indiramma housing scheme, supply of fine rice to beneficiaries, and issuance of new ration cards. He also noted that farmers are receiving a ₹500 bonus for fine paddy, while schemes such as loan waivers and Rythu Bharaosa are providing much-needed support to the farming community.

The minister further highlighted that the government had filled around 72,000 government jobs in a short span, providing employment opportunities to youth across the state.

During the visit, he also interacted with families affected by flooding from the Akeru Vagu and handed over sanction letters for Indiramma houses to residents of Rakasithanda.

Marking the upcoming Ramzan festival, the minister distributed Ramzan Tofa packets to members of the Muslim community. Earlier, he offered prayers at the Sri Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple and felicitated temple trustees during the visit.

Farmer Welfare Core Objective of Government: Bhatti Vikramarka



Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, said that farmer welfare remains the central objective of the state government and emphasized the need to strengthen agricultural initiatives through innovative measures and community participation.

The Deputy Chief Minister made these remarks during a pre-budget meeting of the Agriculture Department held at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Friday. The meeting was attended by Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy along with senior officials to review departmental proposals ahead of the state budget.

Addressing officials, Bhatti Vikramarka advised the Agriculture Department to involve Self-Help Groups in promoting organic and natural farming practices across the state. He suggested that Self-Help Groups should be encouraged to cultivate vegetables and flowers, with proper marketing facilities created to ensure that farmers and women's groups receive better returns for their produce.

The Deputy Chief Minister also proposed the installation of solar rooftop systems on buildings belonging to the Agriculture Department. These include Rythu Vedikas, agricultural market godowns, and warehousing facilities. According to him, generating electricity

through solar energy would help reduce power expenses for the department while also creating an opportunity to sell surplus electricity, thereby improving the department's financial sustainability.

He directed officials to consult the Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation and take the necessary steps to install solar rooftop systems across agriculture department institutions.

Bhatti Vikramarka further stated that the state government is implementing several farmer welfare schemes that had not been taken up during the previous administration.

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said that the government is prioritising farmer welfare by distributing agricultural machinery to farmers at subsidised rates. He added that seeds are also being provided on subsidy to support farmers and improve productivity.

During the meeting, the ministers also reviewed cropping patterns under various lift irrigation schemes, water availability, paddy cultivation during the Yasangi season, expected paddy arrivals in markets, and procurement arrangements.

Finance Department Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Agriculture Commissioner Gopi, Agriculture University Vice-Chancellor Aldas Janaiah, and other senior officials were present at the meeting.

Dr. Mallu Ravi Participates in Book Launch on Caste Census and Social Justice

New Delhi, March 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Mallu Ravi, Member of Parliament from Nagarkurnool, Telangana, attended the official launch of the book "Caste Census and Deepening of Social Justice" held at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi. He participated as a distinguished guest at the event, which brought together leaders, academicians, and student representatives from across the country.

The book, authored by Gowd Kiran Kumar and Vahini Billu, was released under the aegis of the All India OBC Students Association (AIOBSA). The publication focuses on the importance of conducting a comprehensive caste census and its role in strengthening social justice, inclusive governance, and equitable policy-making.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Mallu Ravi emphasized that a national Caste Census is not merely a statistical exercise but a vital step toward achieving true social equality. He stated that accurate and detailed data helps in understanding the socio-economic conditions of various communities and enables governments to design welfare policies more effectively. According to him, evidence-based planning is essential for the fair distribution of resources and opportunities.

The MP appreciated the authors for their academic contribution and commended the student organization for initiating meaningful discussions on a subject that has significant relevance for



mocracy and development. He noted that research-oriented dialogue and youth participation play a key role in shaping progressive policies and deepening constitutional values in the country.

Several prominent leaders, scholars, and student representatives attended the program. Discussions were held on the roadmap for inclusive policy-making, the need for data-driven reforms, and the role of education and awareness in empowering mar-

ginalized communities. Participants highlighted that initiatives like this book encourage constructive debate and help create a broader understanding of social justice frameworks.

Organizers stated that the objective of the book is to promote informed conversations about caste-based data and its implications for governance and development. They expressed hope that the insights presented in the publication would contribute to na-

tional discussions and support policy reforms aimed at ensuring equitable growth.

The event concluded with a shared commitment among participants to continue advocating for inclusive development and strengthening democratic principles. Attendees expressed confidence that sustained dialogue and academic engagement on the issue would help advance social justice initiatives across the country.

BJP Supports Musi Revival but Opposes Demolition of Poor People's Houses

Hyderabad, March 13:

Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has no objection to the Musi River rejuvenation project but strongly opposes the demolition of houses belonging to poor and middle-class families in the name of development.

Addressing the media at the BJP Telangana state office in Hyderabad, Ramchander Rao clarified that the party has always supported the revival and cleaning of the Musi River. He said the river should remain clean from Hyderabad until it merges with the Krishna River and that the water should be pure enough to be used for irrigation by farmers.

He stated that the BJP has no objection to the PowerPoint presentation given by the state government on the Musi project. However, he accused Congress leaders of spreading false allegations and trying to mislead the public about the party's stance on the issue. He said the BJP's position on the Musi rejuvenation has remained consistent from the beginning.

Ramchander Rao criticized remarks made by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Ponnampalabharathi regarding the BJP's stand. He reiterated that the party supports the clean-



ing and revival of the river but will oppose any attempt to demolish homes of poor families under the proposed "Gandhi Sarovar" development plan.

He said houses that were legally constructed in areas such as Madhuban Park and Vigneshwar Colony should not be demolished. According to him, the Musi River can be cleaned and restored without displacing residents living in these localities.

Referring to the development of the Sabarmati River in Gujarat,

he said that it was once as polluted and foul-smelling as the Musi. However, when Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, water from the Narmada River was diverted to the Sabarmati and the river was cleaned before development work was undertaken. He added that nearly 4,000 families living along the river were first rehabilitated and provided alternative housing before the project was implemented.

He emphasized that development should not come at the cost

of making poor families homeless. If land is required for the proposed Gandhi Sarovar, the government should consider redesigning or realigning the project so that not a single house is affected, he suggested.

Ramchander Rao also responded to concerns raised about a possible shortage of fuel supplies in the country. Criticizing comments made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said spreading fear among the public about shortages of petrol, diesel, and LPG is irresponsible.

He stated that the Central Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, has been actively engaging with global partners to ensure uninterrupted oil and gas supplies to India.

According to him, India does not depend on a single region for crude oil imports, and nearly 40 percent of the country's crude oil comes from various other nations. While global conflicts may cause minor delays in transportation, he assured that there will be no shortage of LPG cylinders, petrol, or diesel in the country.

He concluded by saying that leaders should instill confidence among people during challenging times rather than create unnecessary panic.

Harish Rao Questions Musi Beautification Plan, Targets Revanth Reddy Government

Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Friday raised sharp questions over the Telangana government's Musi river development plans and demanded answers from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao alleged that the government was using the Musi beautification project as a pretext for large-scale demolitions and real estate interests.

He said the Chief Minister was presenting the Musi beautification project in a five-star hotel while thousands of residents living along the river were facing uncertainty. According to him, the opposition was raising questions responsibly on behalf of affected families and demanding clarity from the government.

Harish Rao stated that the BRS party was never opposed to the rejuvenation of the Musi River. However, he alleged that the present government was carrying out what he described as "lootification" in the name of beautification. He accused the administration of rendering thousands of poor families homeless under the



pretext of development.

Recalling earlier initiatives, he said former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had first initiated plans for the Musi river revival. Under that plan, the previous government proposed setting up 32 sewage treatment plants with an estimated cost of ₹4,000 crore and bringing Godavari water to help purify the river.

Criticising the current govern-

ment, Harish Rao said the administration appeared confused, repeatedly changing terminology between beautification, purification, and rejuvenation of the river. He questioned the legal and moral authority of the government to demolish houses along the riverbanks without proper consultation with residents.

The BRS leader alleged that

while the state government claimed the treasury was empty when it came to welfare schemes such as farmer assistance, fee reimbursement for students, and pension benefits for retired employees, it was willing to float tenders worth ₹1.5 lakh crore for the Musi project.

He also questioned whether proper technical studies had been conducted, including hydrological and floodwater analyses. Harish Rao demanded that the government release the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and clarify the buffer zone limits being proposed along the river.

Raising further concerns, he claimed that thousands of structures could be demolished across more than 3,000 acres in the Musi river basin, potentially affecting nearly one lakh people.

Harish Rao urged the government to engage directly with residents in the river basin instead of preparing plans in closed-door meetings. He insisted that if the government was sincere about cleaning the river, it should prioritise sewage treatment infrastructure rather than targeting residential colonies.

Petition Submitted to Zonal Commissioner Over SR Naik Nagar Issues



Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Senior leaders of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) submitted a petition to the newly appointed Zonal Commissioner of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Pinkesh Kumar Lalit Kumar, highlighting several civic issues affecting residents of SR Naik Nagar and surrounding areas.

The leaders met the commissioner at the Quthbullapur Zonal Office and urged authorities to take immediate steps to address long-pending infrastructure and development concerns in the locality. The delegation included BRS senior leader Gubbala Lakshminarayana and former president of SR Naik Nagar Aluru Venkata Seshachari, who explained the problems faced by residents in detail.

In their representation, the leaders requested the municipal authorities to expedite the development works of the GHMC park located in SR Naik Nagar. According to them, the park has the potential to become an important recreational space for local residents, particularly children and senior citizens, but the development works have been progressing slowly. They appealed to the commissioner to prioritize the project and ensure that the park is developed with proper facilities.

Apart from the park development, the delegation also raised

several civic issues in the limits of the former 130 Subhash Nagar Division. These included problems related to basic infrastructure such as road repairs, drainage maintenance, sanitation, and other civic amenities. The leaders stated that residents in several colonies are facing difficulties due to the delay in addressing these issues and urged the GHMC administration to take swift action.

Responding to the concerns, Zonal Commissioner Pinkesh Kumar Lalit Kumar assured the delegation that the issues would be examined seriously. He stated that he would soon conduct a field visit to the concerned areas to personally review the situation and hold discussions with local officials. Based on the assessment, appropriate measures would be taken to resolve the issues and improve civic facilities in the division.

The commissioner also assured that steps would be taken to accelerate the development of the park and ensure that residents receive better municipal services.

Several BRS youth leaders were also present during the meeting, including Sairam Reddy, Someswara Rao, Govindaswamy and Kudupudi Venkatesh, who expressed hope that the municipal authorities would take prompt action to address the issues raised in the petition.

Women Celebrate Cultural Fest in Suraram Colony



Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Women in Vishwakarma Colony of Suraram celebrated International Women's Day with enthusiasm, organizing a series of cultural and recreational activities that brought together residents in a festive atmosphere.

The celebrations witnessed active participation from women across the colony, who conducted cultural songs, entertainment programs, and fun competitions as part of the event. The programs created a vibrant and joyful environment in the locality, with residents gathering in large numbers to witness the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, colony TRS senior leader and president K. Srinivas Reddy attended as the chief guest and appreciated the efforts of the women in organizing the event. He stated that women play a crucial role in the development of society and contribute significantly to family and community welfare.

He emphasized the need to strengthen women's empowerment and ensure the protection of women's rights. According to him, collective efforts from all sections of society are essential to create opportunities for women to grow and participate actively in social and economic

development.

The event also served as a platform for women to interact, showcase their talents, and encourage community bonding. Cultural performances and friendly competitions added excitement to the program, with many women participating enthusiastically and cheering each other.

Several local leaders and community members were present during the event. Among them were colony TRS president S. Jeevan Reddy, along with Krishna-machari, E. Narasimha, Mallesh-am, Vasugupta, Ghani and Sandeep, who extended their support to the organizers and appreciated the participation of women.

The program was organized under the leadership of women's group president Latha. Members including Kavitha, V. Latha and Rajitha, along with members of various women's self-help groups, took part in large numbers and contributed to the success of the celebration.

Residents expressed happiness over the successful conduct of the event and said such programs strengthen unity within the community while highlighting the importance of women's role in society.

MLA Reviews Water Hyacinth in Lakes; Promises Swift Action



Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Devireddy Sudhir Reddy, MLA of LB Nagar constituency, inspected the heavy accumulation of water hyacinth in major lakes under the constituency, including the lake in Mansoorabad Division and Kumarikunta Lake in Hayathnagar Division on Thursday.

During his visit, local residents and morning walkers expressed serious concern over the increasing growth of water hyacinth in the lakes. They said the dense vegetation has led to a rise in mosquito breeding, creating fear among people who come for morning and evening walks. Walkers stated that due to the mosquito menace, many residents are avoiding the lake surroundings, as they are worried

about possible health risks such as malaria and dengue.

The MLA interacted with residents and listened to their grievances. He said that lake maintenance and mosquito control are essential for protecting public health and ensuring that open spaces remain safe for recreational activities. He noted that during the previous administration, several preventive measures were taken to control mosquito breeding in water bodies. These included experimental use of drone technology to spray anti-mosquito chemicals in and around lakes, especially in areas that were difficult to access manually.

He also mentioned that thousands of Gambusia fish were intro-

duced into the lakes as part of an ecological approach to control mosquito larvae. According to him, these fish help reduce mosquito breeding by feeding on larvae in the water. Additionally, drone-based spraying was conducted in inaccessible portions of lakes to ensure effective mosquito control.

Sudhir Reddy criticized the present administration, stating that public health issues require immediate attention. He alleged that the growing water hyacinth has not been cleared properly and claimed that residents are facing difficulties due to the mosquito problem. He urged authorities to take urgent steps to remove the weeds and strengthen sanitation measures in lake areas.

The MLA assured residents that the water hyacinth would be removed within the next two to three days. He added that after clearing the weeds, mosquito control spraying would be carried out in surrounding colonies to prevent further breeding and reduce health risks.

The program was attended by former corporators Koppula Vittal Reddy, Sama Tirumala Reddy, Chen-nagani Sridhar Goud, Jagadish Yadav, Tanguturi Nagaraju, Jakkidi Raghuvver Reddy, Bhaskar Sagar and Gorige Pradeep, along with local residents and several morning walkers. They welcomed the inspection and expressed hope for prompt action to improve cleanliness and public safety in the area.

Dry Friday Drive Promotes Cleanliness in Kompally Circle

Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

As part of the Telangana government's 99-day "Praja Palana - Pragati Pranalika" initiative, a "Dry Friday" sanitation drive was conducted on Friday in Kompally Circle-56 under the limits of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The program aimed to promote public awareness about hygiene, waste management, and the importance of maintaining clean surroundings in residential colonies.

Leading the initiative, Deputy Commissioner N. Krishna Reddy visited the areas of SR Naik Nagar and Apuroopa Colony, where he participated in a cleanliness rally organized to encourage residents to take an active role in keeping their neighbourhoods clean. The rally moved through several streets of the colonies, drawing attention from residents and encouraging them to adopt better sanitation practices.

Municipal staff, members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Resource Persons (RPs), and local residents joined the drive in large numbers. Together they carried out cleaning activities across the colonies, removing garbage, clearing litter



from roadsides, and ensuring that public spaces were kept tidy. The event created a strong sense of community participation, with volunteers and residents working side by side with municipal workers.

During the program, Deputy Commissioner Krishna Reddy interacted with residents and highlighted the importance of proper waste management. He urged households to separate garbage

into wet and dry waste before handing it over to municipal sanitation workers. According to him, segregation of waste at the household level significantly improves waste processing and helps the municipal system manage garbage more effectively.

He also stressed that maintaining cleanliness is not solely the responsibility of the municipal authorities but a shared duty of every citi-

zen. "A clean environment leads to a healthier society. Public cooperation is essential for the success of sanitation initiatives," he said while addressing residents during the rally.

The Deputy Commissioner further appealed to the public to support the sanitation programs being implemented by GHMC and participate actively in similar awareness campaigns in the future. He noted that such drives are part of the broader government effort to improve urban infrastructure and ensure better living conditions in residential areas.

Residents welcomed the initiative and appreciated the direct involvement of officials in promoting cleanliness in their neighbourhoods. Many expressed their willingness to follow waste segregation practices and cooperate with municipal workers to maintain hygiene in their colonies.

Municipal officials, sanitation staff, SHG members, and several local residents participated in the program, making the "Dry Friday" drive a successful effort toward promoting civic responsibility and environmental cleanliness in Kompally Circle.

Dundigal Police Staff Honoured for Catching Thieves

Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Police personnel who played a crucial role in apprehending three individuals involved in theft cases under the jurisdiction of Dundigal Police Station were felicitated by Koti Reddy, Deputy Commissioner of Police of the Quthbullapur Zone, in recognition of their prompt and efficient service.

The DCP visited the police station on Friday and appreciated the efforts of the officers who successfully tracked down and arrested the accused. During the visit, he specially honoured Blue Colts personnel, Constable Chiranjeevi and Home Guard Ravinder, who played a key role in identifying and capturing the suspects involved in the theft incidents.

The officers were felicitated in the presence of fellow police staff and were presented with a cash reward of 1,000 as a token of appreciation for their dedication and alertness while performing their duties. The DCP praised their quick thinking and coordinated action, which helped police successfully crack the case and prevent further criminal activities in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Koti Reddy said that such proactive efforts by field-level police personnel



strengthen the law enforcement system and help maintain public trust in the police department. He noted that the Blue Colts team has been playing an important role in patrolling and responding quickly to incidents, thereby assisting in crime prevention and control.

The DCP further emphasized that alertness, timely action, and teamwork among police personnel are essential for effectively tackling criminal activities. He encouraged the staff to continue working with dedication and professionalism to ensure the safety and secu-

rity of residents within the zone.

Following the felicitation ceremony, the DCP reviewed the cases registered at the police station and held discussions with officers regarding the progress of investigations and measures being taken to control crime in the jurisdiction. He advised the officials to remain vigilant, intensify patrolling, and respond promptly to complaints from the public.

He also stressed the importance of coordination among different police units and urged officers to make effective use of surveillance and intelligence gathering to detect and prevent crimes at an early stage.

Several police officials were present during the visit, including Circle Inspector Satish, DI Bal Reddy, and Sub-Inspectors Ranjith Reddy, Rammohan Reddy and Srinivasa Rao. DSI Eshwar and other police personnel also attended the event.

The recognition of the officers' efforts highlighted the police department's commitment to encouraging dedicated service and motivating personnel who demonstrate exceptional vigilance and responsibility while performing their duties.

Kukatpally Zone Launches Special E-Waste Collection Drive

Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

As part of the Praja Palana – Pragati Pranalika initiative, the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation has announced a special e-waste collection drive in the Kukatpally Zone. The program will be conducted on March 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. onwards, under the 99-day action plan aimed at promoting environmental protection and sustainable waste management.

Zonal Commissioner Pinkesh Kumar Lalit Kumar appealed to residents to actively participate in the drive and responsibly hand over unused electronic items and electronic waste to municipal authorities. He emphasized that proper disposal of e-waste is essential to prevent environmental pollution and protect public health.

He stated that special collection centers have been set up across various circles within the Kukatpally Zone to make it convenient for residents to submit their e-waste. The initiative aims to ensure safe collection, segregation, and environmentally friendly disposal of discarded electronic materials.



In the Chintal Circle, collection centers will be available at the Jagadgrigutta Ward Office, Chintal Ward Office, and Rangareddy Nagar Basti Dawakhana. Under the Jeedimetla Circle, Gayatri Nagar and Padma Nagar Ward Offices will function as collection points.

In the Kompally Circle, e-waste

can be submitted at the Dulapally Community Hall, Subhash Nagar Ward Office, and Sai Baba Nagar Ram Leela Maidan. Similarly, in the Gajularamaram area, Sri Ven Enclave and Sri Ram Nagar Community Hall have been designated as centers.

In the Nizampet Circle, the Circle

Office and Bachupally Ward Office will receive waste. Under the Dundigal area, collection centers have been established at Bahadurpally, Bowrampet, and Dundigal Ward Offices.

Additionally, in the Medchal region, residents may submit e-waste at the Sanitation Office, Pudur-Kishtapur Ward Office, and Gundlapochampally Primary School. Officials confirmed that clear location details of all collection points can also be accessed through a specially provided QR code facility.

Municipal authorities urged citizens to make use of this opportunity and cooperate with the drive by depositing old mobile phones, computers, chargers, batteries, and other electronic items at the designated centers. They reiterated that community participation is crucial for maintaining cleanliness and ensuring a safer environment for future generations.

The administration expressed confidence that the drive would receive strong public support and contribute significantly to sustainable urban development in the zone.

Municipal Drive Clears Encroachments from Happy Children's Hospital to Chintal Market

Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

In a special enforcement drive, officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) under Jeedimetla Circle-55 removed road encroachments along the Narsapur Main Road on Friday. The drive was conducted from Happy Children's Hospital to the Chintal vegetable market to ensure smooth traffic flow and public convenience.

The operation was carried out under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner D. Shankar Singh. During the inspection, municipal teams identified several unauthorized structures, including roadside shops, temporary sheds, and other encroachments that had been obstructing pedestrian movement and vehicular traffic.

Officials stated that the increasing encroachments along the stretch had been causing traffic congestion and inconvenience to commuters. As a result, the special drive was initiated to clear the area and restore free movement on the busy main road. The action aimed to improve road safety and reduce



traffic bottlenecks in the locality.

Municipal authorities warned that strict action would be taken against anyone found occupying public roads or constructing illegal structures in the future. They emphasized that maintaining clear road space is essential for ensuring smooth transportation, emergency access, and pedestrian

safety.

The team removed the unauthorized establishments and restored the road margins to their original condition. Officials also appealed to traders and residents to cooperate with the municipal administration and avoid encroaching on public property.

The drive was part of ongoing ef-

forts by the civic body to regulate urban infrastructure and enforce municipal regulations in the zone. Authorities reiterated that similar inspections would continue in other areas to prevent further encroachments and maintain orderly development.

Several municipal officials and staff members participated in the operation, including Kashif Husain, Deputy Executive Engineer (Solid Waste Management) G. Sai Likhitha Sen, Assistant Executive Engineer (SWM), along with other field personnel.

Residents of the area welcomed the initiative, stating that clearing the encroachments would help ease traffic congestion and improve safety for both motorists and pedestrians. Officials confirmed that monitoring would continue to ensure that the cleared spaces remain free from re-encroachment.

The municipal administration reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining public roads, improving urban mobility, and ensuring disciplined use of civic spaces in the interest of the public.

Soma Bhavana Goud Extends Best Wishes to Class 10 Students



Nacharam, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Congress leader and social worker Soma Bhavana Goud extended heartfelt wishes to all students appearing for the Class 10 examinations starting from March 14. She conveyed her greetings to students in the Nacharam area and across the region, encouraging them to approach the exams with confidence and determination.

In her message, Soma Bhavana Goud stated that reaching this important academic stage is the result of students' hard work, dedication, and consistent effort. She advised students to face the examinations courageously and to read the question paper carefully before answering. She also emphasized the importance of managing time effectively during the exam.

She encouraged students to write answers with confidence based on their preparation and to avoid stress or anxiety. According to her, maintaining a positive attitude will help students perform better and achieve good results. She reminded them that self-belief plays a key role in academic success.

The social worker expressed her sincere wishes that all students achieve excellent results and move forward toward a bright future. She said that education is the foundation for a successful life and urged students to continue their efforts with the same dedication in the coming years.

She also conveyed special congratulations to all Class 10 students, wishing them success in their examinations and future endeavors. She hoped that their hard work would bring fruitful outcomes and open new opportunities for higher studies and career growth.

Parents and teachers were also appreciated for their continuous support and guidance in helping students prepare for the examinations. She acknowledged that their encouragement plays a vital role in shaping students' academic journey.

Soma Bhavana Goud concluded by wishing every student confidence, clarity of mind, and success in the upcoming exams, expressing optimism that their future would be filled with achievements and accomplishments.

DCP Inaugurates Volleyball Court at Jeedimetla Police Station



Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

In a unique initiative promoting fitness and community engagement, N. Kotireddy, Deputy Commissioner of Police of the Kukatpally Zone, along with Bala Gangireddy, Assistant Commissioner of Police, inaugurated a newly constructed volleyball court at the Jeedimetla Police Station premises on Thursday.

The volleyball court has been set up in the vacant space within the police station campus to encourage physical fitness among police personnel and to help reduce work-related stress. Officials stated that regular sports activities will contribute to improving the health, stamina, and overall well-being of staff members who work under demanding conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, DCP Kotireddy said that sports play an important role in maintaining good health and mental balance, especially for police personnel who handle challenging duties round the clock. He emphasized that the initiative is part of efforts to promote a positive and friendly environment within the police department.

He further explained that under the concept of friendly policing, the volleyball court will also serve as a platform to engage local youth and residents of the Jeedimetla area. By encouraging young people to participate in sports activities, the po-

lice aim to strengthen community relations and promote healthy lifestyles.

The DCP noted that sports help keep youth away from harmful habits such as drug abuse and other antisocial activities. He said that constructive engagement through games and physical activities can guide young people towards discipline, teamwork, and a brighter future.

Following the inauguration, a friendly volleyball match was organized between Jeedimetla police personnel and local youth. The match was conducted in a spirited manner and drew enthusiastic participation from both sides. The event created a lively atmosphere and highlighted the spirit of cooperation between the police and the community.

Several officials and staff members attended the program, including Jeedimetla DI Gaddam Mallesh, sector Sub-Inspectors, police personnel, and local youth. Participants appreciated the initiative and expressed hope that such activities would continue regularly to strengthen physical fitness and community bonding.

The event was widely welcomed as a progressive step towards combining policing with wellness, youth engagement, and public interaction in the area.

BRS Leader Puppala Bhaskar Reviews Basti Issues in Suraram



Hyderabad, March 13 | TPN Bureau

Puppala Bhaskar, Division President of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Suraram Division, inspected the incomplete community hall construction works in Sri Krishna Nagar basti under the division on Friday.

The visit was made following a request from Basti Welfare Association President Khaja Basheeruddin. During his visit, Puppala Bhaskar interacted with local residents and inquired about their issues. Residents explained that the community hall construction has been pending for a long time, causing inconvenience for conducting meetings, social gatherings, and other community activities.

Responding to the concerns, Bhaskar assured the residents that he would take up the matter with KP Vivekananda, the local MLA, and ensure necessary steps are taken to complete the community hall works at the earliest. He stated that efforts would be made to expedite the project so that the facility can be made available for public use without further delay.

During the inspection, he also reviewed drainage-related problems in the basti. He immediately contacted Water Works officials over the phone and instructed them to take swift action to resolve the issue. He emphasized that proper drainage maintenance is essential to prevent sani-

tation problems and ensure a healthy living environment for residents.

In addition, Bhaskar examined complaints regarding damaged street lights in the area. Residents informed him that several lights had been burnt due to a transformer short circuit, leading to poor lighting conditions in the locality. He directed Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials to replace the damaged street lights promptly to improve safety and visibility during nighttime.

He assured residents that all raised issues would be followed up seriously and addressed in coordination with the concerned departments. According to him, continuous monitoring and timely intervention are necessary to resolve civic problems effectively.

Local residents appreciated his visit and expressed hope that the pending works and infrastructure issues would soon be resolved. Members of the Basti Welfare Association, committee members, and several local residents participated in the program and shared their concerns with the leader.

The visit highlighted the need for coordinated efforts between public representatives and civic authorities to address basic infrastructure and sanitation challenges in residential areas.

OU Bahujan Student Groups Call to Make 'Bahujana Rajyadhikara Yuddha Bheri' Rally a Grand Success



Osmania University, March 13 | TPN Bureau

The Bahujan student organizations of Osmania University have called upon students, intellectuals, and the public to make the upcoming massive public meeting titled "Bahujana Rajyadhikara Yuddha Bheri" a grand success. The event is scheduled to be held on March 15, 2026, at 5 p.m. at the Badangpet Municipal Grounds in Ranga Reddy district, under the leadership of Ibrahim Shekhar, Telangana State President of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

The meeting is being organized in connection with the 92nd birth anniversary of Kanshi Ram. OU Bahujan student representatives met BSP State President Ibrahim Shekhar and released the official poster of the event. During the interaction, they discussed key themes including "Bahujana Rajyadhikara Yuddha Bheri" and the future of Bahujan politics in the state.

Speaking on the occasion, OU Bahujan Student JAC President and DBS(A) State Coordinator Jangili Darshan stated that achieving Bahujana political power is their ultimate goal. He declared that the OU Bahujan student organizations extend full support to the upcoming public meeting in Badangpet. He emphasized that the movement for Ba-

hujan empowerment will continue until political representation and leadership are achieved in Telangana.

Jangili Darshan appealed to intellectuals, professors, students, activists, poets, and people from all sections of society to attend the rally in large numbers and ensure its success. He said the event would serve as a platform to strengthen discussions on social justice, representation, and political empowerment of marginalized communities.

Several student leaders and representatives participated in the program. Among them were Karunakar Bahujan, National Coordinator of BSFI; Vedanth Mourya, State President of SSF; Prashant Chinna, DBSA Telangana State Universities In-charge; Raju, State Leader of DMSA; OU Research Scholar Aravind; DBSA Hyderabad Secretary Mahesh; BC Students JAC President Prashant; Phule Ambedkar Students Association Leader Praveen; OU Rationalist Association State Leader Lokesh; and DBSA leaders Vishnu, Kiran, and Saidulu.

The student groups reiterated their commitment to continue their efforts toward social equality and political representation, and expressed confidence that the Badangpet public meeting would attract wide participation and strengthen the Bahujan movement in Telangana.

Trump, Netanyahu and the Iran War: A Strategic Gamble Turning Risky

The ongoing confrontation involving Iran, Israel, and the United States has sparked a crucial debate in global politics: is former U.S. President Donald Trump beginning to question the wisdom of supporting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's aggressive strategy against Iran? What initially appeared to be a swift and decisive military campaign is increasingly turning into a complicated and potentially costly conflict with uncertain consequences.

A War Born from Strategic Calculations

The roots of the conflict lie in a series of political and strategic calculations made by leaders in Washington and Tel Aviv. In recent months, internal protests and political unrest within Iran created an impression among some international observers that the Iranian government was vulnerable. Israeli leadership believed that this moment provided a rare opportunity to significantly weaken Iran's political and military establishment.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has long regarded Iran as Israel's most serious security threat. Concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions, missile capabilities, and its support for militant groups across the Middle East have shaped Israel's security doctrine for decades. From Israel's perspective, confronting Iran directly could potentially eliminate or significantly weaken this long-standing threat.

Donald Trump, who has often favored bold and direct approaches in foreign policy, appeared willing to support Israel's position. The belief among supporters of the strategy was that strong military pressure could weaken Iran's leadership, encourage internal unrest, and possibly trigger political change within the country.

With these assumptions in mind, the United States and Israel launched a series of coordinated military strikes targeting Iran's military installations, missile systems,

and strategic infrastructure. The campaign was presented as a limited but powerful operation intended to dismantle Iran's military capabilities and force its leadership into submission.

Iran's Unexpected Resilience

However, the conflict did not unfold exactly as expected. Instead of collapsing under the pressure of military strikes, Iran responded with force. Iranian missile and drone attacks targeted various strategic locations in the region, including military installations and shipping routes. These retaliatory strikes demonstrated that Iran still possessed significant military capabilities despite the initial attacks.

More importantly, the expectation that Iranian society would quickly turn against its leadership has not materialized in the way some strategists predicted. While many Iranians have expressed dissatisfaction with their government over economic and political issues, foreign military attacks often produce a different reaction. External threats can create a sense of national unity, strengthening support for the country's leadership rather than weakening it.

As a result, the Iranian government has managed to maintain its authority and project defiance in the face of military pressure. Instead of showing signs of immediate collapse, the leadership has vowed to continue resisting external intervention and defend the country's sovereignty.

Different Political Incentives

The war also reflects different political calculations in Israel and the United States. For Netanyahu, confrontation with Iran aligns with long-standing national security priorities. Israeli leaders have consistently warned about Iran's growing regional influence and potential nuclear capabilities. A conflict with Iran reinforces Israel's

argument that it faces a major existential threat that requires decisive action.

Domestic politics may also play a role in shaping Israel's approach. During times of war or national security crises, political leaders often gain greater public support as the country rallies behind its government. In such circumstances, internal political disputes can temporarily fade into the background.

The situation is somewhat different for the United States. While Washington initially presented the operation as swift and decisive, the financial and strategic costs of the conflict are becoming increasingly evident. Military campaigns involving advanced weapons systems, logistics, and regional deployments are extremely expensive. If the conflict continues for an extended period, the financial burden on the United States could grow significantly.

The Problem of an Unclear Endgame

One of the most significant challenges facing the U.S.-Israel strategy is the lack of a clearly defined long-term objective. Military strikes can damage infrastructure and weaken an opponent's capabilities, but they do not automatically produce political change.

If the ultimate goal of the campaign is to force regime change in Iran, that objective raises difficult questions. Removing or weakening a government is only the first step in a much larger and more complicated process. Without a detailed plan for what comes afterward, such strategies can create instability rather than lasting solutions.

History has shown that military victories do not always translate into political success. Even if Iran's military infrastructure suffers heavy damage, the country's leadership could survive and eventually rebuild its capabilities. In that case, the conflict might achieve only temporary gains while creating



long-term tensions.

Economic and Global Consequences

The conflict also has broader implications for the global economy. The Middle East remains one of the world's most important energy-producing regions, and any large-scale military confrontation there can disrupt global oil markets. Even the possibility of escalation can cause sharp fluctuations in energy prices.

Higher oil prices affect economies across the world, increasing transportation costs, raising inflation, and slowing economic growth. For the United States and its allies, these economic consequences could become a major concern if the conflict drags on.

Additionally, prolonged instability in the region can affect international trade routes and create uncertainty in global financial markets.

Trump's Public Confidence

Despite these growing complications, Donald Trump has publicly maintained a tone of confidence regarding the military cam-

paign. He has suggested that the operation has significantly weakened Iran's strategic capabilities and that the conflict may not last long.

Trump has also emphasized the close coordination between the United States and Israel, highlighting the strong relationship between his administration and Netanyahu's government. Public statements from both sides stress unity and determination to achieve their objectives.

However, political observers note that leaders often express confidence during military conflicts even when uncertainties remain behind the scenes. Governments typically seek to project strength and stability in order to maintain domestic and international support.

The Risk of Regional Escalation

Another major concern is the possibility that the conflict could expand beyond the immediate confrontation between Iran and Israel. Iran maintains relationships with various political groups and militias across the Middle East. These net-

works could potentially become involved in the conflict, widening the scope of the war.

If additional actors enter the conflict, the situation could become far more complex and difficult to control. Regional escalation might draw in other countries, disrupt shipping lanes, and create long-term instability throughout the Middle East.

Such a scenario would significantly increase the strategic and economic costs of the war for all parties involved.

A Strategic Gamble

Ultimately, the confrontation between Iran, Israel, and the United States represents a high-stakes strategic gamble. Supporters of the military campaign argue that decisive action is necessary to prevent Iran from expanding its influence and developing stronger military capabilities.

Critics, however, warn that military solutions alone rarely resolve deep political conflicts. Without a clear diplomatic pathway or long-term strategy, the war could evolve into a prolonged struggle with unpredictable

consequences.

For Netanyahu, maintaining pressure on Iran may reinforce Israel's security priorities and political narrative. For Trump, however, the calculation may be more complicated. American leaders must consider not only military outcomes but also economic costs, public opinion, and global stability.

Conclusion

The unfolding conflict demonstrates how quickly strategic assumptions can be tested in real-world situations. What began as a military campaign intended to weaken Iran rapidly has instead developed into a complex geopolitical struggle with uncertain outcomes.

While both Trump and Netanyahu continue to project confidence in their strategy, the long-term consequences of the conflict remain unclear. If the war continues or expands, the initial decision to pursue aggressive military action could ultimately be judged either as a bold strategic move—or as a risky miscalculation with far-reaching consequences.

LPG Crisis Amid the Iran War: Will Your Piped Gas Supply Be Affected?

The ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran has triggered a global energy shock that is being felt far beyond the battlefield. One of the most immediate consequences has been disruptions in the supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), a fuel used by millions of households and businesses for cooking and heating. In India, the emerging LPG shortage has raised an important question for consumers: will the crisis also affect piped natural gas (PNG) supplies used in many urban homes?

How the War Disrupted Energy Supplies

The root of the current LPG crisis lies in disruptions to global energy trade routes in the Middle East. One of the most critical routes is the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway through which a large share of the world's oil and gas shipments pass. When tensions rise in this region, shipping becomes risky and energy supplies can slow down.

The conflict has created uncertainty for shipping companies transporting fuel across the Gulf. Some vessels have avoided the area due to security risks, while others have faced delays. This disruption has reduced the flow of LPG shipments and pushed global energy prices higher.

Countries that depend heavily on imported fuel, including India, are particularly sensitive to such changes. When global shipments slow down, the effects quickly spread through domestic markets, leading to shortages and higher prices.

The Growing LPG Shortage India relies heavily on LPG

cylinders for household cooking. Hundreds of millions of homes use LPG as their primary cooking fuel, making it one of the most important energy sources for daily life.

As global supplies tighten due to the conflict, the availability of LPG cylinders has started to decline in several regions. Commercial users such as restaurants, hotels, and catering services have reported difficulty obtaining enough cylinders to run their operations.

In some cities, eateries have even been forced to return temporarily to traditional cooking fuels like firewood or coal in order to keep their kitchens running. Such developments highlight how quickly international geopolitical tensions can affect everyday life in distant countries.

To manage the situation, authorities have begun prioritizing household LPG consumption over commercial demand. The aim is to ensure that families continue to have access to cooking fuel even if supplies remain limited.

Why Piped Gas Is Less Vulnerable

Despite the pressure on LPG supplies, piped natural gas (PNG) networks in many Indian cities have remained relatively stable so far. The reason lies in the fundamental differences between how LPG and PNG are delivered to consumers.

LPG is typically supplied through cylinders that must be transported through a long distribution chain involving international imports, shipping routes, storage facilities, and road transport. If any part of this chain is disrupted, deliveries can be delayed or reduced.



PNG works differently. It is delivered directly to homes through underground pipeline networks that distribute gas continuously from supply points to households. Once the pipeline infrastructure is established, gas flows steadily without the need for cylinder deliveries.

This makes piped gas systems less vulnerable to short-term disruptions in international shipping or transportation.

India's Natural Gas Supply System

India meets its natural gas demand through a combination of domestic production and imports. A portion of the gas used in the country is produced within India, while the rest is imported from international suppliers.

The imported gas typically

arrives as liquefied natural gas (LNG) at specialized terminals, where it is converted back into gas and distributed through pipelines. These pipelines connect to city gas networks that supply homes, industries, and businesses.

Because the gas already flows through established infrastructure within the country, consumers using PNG may not immediately feel the effects of international shipping disruptions.

Potential Risks to Piped Gas

Although piped gas supplies are currently more stable than LPG cylinders, they are not completely immune to global events. If the conflict continues for a long time or escalates further, broader disruptions in the natural gas market could eventually occur.

One possible risk is damage

or disruption to energy infrastructure in the Middle East. If gas production facilities or export terminals are affected by the conflict, global supply could decline.

Another concern involves shipping routes used to transport liquefied natural gas to importing countries. If tanker movement becomes unsafe or heavily restricted, imports could be delayed.

Finally, even if supplies remain stable, global price increases may eventually raise the cost of natural gas for consumers.

A Possible Shift Toward Piped Gas

Ironically, the current LPG shortage could encourage more households to shift toward piped natural gas where it is available. Many energy experts have long argued that

PNG is a cleaner, safer, and more reliable alternative to cylinder-based cooking fuel.

One major advantage is convenience. With piped gas, households no longer need to wait for cylinder deliveries or worry about running out of fuel unexpectedly. The gas flows continuously through pipelines, ensuring a steady supply.

PNG is also considered environmentally friendlier compared to traditional fuels. It produces fewer emissions and burns more efficiently, making it an attractive option in cities trying to reduce pollution.

As the LPG crisis highlights the vulnerability of cylinder-based supply chains, urban households may increasingly consider switching to piped gas connections.

Government Response and Long-Term Planning

The Indian government has been taking steps to manage the current situation and reduce future risks. Authorities are encouraging energy companies to increase domestic production and ensure that household LPG demand is met.

At the same time, long-term plans are focusing on expanding the city gas distribution network to more cities and towns across the country. By increasing the reach of pipeline infrastructure, policymakers aim to create a more reliable and resilient energy system.

Expanding PNG networks can also reduce dependence on imported LPG, which is more vulnerable to geopolitical tensions and global market disruptions.

Lessons From the Crisis

The current LPG shortage

demonstrates how closely connected global energy systems have become. A conflict taking place thousands of kilometers away can quickly influence fuel supplies and prices in countries across the world.

It also shows the importance of energy diversification. Countries that rely on a single type of fuel or a limited number of supply routes are more exposed to international crises.

By investing in multiple energy sources and expanding domestic infrastructure, governments can reduce the risk of similar disruptions in the future.

Conclusion

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has created a ripple effect across global energy markets, leading to disruptions in LPG supplies in several countries, including India. While the availability of LPG cylinders has tightened due to shipping disruptions and rising prices, piped natural gas systems have remained relatively stable for now.

However, the situation is still evolving. If the conflict continues or expands, even natural gas markets could eventually feel the impact. For the moment, households connected to piped gas networks appear better protected from the immediate effects of the LPG shortage.

In the long run, the crisis may strengthen the case for expanding piped gas infrastructure and reducing dependence on cylinder-based fuel systems. Such changes could make India's energy supply more secure and resilient in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

PM Modi Unveils ₹19,680 Crore Projects, Distributes Land Rights to Assam Tea Workers

Narendra Modi on Friday launched and inaugurated development projects worth about ₹19,680 crore in Assam, with a strong focus on infrastructure, energy, connectivity, and social welfare.

Land Pattas for Tea Garden Workers

A major highlight of the visit was the distribution of land pattas (ownership documents) to tea garden workers living in plantation housing areas. The initiative aims to provide secure homestead rights to thousands of families who have lived on tea estates for generations without formal ownership.

Officials said legal land titles will improve housing security, allow access to bank loans, and enable beneficiaries to take advantage of government welfare schemes, thereby strengthening long-term economic stability for the tea community.

Financial Support for Farmers

During the event, the Prime Minister also released a fresh instalment under the PM-



KISAN scheme, transferring financial assistance directly to millions of farmers across the country. The scheme provides income support to eligible farmers to help meet agricultural expenses.

Major Energy Projects

Several important energy initiatives were dedicated to the nation, including a hydroelectric project expected to boost clean power generation and strengthen electricity supply across the region. Capacity expansion of a key petroleum pipeline was also inaugurated

to improve fuel transportation and refinery operations.

In addition, a phase of the North East Gas Grid project was launched, aimed at expanding access to natural gas and improving energy connectivity in the region.

Rail, Road and Waterway Development

The package included railway electrification works, new rail infrastructure projects, and plans for line doubling to increase train capacity. Road connectivity improvements and inland waterway infra-

structure were also part of the development push, supporting trade, tourism, and regional mobility.

New terminals and transport links are expected to enhance logistics efficiency and integrate remote areas more closely with national networks.

Commercial and Regional Growth

The Prime Minister also inaugurated a large commercial facility intended to promote local products, handicrafts, and tourism, creating new economic opportunities for businesses and artisans.

Strengthening the Northeast

Overall, the projects aim to accelerate development across Assam and the wider Northeast by improving connectivity, energy security, employment prospects, and quality of life.

In essence, the visit combined major infrastructure investment with targeted social measures, particularly the historic step of granting land ownership rights to tea garden workers.

No Fertiliser Shortage, Adequate Supplies Ensured: Nirmala Sitharaman



Nirmala Sitharaman has assured Parliament that there will be no shortage of fertilisers for farmers, stating that the government has made sufficient financial and logistical provisions to maintain supplies despite global uncertainties.

Assurance to Farmers

Replying to a debate on supplementary demands for grants in the Lok Sabha, the Finance Minister said adequate stocks and funding have been arranged to ensure uninterrupted availability of fertilisers for agricultural needs. The assurance comes amid concerns over supply disruptions linked to geopolitical tensions and rising import costs.

She emphasized that farmers should not worry about shortages during upcoming crop seasons, as the government is closely monitoring supply chains and demand patterns.

Additional Subsidy Support

To maintain affordability and supply stability, the government has allocated extra funds toward ferti-

liser subsidies in the current financial year. This additional support aims to offset higher global prices of raw materials and transportation, which have increased due to international conflicts and trade disruptions.

The subsidy framework is designed to ensure that fertilisers remain accessible to farmers at controlled prices, preventing cost pressures from affecting agricultural production.

Economic Stabilisation Measures

Sitharaman also highlighted the creation of a large Economic Stabilisation Fund intended to help India respond to unexpected global shocks. The fund will provide fiscal flexibility to address crises such as supply chain disruptions, commodity price spikes, or regional conflicts that could impact essential sectors like agriculture.

Officials say this buffer mechanism will help the government act quickly without disturbing overall budget targets.

Fiscal Discipline Maintained

Despite additional spending on subsidies and stabilisation measures, the Finance Minister stated that the government remains committed to keeping the fiscal deficit within the projected limits for the financial year. Extra expenditures are being managed through savings in other areas and higher revenues.

Focus on Food Security

Ensuring fertiliser availability is critical for maintaining crop yields and national food security. Authorities indicated that arrangements are in place not only for the current agricultural cycle but also for future seasons.

Overall Outlook

In essence, the government has sought to reassure farmers and markets that India's agricultural supply chain remains secure. With adequate stocks, subsidies, and contingency planning, officials believe fertiliser availability will remain stable even amid global economic and geopolitical challenges.

193 Opposition MPs Seek Removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

A total of 193 opposition Members of Parliament have signed notices seeking the removal of Gyanesh Kumar, escalating a major political confrontation over the functioning of the Election Commission of India.

Notice Backed by Large Opposition Bloc

The move has been supported by lawmakers from multiple opposition parties, including members of the INDIA alliance. Reports indicate that 130 MPs from the Lok Sabha and 63 from the Rajya Sabha have endorsed the notice, comfortably exceeding the minimum requirement needed to initiate such a process.

The notice is expected to be formally submitted to the presiding officer of one of the Houses of Parliament for consideration.

Allegations Against the CEC

Opposition leaders have accused the Chief Election Commissioner of partisan con-



duct and irregularities in handling revisions of electoral rolls, particularly in states heading toward elections. They claim these actions could have affected voter inclusion and raised concerns about the fairness of the process.

The document reportedly lists several charges, including alleged bias in decision-making and steps that critics say undermined confidence in electoral institutions.

Rare Constitutional Step

Seeking the removal of a Chief Election Commissioner is an extremely rare and complex constitutional procedure. Parliamentary rules require a minimum number of MPs to sign a notice before it can be considered — thresholds that the opposition has already surpassed.

If admitted, the motion would trigger a formal inquiry process similar to proceedings used for removing

judges of higher courts.

Political Tensions Rise

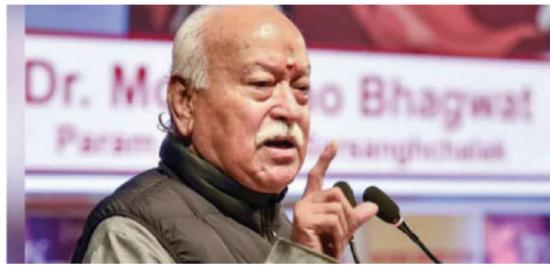
The development highlights intensifying tensions between opposition parties and the government over the neutrality and functioning of key democratic institutions. While the ruling side has dismissed the move as politically motivated, opposition leaders argue it is necessary to safeguard the integrity of elections.

What Happens Next

The presiding officer of the concerned House will decide whether to admit the motion. Only after acceptance can a detailed investigation or parliamentary debate take place.

In essence, the signatures of 193 MPs represent one of the most significant challenges to India's top election official in recent years, setting the stage for a potentially major constitutional and political showdown.

RSS Begins 3-Day Meet With Tributes to Ideological Opponents



The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has begun its three-day annual meeting by paying tributes to several prominent personalities, including some who were known critics of the organisation.

Top Decision-Making Body Convenes

The gathering, known as the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, is being held in Samalkha in Haryana from March 13 to 15. It brings together senior leaders and representatives from across the Sangh network to review progress, set future priorities, and discuss key national issues. Mohan Bhagwat and other top functionaries are attending the meeting.

Tributes to Critics

Proceedings began with condolence resolutions for public figures who passed away over the past year. Notably, tributes were offered to Shivraj Patil and veteran Communist leader R. Nallakannu, both of whom had been vocal critics of the RSS and its ideology.

Patil was a senior Congress figure who had held key ministerial positions, while Nallakannu was a long-time leader from Tamil Nadu known for his opposition to Hindutva politics

and advocacy for social justice.

Other Personalities Remembered

In addition to political figures, the organisation also paid homage to several notable individuals from diverse fields who died recently. These included environmentalists, social activists, cultural personalities, and public servants, reflecting acknowledgment of contributions across society.

Agenda for the Meeting

During the three-day session, leaders are expected to deliberate on organisational expansion, outreach initiatives, and contemporary national challenges. Discussions will also focus on future goals and the role of affiliated groups in public life.

Symbolic Opening

Observers note that beginning the meeting with tributes to ideological opponents reflects a customary practice of acknowledging public service irrespective of political differences.

Overall, the annual conclave is seen as a key event shaping the organisation's strategy and priorities for the coming year, with participation from leaders across the country.

Jai Anmol Ambani Questioned by CBI in ₹228 Crore Bank Fraud Case



Jai Anmol Ambani, son of industrialist Anil Ambani, was questioned for several hours by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with an alleged ₹228 crore bank fraud involving Reliance Home Finance Limited.

Hours of Interrogation

Jai Anmol appeared at the agency's headquarters in New Delhi, where investigators examined him for more than six hours. Officials indicated that he may be summoned again for further questioning as the probe continues.

Case Registered After Bank Complaint

The case originated from a complaint by Union Bank of India, which alleged that Reliance Home Finance caused a wrongful loss of about ₹228 crore through irregularities in loan transactions. Investigators have invoked charges such as criminal conspiracy, cheating, and misconduct.

Loans Turned Non-Performing

According to investigators, the company had borrowed thousands of crores from multiple banks and financial institutions. These loan accounts were later classified as non-performing assets and eventually tagged as fraudulent.

Searches and Seizure of Documents

After registering the case, authorities conducted searches at company offices and premises linked to key individuals, including Jai Anmol Ambani and former executives. Officials reported that documents considered important to the investigation were seized during these operations.

Multiple Accused Named

Apart from the company itself, the case names several former senior officials and unidentified individuals, including public servants, as accused. Investigators are examining whether there was a coordinated effort to misuse bank funds and conceal financial stress.

Probe Ongoing

No arrests have been announced so far, and the questioning is part of the evidence-gathering phase. Authorities say the investigation aims to determine the roles of all individuals connected to the alleged financial irregularities.

In essence, the interrogation marks a significant development in a high-profile banking fraud probe involving a major corporate group, with further scrutiny expected as the inquiry progresses.

President Murmu Declines TMC Meeting Request Amid Siliguri Protocol Row



Droupadi Murmu has declined a request from the All India Trinamool Congress for a meeting, citing lack of time, amid an ongoing controversy involving a tribal welfare event in Siliguri.

Attempt to Ease Tensions

A senior party leader had sought an appointment for a delegation to brief the President on welfare initiatives undertaken by the West Bengal government for tribal communities. The request was widely seen as an effort by the party led by Mamata Banerjee to ease tensions following a public disagreement during the President's recent visit.

However, the President's office reportedly declined both the initial request and a subsequent proposal for a later date.

Dispute Originated at Tribal Event

The friction stems from a conference on tribal welfare held in Siliguri, where Presi-

dent Murmu expressed dissatisfaction with the arrangements. She questioned why the venue had been shifted to a location that many members of the tribal community found difficult to reach.

The President also raised concerns over the absence of the Chief Minister and senior state ministers during her arrival, a departure from usual protocol for receiving the country's head of state.

Sharp Exchange of Remarks

During her address, Murmu suggested that development benefits meant for tribal communities might not be reaching them effectively. These remarks drew a strong response from the state leadership.

Mamata Banerjee dismissed the comments as political in nature and argued that they came at a sensitive time ahead of elections, escalating the confrontation

between the state government and the Centre.

Political Context

The episode has intensified political tensions in West Bengal, where rivalry between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the opposition led by Narendra Modi remains high. Observers say the dispute reflects broader disagreements over governance, protocol, and the treatment of tribal communities.

Situation Remains Unresolved

With the meeting request declined, the standoff shows no immediate signs of resolution. Both sides appear firm in their positions, and the issue continues to draw national attention.

In essence, what began as a disagreement over event arrangements has evolved into a significant political controversy involving the President, the state government, and the central leadership.

Iran-Linked Hackers Claim Massive Cyberattack on US Medtech Firm

An Iranian-linked hacktivist group known as Handala has claimed responsibility for a large-scale cyberattack on a major United States medical technology company, describing it as retaliation amid the ongoing regional conflict.

According to the group, the operation targeted the company's global digital infrastructure, disrupting operations across multiple countries. The hackers alleged they wiped more than 200,000 computers, servers, and mobile devices and stole about 50 terabytes of sensitive data, though the full extent of the damage has not been independently verified.

Global Operations Disrupted

The attack reportedly caused severe network outages, locking employees out of critical systems and halting many business functions. Tens of thousands of devices connected to the company's network were disabled, affecting offices worldwide and temporarily disrupting manufacturing, logistics, and internal communications.

Despite the scale of the disruption, reports indicate that medical devices used by patients were not directly targeted. Instead,



the attackers focused on corporate systems, employee laptops, mobile phones, and internal servers.

Retaliation Motive

Handala described the cyber-attack as revenge for military strikes in Iran, particularly a deadly attack on a school in the city of Minab. The group framed the operation as part of a broader response to actions against Iran and its allies.

Cybersecurity analysts note that politically motivated attacks of this kind aim to cause

economic damage, create disruption, and demonstrate technological capability rather than extract ransom payments.

How the Attack May Have Worked

Experts believe the hackers gained high-level administrative access to the company's network management systems. This allowed them to remotely issue commands that erased data and reset devices on a massive scale, effectively turning the organisation's own IT infrastructure against itself.

The group is believed to use "wiper" malware, which permanently destroys data instead of encrypting it. Such attacks maximize disruption and make recovery extremely difficult.

Who Is the Handala Group?

Handala is considered a pro-Iranian cyber actor that has been active for several years. Security researchers suspect links to Iranian state interests, although the group portrays itself as an independent hacktivist movement. It has previously targeted government bodies, infrastructure, and private companies across multiple regions.

Cyber Warfare Expands the Conflict

The incident highlights how modern conflicts increasingly extend into cyberspace. Digital attacks are now being used to target economic assets and critical infrastructure far from traditional battlefields.

Overall, the attack demonstrates the growing importance of cyber operations as a tool of retaliation and strategic pressure, with businesses and civilian systems becoming key targets in geopolitical confrontations.

What Mojtaba Khamenei's First "Revenge" Signal Reveals About His Strategy



Mojtaba Khamenei's first public message after assuming leadership suggests that Iran is preparing for a prolonged and calculated confrontation rather than a quick peace or surrender.

His rise is widely seen as strengthening hardline elements within Iran, particularly the influential Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Mojtaba is believed to have close ties with the Guard, which has traditionally favored resistance against external pressure over negotiation or compromise.

Long Conflict, Not Immediate Resolution

His statement indicates that Iran expects the confrontation to continue for an extended period. The leadership transition itself reflects a readiness to endure sustained military, economic, and political pressure. Analysts interpret this as a signal that Tehran is not seeking a rapid ceasefire but is preparing for a drawn-out struggle.

Such a stance also aims to maintain domestic stability by projecting strength, as conceding

under pressure could be seen internally as a sign of weakness.

Calibrated Retaliation

Rather than launching an all-out conventional war, Iran is expected to pursue measured and strategic retaliation. This approach involves actions designed to impose costs on adversaries without triggering full-scale escalation.

Possible tactics include indirect attacks, cyber operations, and asymmetric warfare, allowing Iran to maintain continuous pressure while avoiding catastrophic consequences.

Strategic Use of Geography

One of the strongest signals in the message was the emphasis on the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes. Highlighting this chokepoint serves as a reminder that Iran has the ability to disrupt global energy supplies, thereby increasing the economic stakes of the conflict far beyond the region.

By leveraging this geographic advantage, Iran

seeks to influence not only military opponents but also the broader international community.

Role of Regional Allies

Mojtaba's strategy is also expected to rely heavily on Iran's network of allied groups across the Middle East. These partners allow Tehran to project power indirectly, open multiple fronts, and complicate the strategic calculations of its adversaries without deploying all of its own forces.

Hardline Approach Ahead

Overall, the message signals a tougher and more uncompromising phase in Iran's posture. The emphasis on revenge appears intended to deter further attacks, reassure domestic audiences, and demonstrate resilience.

In essence, Mojtaba Khamenei's first statement points to a strategy based on endurance — sustained pressure through indirect means, strategic leverage over global energy routes, and readiness for a long conflict rather than a swift resolution.

Mohammad Ali Jafari — Architect of Iran's "Mosaic Defence"

Mohammad Ali Jafari is a former Iranian military commander widely regarded as the chief architect of Iran's "Mosaic Defence" strategy, a decentralised military doctrine designed to make the country extremely difficult to defeat in war.

He served as commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from 2007 to 2019, one of the most powerful positions in Iran's military establishment. The IRGC plays a central role not only in national defence but also in internal security and regional operations.

Military Background

Born in 1957 in Yazd, Jafari joined revolutionary forces after Iran's Islamic Revolution and later fought in the long Iran-Iraq War. His combat experience during this conflict significantly shaped his views on military strategy and national security. Over time, he rose through the ranks, holding several key operational and leadership roles within the IRGC.

Before becoming the IRGC chief, he commanded ground forces and led units responsible



for defending the capital, Tehran. He also headed the organisation's strategic research centre, where he focused on studying modern warfare and potential threats to Iran.

Creator of the "Mosaic Defence" Doctrine

Jafari's most important contribution is the development of the Mosaic Defence concept. Unlike traditional armies that rely on centralised command, this strategy divides the country's

military into numerous regional units capable of operating independently.

Each unit receives pre-planned instructions and can continue fighting even if national leadership, communication networks, or major military bases are destroyed. This decentralised approach aims to ensure continuity of resistance under extreme conditions.

Why It Is Considered "Impenetrable"

The Mosaic Defence system disperses authority across provinces, making it difficult for an adversary to cripple Iran's military through targeted strikes. Destroying one command centre does not disable the entire network, allowing operations to continue.

Analysts believe the strategy enables Iran to sustain prolonged warfare and mount coordinated resistance even under heavy bombardment or leadership losses.

Lasting Influence

Although no longer the IRGC chief, Jafari remains a significant figure in Iran's defence thinking. His blueprint continues to shape the country's military posture and preparedness for potential large-scale conflicts.

In essence, Mohammad Ali Jafari is seen as the strategist who transformed Iran's defence structure into a resilient, decentralised system designed not necessarily to secure quick victories, but to prevent decisive defeat and ensure long-term resistance.

Trump Says Iran Near Surrender, New Leader Rejects Claim and Vows Revenge



United States President Donald Trump reportedly told leaders of major industrial nations that Iran was close to surrender amid the ongoing conflict involving the United States and Israel. He expressed confidence that military operations had significantly weakened Iran and suggested the war might be approaching a decisive phase.

During a virtual meeting, Trump stated that Iran was unable to formally announce surrender due to uncertainty surrounding its leadership. He also indicated that conditions near the strategically important Strait of Hormuz were improving and that commercial shipping could soon resume in the region.

However, events on the ground suggested continued instability. Around the same time as Trump's remarks, explosive attacks involving boats set fuel tankers on fire in Iraqi waters, underscoring the ongoing volatility and risks in the region.

Within 24 hours of these statements, Iran's newly appointed Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, issued his first public message. He strongly rejected any suggestion of surrender and instead pledged retaliation for the attacks that had killed Iranian citizens and senior officials.

In his statement, Khamenei declared that Iran would not abandon revenge and that those responsible for the deaths would be held accountable. He also announced that the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial global oil shipping route, would remain closed as a strategic measure against the United States and its allies.

He further warned that strikes on regional targets would continue, indicating that Iran was preparing for a prolonged confrontation rather than seeking an immediate end to hostilities. The message suggested a firm stance and a readiness to escalate if necessary.

International concern has grown as tensions threaten global energy supplies and maritime security. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important oil transit routes, and any disruption could have far-reaching economic consequences worldwide.

Overall, Trump's claim that Iran was on the verge of surrender contrasts sharply with Iran's official position. The country's leadership has signalled determination to continue resisting and retaliating, indicating that the conflict remains far from resolution and could intensify in the coming days.

4 Dead After US Refuelling Aircraft Crashes in Iraq



A United States Air Force refuelling aircraft crashed in western Iraq, killing four of the six crew members on board, while search operations continued for the remaining two. The aircraft involved was a KC-135 Stratotanker, a military plane used to refuel other aircraft mid-air during operations.

The crash occurred during a military mission in what officials described as friendly airspace. Two aircraft were reportedly involved in the incident. One tank crashed, while the second aircraft managed to land safely despite sustaining damage.

Authorities stated that the crash was not caused by hostile or friendly fire, and an investigation has been launched to determine the exact cause. Preliminary information suggests the incident may have resulted from a mid-air collision or an operational mishap during refuelling procedures, which are among the most complex tasks in aviation.

The KC-135 Stratotanker plays a vital role in military operations by extending the range and endurance of fighter jets and other aircraft. Such tankers enable long-distance missions and continuous air presence, especially in regions experiencing

military tensions.

The incident occurred amid heightened instability in the Middle East. Some armed groups in Iraq claimed responsibility for shooting down the aircraft, but US officials denied these claims, saying there was no evidence to support them.

The aircraft was carrying six crew members at the time of the crash. Four deaths have been confirmed, while search and rescue teams continue efforts to locate the missing personnel. Officials have not yet released the identities of the victims, pending notification of their families.

Military officials emphasized that aerial refuelling missions require precise coordination between aircraft flying at high speeds and close proximity, leaving very little room for error. Even minor technical issues or miscalculations can lead to serious accidents.

This crash represents a significant loss for the US military presence in the region and highlights the risks faced by personnel even during non-combat operations. Investigators are expected to examine flight data, communication records, and wreckage to determine what led to the tragedy.

Inside Pakistan's Dilemma Over Backing Saudi Arabia Against Iran



Pakistan faces a complex strategic dilemma as tensions rise between Iran and Saudi Arabia amid the wider regional conflict. While Islamabad has deep military, political, and financial ties with Riyadh, joining any confrontation against Iran would carry serious risks.

Defence Pact Creates Pressure

A key factor is the long-standing security cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, which creates expectations that Islamabad would support the kingdom if it faces threats. However, such agreements are primarily defensive in nature and do not necessarily require participation in offensive military operations against another country.

Risks of Confronting a Neighbour

Iran is not a distant rival but a direct neighbour sharing a long border with Pakistan. Any military involvement against Tehran could provoke retaliation, destabilise

border regions, and further strain relations. Additionally, Pakistan has a sizeable Shia population, making involvement in a conflict with sectarian overtones politically sensitive domestically.

Domestic Challenges Limit Options

Pakistan is already dealing with multiple internal challenges, including economic difficulties, security concerns in border provinces, political instability, and militant activity. Entering a major external conflict could overstretch its military and financial resources while worsening internal vulnerabilities.

Reliance on Saudi Arabia

At the same time, Saudi Arabia remains one of Pakistan's closest allies and a crucial economic partner. The kingdom provides financial assistance, oil supplies, and employment opportunities for millions of Pakistani workers. Ignoring Saudi security concerns could strain this rela-

tionship and have economic repercussions.

Likely Middle Path

Analysts believe Pakistan is unlikely to deploy combat troops directly against Iran. Instead, it may choose a limited role such as intelligence cooperation, defensive support, or protecting Saudi territory while avoiding direct confrontation with Tehran.

A Delicate Balancing Act

Ultimately, Pakistan's leadership is attempting to balance competing priorities — honouring commitments to a key ally, avoiding conflict with a neighbouring state, and preserving domestic stability. Any decision could have far-reaching consequences for the country's security, economy, and regional standing.

In essence, Pakistan's dilemma reflects a difficult geopolitical choice between loyalty to an important partner and the risks of antagonising a powerful neighbour, leaving little room for a clear or risk-free path forward.

Bears Hammer Dalal Street: Sensex Plunges 1,470 Points, Nifty Slides to 23,150

Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp sell-off on March 13, with benchmark indices tumbling for the third consecutive session as negative global cues and sustained selling pressure dampened investor confidence.

By the closing bell, the Sensex had plunged 1,470.50 points (1.93%) to settle at 74,563.92, while the Nifty 50 dropped 488.05 points (2.06%) to end at 23,151.10, slipping below the key 23,200 level. The decline was broad-based, with most sectoral indices finishing deep in the red.

Broader markets mirrored the weakness seen in frontline stocks. Mid-cap and small-cap indices fell around 2.5% each, reflecting widespread risk aversion among investors. The sharp downturn erased nearly 10 lakh crore in investor wealth, highlighting the scale of the sell-off across the market.

Sectorally, auto, metal, media, and public-sector bank stocks were among the worst hit, declining between 3% and 4%. Companies linked to infrastructure, construction, and heavy industries also faced strong selling pressure due to concerns about rising input costs and slowing global demand. Only a few defensive stocks managed to resist the fall.

Multiple factors contributed



to the market rout. Rising crude oil prices, triggered by escalating geopolitical tensions, raised fears of higher inflation and pressure on corporate profit margins. At the same time, the Indian rupee weakened to a record low against the US dollar, adding to concerns about capital outflows and economic stability. Continued selling by foreign institutional investors further intensified the downward momentum.

Market participants also

turned cautious ahead of the weekend, avoiding fresh positions amid heightened volatility. The absence of strong domestic buying support allowed bears to dominate trading throughout the session.

From a technical standpoint, the outlook remains fragile. The Nifty has broken below important support levels, indicating persistent weakness in the market structure. Analysts warn that if selling continues, the index could slide further

toward the 22,700–22,800 zone in the near term. On the upside, resistance is expected around the 23,600–23,700 range.

For the week, both the Sensex and Nifty have recorded losses exceeding 5%, marking one of their steepest weekly declines in recent times. With global uncertainties still unresolved and domestic triggers lacking, investors are likely to remain cautious until clearer signs of stability emerge.

Sensex Suffers Worst Week Since May 2020 Amid Middle East Conflict



Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp decline during the week, with the benchmark Sensex recording its steepest fall since May 2020 as escalating conflict in the Middle East rattled global financial markets. The crisis pushed crude oil prices above 100 dollars per barrel, raising concerns about inflation, slower economic growth, and increased pressure on India's import-dependent economy.

Over the week, the Sensex dropped about 5.5 percent, while the Nifty 50 fell roughly 5.3 percent, marking one of the most severe declines in recent years. The sell-off was broad-based, with all major sectoral indices closing in the red. Broader markets also weakened significantly as mid-cap and small-cap stocks declined, reflecting widespread risk aversion among investors.

The automobile sector emerged as the worst performer, registering losses of more than 10 percent, its sharpest weekly drop in six years. Investors feared that the ongoing

conflict could disrupt global supply chains, increase fuel costs, and weaken export demand, all of which could hurt profitability for automobile companies.

Banking and financial stocks also faced heavy selling pressure. The Bank Nifty index declined about 7 percent during the week due to continued foreign institutional investor outflows and concerns over economic growth. Rising oil prices and a weakening rupee intensified fears of higher inflation and interest rates, further dampening sentiment toward financial companies.

The downturn affected nearly all parts of the market. Every major sector recorded losses, highlighting the depth of the sell-off. Mid-cap stocks fell around 4.6 percent, while small-caps dropped nearly 3.7 percent, indicating that investors were pulling money out of riskier assets across the board.

A large number of stocks delivered negative returns, with many major companies declining between 5 percent and 12

percent. Infrastructure, cement, and industrial firms were among the hardest hit as higher input costs and uncertain demand prospects weighed on outlook.

Despite the widespread decline, coal stocks were among the few gainers during the week. Shares of Coal India rose on expectations of increased electricity demand during the approaching summer season, which could boost coal consumption.

Markets extended losses into the final trading sessions due to weak global cues, elevated oil prices, and sustained foreign fund selling. Analysts warn that rising energy costs pose a significant challenge to India's economy, potentially affecting growth, inflation, and corporate earnings.

Overall, the Middle East conflict has triggered a broad market sell-off, making this one of the most turbulent periods for Indian equities in recent years. Investors are expected to remain cautious until geopolitical tensions ease and commodity prices stabilize.

Markets Oversold, But Reversal Still Uncertain, Say Analysts

Indian stock markets have slipped into oversold territory after a sharp weekly decline, sparking hopes of a possible short-term rebound. However, market experts warn that a sustained recovery remains uncertain due to persistent negative factors affecting investor sentiment.

During the week, benchmark indices witnessed heavy selling pressure amid rising geopolitical tensions, surging crude oil prices, weak global cues, continued foreign investor outflows, and a weakening rupee. The Nifty fell more than 5%, recording its steepest weekly drop in over a year, while the Sensex posted a similarly sharp decline.

Deeply Oversold Conditions

Technical indicators suggest that the market has fallen rapidly and may be due for a pause. The Relative Strength Index (RSI), a key momentum indicator, has dropped below the 30 mark, typically considered oversold territory. Such readings often indicate that selling has been excessive and that a relief rally could occur in the near term.

However, analysts emphasize



that oversold conditions alone do not guarantee a trend reversal. For a meaningful recovery, markets need to show signs of sustained buying interest, including the formation of higher highs and higher lows. Without these signals, any bounce may remain temporary.

Downtrend Still Dominant

Despite the possibility of a short-term pullback, the broader trend continues to remain weak across short- and medium-term timeframes. The indices are still forming a pattern of lower highs and lower lows, indicating that sellers retain control.

Key support levels for the Nifty are seen in the 22,700–22,400 range. A break below these levels

could trigger further downside. On the upside, resistance is expected around 23,500, where selling pressure may re-emerge.

Pullback Possible Next Week

Some experts believe markets could attempt a rebound if they stabilize near current levels. Yet, if the recovery lacks strength, the index could slip further toward the 22,500–22,000 zone. The inability of markets to hold support despite being oversold highlights the intensity of recent selling.

Outlook: Volatility Ahead

The weakness has been broad-based, with most sectoral indices ending the week in the red and broader markets also declining. Analysts expect volatility to remain high until global uncertainties ease and investor confidence improves.

In conclusion, while a short-term bounce cannot be ruled out due to oversold conditions, a clear and sustained trend reversal appears unlikely without strong positive triggers. Investors are advised to remain cautious as markets navigate a fragile phase.

Gold Set for Second Weekly Loss as Strong Dollar, High Yields Weigh

Gold prices are heading for a second consecutive weekly decline as reduced expectations of U.S. interest rate cuts, a stronger dollar, and rising bond yields dampen the appeal of the precious metal.

Although gold saw a modest uptick on Friday, it remained on track for a weekly drop of about 1–1.5%. U.S. gold futures also slipped slightly, reflecting cautious investor sentiment. The primary pressure on bullion came from fading hopes that the U.S. Federal Reserve will cut interest rates soon.

Strong Dollar Hurts Gold Demand

A strengthening U.S. dollar has made gold more expensive for holders of other currencies, reducing global demand. The dollar recently climbed to multi-month highs, adding significant downward pressure on prices. At the same time, benchmark U.S. Treasury yields rose to their highest levels in several weeks, further eroding gold's attractiveness since the metal does not pay interest.

Higher yields typically draw investors toward income-generating assets such as bonds, away from non-yielding assets like



gold. **Reduced Rate-Cut Bets Add Pressure**

Expectations of imminent rate cuts have cooled as inflation concerns persist, partly due to surging oil prices. When interest rates remain high, gold tends to struggle because the opportunity cost of holding it increases.

Analysts note that traders have

been reassessing earlier assumptions about aggressive monetary easing, which had previously supported bullion prices. With policymakers expected to keep rates steady for now, gold has lost a key driver of recent gains.

Oil Prices and Inflation Fears

Crude oil prices hovering near or above \$100 per barrel have raised fears of renewed inflation.

This reduces the likelihood of quick rate cuts and strengthens the case for tighter monetary policy — another negative factor for gold.

Rising energy costs also create uncertainty across financial markets, influencing investor behavior and asset allocation.

Gold Used as Liquidity Source

In the face of weak equity markets and heightened volatility, some investors have reportedly sold gold holdings to cover losses elsewhere. This liquidation has added to downward pressure on prices despite geopolitical tensions that would normally support safe-haven demand.

Outlook

While gold remains under pressure in the short term, analysts believe the metal still has long-term support from geopolitical risks, inflation concerns, and ongoing uncertainty in global markets.

In summary, gold's second weekly decline reflects a combination of macroeconomic forces — a stronger dollar, higher bond yields, and fading hopes for near-term rate cuts — overshadowing its traditional safe-haven appeal.

L&T Shares Slide Sharply as Middle East War Triggers Market Sell-Off



Shares of Larsen & Toubro witnessed a steep fall, dropping about 7.5 percent amid heightened global uncertainty caused by the escalating conflict in the Middle East. The sharp decline dragged the company's market capitalisation below the 5 lakh crore rupees mark, reflecting significant investor concern.

The engineering and construction giant, which has substantial exposure to international projects, particularly in the Gulf region, was hit hard as investors feared potential disruptions to infrastructure activity, project execution, and new order inflows. Rising geopolitical tensions typically lead to delays in capital expenditure and large-scale construction initiatives, directly affecting companies like L&T.

Higher crude oil prices have further intensified worries. As oil prices surge, governments in oil-importing countries face fiscal pressure, while project funding in energy-de-

pendent economies becomes uncertain. This can slow infrastructure spending and reduce demand for engineering services, creating a challenging outlook for firms operating across global markets.

The stock's sharp fall also mirrored the broader weakness in Indian equities, where most sectors declined amid foreign institutional investor outflows, a weakening rupee, and risk-averse sentiment. Capital goods and infrastructure stocks were particularly vulnerable due to their sensitivity to economic cycles and investment trends.

Despite the immediate pressure, analysts note that L&T's long-term fundamentals remain relatively strong. The company has a robust order book across infrastructure, energy, defence, and technology segments, which provides revenue visibility. Domestic government spending on infrastructure and defence projects may continue to support

business growth over time.

However, in the short term, volatility is expected to persist. Investors are likely to monitor developments in the Middle East closely, as any escalation could affect global energy markets, currency movements, and investment flows. Continued foreign fund selling could also weigh on large-cap stocks, including L&T.

Technical indicators suggest the stock may remain under pressure unless it stabilizes above key support levels. A recovery would depend on easing geopolitical tensions, stabilisation in crude oil prices, and improved overall market sentiment.

In summary, the sharp fall in L&T shares reflects heightened global uncertainty rather than company-specific weakness. While near-term risks remain elevated, the company's diversified business model and strong project pipeline could help it recover once external conditions improve.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Just when the situation seemed overwhelming,



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

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

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

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

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

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

Reflecting on the moment later, the rider said

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

However, she clarified that February was not a

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

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

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

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

spending for February reached approximately Rs 1.43 lakh.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Friends who were with

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fans Criticise Sunrisers Over Pakistan Player Signing

The Sunrisers franchise has come under sharp criticism from cricket fans after its sister team signed Pakistani spinner Abrar Ahmed during the player auction for England's franchise tournament The Hundred.

The controversy began after Sunrisers Leeds, a team linked to the Sunrisers Hyderabad franchise in the Indian Premier League, secured the services of Abrar Ahmed for £190,000 during the auction held in London. The franchise reportedly outbid Trent Rockets to sign the mystery spinner, who has gained recognition for his impressive performances in international and franchise cricket.

However, the move sparked strong reactions on social media, particularly among Indian cricket fans. Many supporters expressed disappointment over the decision, questioning why a franchise associated with an Indian Premier League team would sign a Pakistani player. Several users voiced their anger online and said the move hurt the sentiments of Indian supporters.

Some fans also threatened to unfollow the franchise's social media accounts and boycott its matches, claiming the decision ignored the sensitivities of Indian cricket followers. The backlash intensified after some users



pointed to alleged past social media activity by Abrar Ahmed, which critics claimed was insensitive toward India. These claims further fueled the online debate.

Despite the criticism, cricket observers pointed out that the signing took place in an overseas tournament and not in the Indian Premier League, where Pakistani players have not partici-

pated since the early seasons due to political tensions between India and Pakistan.

Franchise representatives indicated that the decision to sign Abrar Ahmed was purely based on cricketing considerations. Team management reportedly believed that the Pakistani spinner would strengthen the side's bowling attack and provide valuable spin options during the tournament.

Abrar Ahmed is widely regarded as a talented mystery spinner and has earned praise for his ability to trouble batsmen with variations and sharp turn. His performances in international matches and T20 leagues have made him a sought-after player in franchise cricket.

The episode highlights how cricket decisions can sometimes intersect with national sentiments and public opinion. While franchise leagues around the world often include players from multiple countries, political tensions and historic rivalries between India and Pakistan continue to influence fan reactions.

As the tournament approaches, it remains to be seen whether the controversy will affect the franchise's popularity among Indian supporters or whether fans will eventually move past the issue and focus on the on-field performances.

Rising Interest in Cricket Among Indian Women

Women's participation in cricket across India has witnessed a significant surge in recent years, according to a new study that highlights the growing popularity of the sport among women and young girls.

The survey, conducted by the BBC in collaboration with the Collective Newsroom, covered more than 10,000 women across 14 states in the country. The findings revealed that the proportion of women who say they play cricket has doubled over the past few years, reflecting a steady rise in interest and participation.

According to the study, around 10 percent of women now say they play cricket, compared with about 5 percent in 2020. Researchers say the growth reflects changing attitudes toward women in sports as well as increasing visibility of women's cricket in India.

The increase has been particularly noticeable among younger women. Nearly 16 percent of women aged between 15 and 24 reported that they play cricket, a sharp rise from around 6 percent a few years ago. Experts believe that improved access to sports facilities, school-level tournaments and media coverage of women's cricket have contributed to the growing enthusiasm among young players.

The study also indicates that many young women are beginning to view sports as a potential career option. Nearly one in four women in the 15-24 age group



said they had considered pursuing a professional career in sports. This shift highlights the impact of successful female athletes who are inspiring the next generation to take up competitive sports.

The growing popularity of cricket among women also reflects the increasing prominence of the India women's national cricket team on the international stage. Strong performances by the national side and greater media attention have played a key role in encouraging more girls to participate in the sport.

Researchers noted that cricket

has now overtaken several traditional sports in popularity among women in many regions. In earlier years, sports like kabaddi were more widely played among women in rural areas, but cricket has now emerged as the preferred choice in many states.

Another key finding of the report is the narrowing gender gap in cricket participation. A few years ago, the ratio of women to men playing cricket was roughly one woman for every five men. The latest figures suggest that the gap has reduced to around one woman for every three men,

indicating greater inclusivity in the sport.

Despite the encouraging trends, the study also highlighted challenges that still prevent some women from taking up sports. Safety concerns and limited access to facilities remain important issues in certain regions.

Experts believe that continued investment in infrastructure, training opportunities and safety measures will further strengthen the growth of women's cricket in India and help more young girls pursue the sport in the coming years.

KKR Sign Muzarabani as Mustafizur's Replacement



Kolkata Knight Riders have signed Zimbabwe fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani as a replacement for Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman ahead of the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League.

The franchise announced the decision as part of its preparations for the 2026 IPL season. Muzarabani joins the squad after opting out of the Pakistan Super League, where he was

scheduled to represent Islamabad United. His withdrawal from the PSL allowed him to accept the opportunity to play in the IPL with the Kolkata-based franchise.

Standing over two metres tall, Muzarabani is regarded as one of Zimbabwe's leading fast bowlers in international cricket. Known for his pace and ability to generate steep bounce, the tall pacer has been

an important figure in Zimbabwe's bowling attack across formats. His height and bowling style are expected to add variety and strength to KKR's pace department.

KKR management believes the Zimbabwean pacer will provide additional depth to their bowling unit. The team is looking to strengthen its fast-bowling options ahead of the new season, especially with the tour-

nament known for high-scoring matches and intense competition among top franchises.

Mustafizur Rahman was initially part of the KKR squad but had to pull out before the start of the season. The franchise subsequently moved quickly to find a suitable replacement from the international player pool and finalised Muzarabani as the best available option.

Cricket experts say Muzarabani's ability to bowl hard lengths and extract bounce could prove useful on certain IPL pitches. His experience in international cricket and franchise tournaments around the world is expected to help him adapt quickly to the high-pressure environment of the IPL.

The Kolkata franchise, one of the most successful teams in IPL history, is aiming for a strong campaign in the upcoming season. With a balanced mix of experienced international players and promising domestic talent, KKR hopes to put together a competitive squad capable of challenging for the title.

Fans will now be eager to see how Muzarabani performs in the IPL and whether the Zimbabwean pacer can make an immediate impact for the team during the highly anticipated tournament.

RCB Concerned Over Hazlewood's Fitness Ahead of IPL 2026



Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) are facing a major concern ahead of the upcoming IPL 2026 season as uncertainty surrounds the fitness of their key overseas fast bowler Josh Hazlewood. The Australian pacer, who was bought for ₹12.5 crore, is still recovering from an injury, raising doubts about his availability for the start of the tournament.

Hazlewood has been out of competitive cricket for some time due to recurring injury issues. His participation in the IPL will depend on whether he regains full fitness and receives medical clearance before the tournament begins. The development has put the RCB team management on alert as they prepare for another challenging IPL season.

The tall right-arm pacer has been a crucial part of RCB's bowling unit whenever he has featured for the franchise. Known for his accuracy, consistent line and length, and ability to generate bounce, Hazlewood has often delivered important breakthroughs for the team, particularly during the powerplay overs. His experience in international cricket also adds stability and leadership to the pace attack.

However, persistent injury concerns have created uncertainty over his immediate future. Reports suggest that

Hazlewood has been undergoing rehabilitation after struggling with fitness issues that kept him away from regular cricket. Until he is fully fit and match-ready, RCB cannot be certain about including him in their playing XI.

If the Australian fast bowler fails to recover in time, it could disrupt the franchise's bowling plans for the early phase of the tournament. RCB may have to rely on other overseas options or emerging Indian pacers to fill the gap in the pace department. Such adjustments could affect the balance of the team, especially in the crucial powerplay and death overs where Hazlewood's control and discipline are highly valued.

Despite the concerns, the RCB camp remains hopeful that the experienced pacer will regain fitness before the IPL season begins. His presence would significantly strengthen the team's bowling attack and improve their chances of competing strongly in the tournament.

With IPL 2026 approaching, fans and team management will be closely monitoring updates on Hazlewood's recovery. His availability could play a key role in determining how well RCB performs in the highly competitive T20 league this season.

Run-Out Drama Sparks Controversy in Pakistan-Bangladesh ODI



A major controversy erupted during the second ODI between Pakistan national cricket team and Bangladesh national cricket team after a bizarre run-out dismissal of Salman Ali Agha triggered heated reactions on the field.

The incident occurred in the 39th over of Pakistan's innings when Agha was batting alongside Mohammad Rizwan. Rizwan played a defensive shot back towards the bowler, where Bangladesh captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz moved to collect the ball.

During the follow-through, Miraz collided with Agha near the non-striker's end, causing the ball to drop close to them. At that moment, Agha stepped out of his crease and bent down in an attempt to pick up the ball and return it to the bowler. However, Miraz quickly grabbed the ball and threw it at the stumps at the non-striker's end while Agha was still outside his crease.

The Bangladesh players appealed immediately, and the decision was referred to the third umpire. After reviewing the replay, the umpire ruled Agha run out, sparking visible frustration from the Pakistani batter. Agha, who had scored 64 runs and was involved in a strong partnership with Rizwan, appeared unhappy with the manner of the dismissal before leaving the field.

The incident quickly became a talking point among players, commentators, and fans, as many debated whether the run-out was within the "spirit of cricket." While the dismissal was technically legal under the rules, some felt the situation was unusual because Agha seemed to be attempting to return the ball rather than gain an advantage.

Following the decision, there were tense moments on the field, with Agha exchanging words with Miraz before walking back to the pavilion. The dismissal also disrupted Pakistan's momentum at a crucial stage of the innings.

Despite the controversy, the umpire's ruling stood, and play continued as Bangladesh celebrated a crucial breakthrough. The dramatic moment added extra intensity to an already competitive ODI encounter and sparked widespread discussion across the cricketing world about sportsmanship and match awareness.

The episode is likely to remain one of the most debated incidents from the Pakistan-Bangladesh series, highlighting how split-second decisions and unusual situations can ignite controversy in international cricket.

Supreme Court Relief Clears Ticket Price Hike for Ustaad Bhagat Singh

The makers of Ustaad Bhagat Singh, starring Pawan Kalyan, have received major legal relief as the Supreme Court allowed the possibility of increasing ticket prices ahead of the film's release.

High Court Rule Put on Hold

Earlier, the Telangana High Court had introduced a strict condition stating that any approval for a ticket price hike must be issued at least 90 days before a film's release. This rule created uncertainty for several big-budget movies scheduled for near-term release.

Challenging this requirement, production house Mythri Movie Makers approached the Supreme Court of India. The apex court has now stayed the High Court's directive, allowing authorities to follow the earlier system for approving ticket price increases.

Path Cleared for Price Hike

With the 90-day condition suspended, the film's producers can seek enhanced ticket prices in Telangana as well. Industry observers say this decision



Impact Beyond One Film

effectively removes a major obstacle for the film's commercial rollout.

Reports indicate that higher prices could apply to premium shows and initial screening days, a common practice for major star-driven releases.

Release Amid Massive Expectations

Directed by Harish Shankar, the film is set for a worldwide release on March 19. The project has generated enormous buzz among fans, particularly because it marks another high-profile collaboration involving Pawan Kalyan.

The legal development has further boosted expectations for strong opening-day collections, especially if special shows and higher ticket slabs are approved.

Legal experts note that the Supreme Court's interim decision may influence other upcoming releases as well, since the High Court's rule would otherwise have applied to all films in the state.

Fans Welcome the Decision

Supporters of the star and trade analysts believe the ruling will help the film maximize its box-office potential during its initial run, traditionally the most lucrative period for big releases.

In essence, the court's intervention has removed a key regulatory hurdle, setting the stage for a high-profile and potentially record-breaking theatrical launch.

Telugu Directors' Association Meets Chiranjeevi, Outlines Future Plans

The newly elected executive committee of the Telugu Film Directors' Association met veteran actor Chiranjeevi in a courtesy visit at his residence, marking their first formal interaction after the recent internal elections.

New Leadership Introduced
The association recently conducted elections in which the panel led by V. N. Aditya and Neelam Sai Rajesh secured a decisive victory. Following their win, the newly formed committee visited the Megastar to introduce themselves and seek his guidance.

Discussion on Activities and Future Initiatives

During the meeting, the directors briefed Chiranjeevi on the welfare programs currently being undertaken by the association. They also presented their roadmap for initiatives planned over the next two years, focusing on professional development, industry support, and community



service activities.

Chiranjeevi reportedly showed keen interest in the plans and asked detailed questions about the association's past achievements as well as its upcoming projects.

Felicitation of the Actor

The committee members also

felicitated Chiranjeevi on receiving a prestigious national-level honour recently announced by the Telangana government. The interaction was described as warm and encouraging, with the actor expressing appreciation for the directors' efforts.

As a gesture of goodwill, he

presented pens to the committee members and wished them success in their tenure.

Role of Industry Leaders

Prominent director Meher Ramesh, who serves as treasurer of the association's trust, coordinated the meeting. Members thanked him for facilitating the interaction with one of the most influential figures in Telugu cinema.

Strengthening Industry Ties

Such meetings are seen as important for maintaining unity within the film industry, as senior stars often play a guiding role for professional bodies representing technicians and filmmakers.

Overall, the visit highlighted the association's intent to work closely with industry veterans while pursuing initiatives aimed at supporting directors and strengthening the Telugu film ecosystem.

Allu Aravind Introduces India's Biggest Dolby Vision Screen at Allu Cinemas

Veteran producer Allu Aravind has unveiled what is being described as India's largest Dolby Vision screen at Allu Cinemas, marking a major leap in theatrical movie-watching technology.

Massive Premium Cinema Experience

The new multiplex, located in Kokapet near Hyderabad, features four screens, with the main auditorium housing the giant Dolby Cinema screen. Measuring around 75 feet wide, it is designed to deliver an immersive viewing experience with exceptional brightness, contrast, and clarity.

The flagship hall can seat more than 600 viewers and features stadium-style seating along with interiors engineered to eliminate light interference, ensuring optimal projection quality.



Advanced Dolby Vision and Atmos Technology

The theatre's highlight is its dual 4K laser projection system powered by Dolby Vision technology, capable of producing ultra-vivid colours and deep blacks for lifelike visuals. Complementing the visuals is a studio-grade Dolby Atmos sound system that surrounds the audience with multidimensional audio from all directions.

The auditorium reportedly in-

cludes dozens of speakers strategically placed throughout the hall, creating a fully immersive cinematic environment.

Part of a High-End Multiplex

While Screen 1 offers the flagship Dolby Cinema experience, the remaining screens are also equipped with premium features such as laser projection and advanced sound systems. The complex aims to match international standards for large-

format cinema exhibition.

Inspired by Demand for Giant Screens

Allu Aravind indicated that the project was driven by growing demand for high-quality large-screen experiences, especially for big-budget films. The initiative reflects a broader shift toward premium theatrical formats that offer something beyond standard multiplex viewing.

A Landmark for Hyderabad Moviegoers

Industry observers view the launch as a major milestone for the city's exhibition sector, positioning Hyderabad as a key destination in India for cutting-edge cinema technology.

In essence, the new Dolby Vision auditorium seeks to transform movie-watching into a larger-than-life experience, combining giant visuals, powerful sound, and luxury seating under one roof.

Shah Rukh Khan to Launch Allu Arjun Atlee Movie AA26 Glimpse

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is set to unveil the first glimpse from the much anticipated Tollywood film AA26, starring Allu Arjun and directed by Atlee.

Special Event Planned

A special event has been announced where Shah Rukh Khan will launch the first look or glimpse of AA26. The occasion is expected to be a grand celebration featuring both stars and industry personalities. This collaboration between leading figures from Telugu and Hindi cinema is generating excitement among fans across languages.

AA26: High Expectations

AA26 marks the third collaboration between Allu Arjun and Atlee, following their successful past projects. With a strong production team backing the venture, the film has been one of the most talked about releases



in Tollywood.

Releasing the glimpse through Shah Rukh Khan adds a cross industry promotional boost and is likely aimed at amplifying the film's reach among pan India audiences.

Fans Eager for First Look

Social media buzz around the announcement is intense, with fans eagerly awaiting the glimpse reveal. The involvement of Shah Rukh Khan — one of Indian cinema's biggest stars — is expected to attract even more attention to the film ahead of

its promotional run.

Significance for AA26

Launching the glimpse with Shah Rukh Khan highlights the growing trend of films using high impact promotional tactics to create early buzz. It also underscores the pan Indian appeal that movies like AA26 are aiming for, breaking regional boundaries.

In essence, the event promises to be a major promotional moment for AA26, combining star power, cross industry collaboration, and fan excitement ahead of the film's wider release.

Dhurandhar Re Releases on 500 Screens Ahead of Dhurandhar: The Revenge



The classic Bollywood action thriller Dhurandhar has been re-released on around 500 screens nationwide in anticipation of its upcoming sequel, Dhurandhar: The Revenge.

Classic Returns to Theatres

The re-release brings one of the most iconic films of its era back to cinema halls, allowing both longtime fans and new audiences to experience it on the big screen once again. The expanded release across hundreds of screens highlights the enduring popularity of the original and builds momentum for the sequel's launch.

Sequel Building Anticipation

Titled Dhurandhar: The Revenge, the new chapter is one of the most talked about Bollywood releases this year. Producers and distributors are using the re-release of the original movie strategically to reignite audience interest and set the stage for the sequel's box office performance.

Nostalgia Meets New Audiences

Re-releasing classic films ahead of sequels is increasingly becoming a trend in Indian cinema, allowing fans to revisit memorable scenes and storylines before watching the next instalment. For many, the theatrical return of Dhurandhar is a rare chance to watch it in its original cinematic format.

Box Office Impact

Industry analysts expect that showing the original on a large scale will help reinforce Dhurandhar's cultural impact and boost advance bookings for The Revenge. Early reactions from audiences suggest strong nostalgia and excitement, especially among viewers who remember the film from its first run.

Fan Reactions

Fans have taken to social media to share their excitement, with many planning to attend screenings in large groups. Some have expressed hope that Dhurandhar: The Revenge will match or even surpass the original in terms of action, music, and storytelling.

Strategic Marketing Push

Film trade experts say this re-release acts as a strategic marketing push, serving both as a tribute to a classic and as a promotional tool for the upcoming sequel. The simultaneous buzz around both films is expected to intensify as the release date of The Revenge approaches.

In summary, the re-release of Dhurandhar on 500 screens is setting the stage for a major cinematic moment, blending nostalgia with anticipation for what promises to be one of Bollywood's standout releases of the year.

Actor Rajendra Prasad Apologises for Remarks on MGR



Veteran Telugu actor Rajendra Prasad has issued a public apology after his controversial remarks about legendary Tamil actor-politician M. G. Ramachandran triggered strong backlash.

Controversy Began at Award Function

The incident occurred during an award ceremony in Hyderabad where Rajendra Prasad was honouring veteran Telugu star Kantha Rao. While praising Kantha Rao's popularity and acting prowess, he made a comparison involving MGR that many in the Tamil film industry found disrespectful.

The comments quickly went viral on social media and sparked outrage among fans and artists, particularly in Tamil Nadu, where MGR remains a deeply revered figure both in cinema and politics.

Strong Reaction From Film Fraternity

Several prominent members of the Tamil film industry condemned the remarks and called for an apology. Critics argued that while praising one legend is appropriate, diminishing another iconic personality hurts public sentiment.

Industry bodies and senior actors emphasized MGR's stature not only as a film star but also as a former Chief Minister who continues to command immense respect

Actor Issues Video Apology

Responding to the controversy, Rajendra Prasad released a video message expressing regret. He said his words were spoken casually during his speech and that he never intended to offend anyone.

He stressed that he has long admired MGR and questioned why he would deliberately disrespect such a towering personality. The actor added that if his remarks hurt anyone's feelings, he sincerely apologises and assured that he would be more careful in the future.

Respect for MGR Reaffirmed

Rajendra Prasad also recalled his admiration for MGR dating back to his student days, noting that the late leader had visited film institutes and inspired aspiring actors.

Controversy Gradually Eases

Following the apology, the situation appears to be calming, though the incident highlighted how sensitive discussions involving cultural icons can be.

In essence, what began as an attempt to praise one veteran actor turned into a major cross-industry controversy, prompting Rajendra Prasad to publicly express regret and reaffirm his respect for one of South India's most celebrated figures.

Ram Charan's Peddi to Release in New Dolby Cinema Format

Tollywood star Ram Charan's upcoming movie Peddi is set to hit screens in an upgraded viewing format, incorporating Dolby Cinema technology for a more immersive theatrical experience.

Enhanced Theatre Experience

The film will be shown in Dolby Cinema, a premium format that combines advanced Dolby Vision imaging with Dolby Atmos sound. This pairing delivers brighter colours, deeper contrast, and multidimensional audio — offering audiences a richer, more engaging way to watch big screen entertainment.

This release strategy reflects a growing trend in Indian cinema where filmmakers are choosing premium formats to make their films stand out and attract audiences back to theatres.

Peddi Poised for Big Release

Directed by a noted filmmaker and featuring



a strong ensemble cast alongside Ram Charan, Peddi has been one of the most anticipated Telugu films of the year. The decision to release it in Dolby Cinema underscores confidence in the film's visual scale and storytelling.

The premium format is expected to particularly appeal to fans and cinephiles who prefer enhanced picture quality and top tier sound during their theatre experience.

Significance for Tollywood

Tollywood has increasingly embraced modern cinema technologies to compete with global standards, and Peddi's Dolby Cinema rollout represents another step in that direction. Earlier re-

leases in this format have contributed to strong audience interest, especially for visually rich action and drama films.

Fans Excited for Cinema Upgrade

Social media reaction has reflected excitement among fans, who see the Dolby Cinema release as a value addition to their movie going experience. Many anticipate that the premium format will elevate emotional and action sequences, making Peddi a must watch on the big screen.

In essence, the Dolby Cinema release is expected to both enhance the film's presentation and drive footfall, reinforcing the film's commercial prospects at the box office.