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Telangana Budget Focuses on Welfare and Growth

Hyderabad, March 20 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government on Friday presented a comprehensive budget of ₹3,24,234 crore for the financial year 2026-27, focusing on welfare schemes, infrastructure development, and economic growth. The budget was introduced in the Assembly by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka.



A major highlight of the budget is the allocation of ₹50,713 crore for the implementation of the government's "six guarantees," which formed a key part of its election promises. These schemes are aimed at supporting farmers, women, the elderly, and economically weaker sections of society.

The government has made significant sector-wise allocations to ensure balanced development. The education sector received ₹26,674 crore, reflecting a continued focus on improving academic infrastructure and access to quality education. Agriculture and irrigation sectors were also given priority with sub-

stantial funding, along with allocations for energy, healthcare, and municipal administration.

In addition to welfare programs, the budget emphasizes infrastructure development and long-term economic growth. Capital expenditure has been increased to support major projects, including urban development, road networks, and public utilities. The government aims to create durable assets while boosting employment opportunities.

Several new initiatives were also announced to enhance social security and quality of life. These include expansion of

welfare programs, housing schemes, and measures to strengthen public services. The budget also outlines plans to improve skill development and create more job opportunities for youth.

The government stated that the budget strikes a balance between welfare and development, ensuring that growth benefits all sections of society. It also reiterated its commitment to transforming Telangana into a strong and self-reliant economy in the coming years.

However, the budget has triggered political debate, with opposition leaders raising concerns over the implementation of prom-

ises and allocation priorities. Critics argue that some key assurances related to employment and youth welfare need more attention.

Despite the criticism, the government maintains that the budget reflects its vision of inclusive growth, aiming to uplift vulnerable sections while continuing to invest in infrastructure and development.

Overall, the Telangana Budget 2026 presents a roadmap focused on welfare, development, and economic stability, with an emphasis on delivering benefits to the people and strengthening the state's growth trajectory.

Telangana CM Announces Major Education Overhaul

Hyderabad, March 20 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has announced a comprehensive overhaul of the state's education system, describing it as a "radical reform" aimed at improving learning outcomes and preparing students for future challenges. Speaking at a public event in Hyderabad, he emphasized that the reforms would go beyond traditional funding increases, focusing on structural and systemic changes to ensure a modern, efficient, and inclusive education framework.

The Chief Minister highlighted that the current education model requires modernization to align with global standards and evolving economic needs. According to him, the state aims to create an integrated education system that bridges early childhood education, school-level instruction, and higher education, providing students with continuity and a strong foundation in basic literacy and numeracy. This approach, he said, will also promote critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills essential for the modern workforce.

Among the proposed reforms is the consolidation of intermediate education with school education under a single administrative structure. This change is intended to reduce fragmentation, streamline governance, and provide a more cohesive academic experience for students from early grades through Class 12. By unifying the curriculum and management, the government aims to ensure smoother transitions and better academic continuity across all levels.

The Chief Minister also underscored the importance of incorporating vocational education, coding,

technology, and skill-based learning into the curriculum. He stated that practical skills and early exposure to technology will help students acquire competencies that prepare them for emerging jobs and industries. The reforms will focus on balancing academic knowledge with practical, employable skills to create a workforce ready for the future economy.

Assessment reforms are also a key focus of the overhaul. Revanth Reddy emphasized the introduction of standardized internal evaluations and holistic assessment methods that prioritize understanding over rote memorization. These methods are designed to identify student strengths and weaknesses early, enabling targeted interventions and personalized support to enhance learning outcomes.

Inclusivity remains central to the reform agenda. The Chief Minister stressed that improvements in education quality and access must benefit all students, including those from disadvantaged communities. By ensuring equitable opportunities, the government hopes to empower young learners and foster responsible, well-rounded citizens.

Revanth Reddy's announcement marks a significant shift in Telangana's education policy. By prioritizing structural changes, skill development, and inclusive learning, the state government aims to transform education into a forward-looking system that prepares students for both academic success and social responsibility. The reforms are expected to reshape the educational landscape, benefiting students, parents, and educators alike, while setting a benchmark for other states to follow.

Harish Rao Criticizes Telangana Budget

Hyderabad, March 20 | TPN Bureau

BRS leader and former minister Harish Rao on Friday criticized the Telangana Budget 2026, calling it disappointing and inadequate in addressing the needs of various sections of society.

Speaking to the media after the budget presentation, he said the government had failed to meet the expectations of the public, especially farmers, unemployed youth, and economically weaker sections. He alleged that several welfare promises made during the elections were not supported by sufficient financial allocations in the budget.

Harish Rao expressed concern over the funding for the "six guarantees," stating that the allocation was not enough for their proper implementation. He warned that this



could affect the delivery of benefits to farmers, women, and other vulnerable groups.

He also criticized the lack of relief for pensioners, government employees, and workers in sectors such as RTC and Singareni. According to him, the budget did not adequately address the needs of backward class-

es, minorities, tribal communities, and front-line workers like Anganwadi and ASHA staff.

Raising concerns about the state's economic condition, Harish Rao said key growth indicators were not as strong as projected. He questioned the government's financial management and said there was a gap between

its claims and the actual situation.

The BRS leader further alleged that the government had failed to deliver on its promises related to employment. He pointed out that there was no clear plan for job creation and said the budget lacked concrete measures to tackle unemployment among youth.

He also criticized the limited focus on agriculture and allied sectors, stating that farmers were expecting more substantial support in terms of direct benefits and infrastructure.

Harish Rao said the government was making announcements without proper implementation and called for accountability. He urged the government to revise its priorities and ensure effective use of funds.

Concluding his remarks, he described the budget as lacking direction and stressed the need to focus on welfare, employment, and support for marginalized communities.

His comments have intensified the political debate over the Telangana Budget, with opposition parties questioning its effectiveness while the government continues to defend its approach.

Bandi Sanjay Slams Telangana Government Over Budget

Hyderabad, March 20 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister and BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar strongly criticized the Telangana government over the recently presented state budget, alleging that it reflects poor governance and repeated failures.

Reacting sharply, Bandi Sanjay said the government has "made a hat-trick in ruining Telangana," accusing it of mismanaging finances and failing to deliver on key promises made to the people. He alleged that the budget lacks transparency and does not address the real needs of the state.

The BJP leader criticized the government for what he described as inflated figures and misleading claims. He said that despite presenting a large budget, the allocations do not translate into real benefits for farmers, youth, and economically weaker sections. According to him, several welfare promises remain unfulfilled, raising concerns about implementation.

He also questioned the effective-



ness of the government's major schemes, stating that many announcements are made without proper planning or execution. He alleged that the administration is focusing more on publicity rather than solving ground-level issues faced by the

people.

Bandi Sanjay further accused the government of failing to improve employment opportunities and not providing adequate support to unemployed youth. He said the absence of a clear job creation plan reflects a lack of

seriousness in addressing unemployment.

Highlighting financial concerns, he alleged that the state is facing a rising debt burden and that the budget does not present a clear roadmap for economic stability. He warned that such policies could impact the state's future growth.

The Union Minister also criticized the government's approach to development, stating that key sectors such as agriculture and infrastructure require more attention. He urged the government to focus on public welfare rather than political interests.

Concluding his remarks, Bandi Sanjay demanded accountability from the state government and called for a more realistic and people-focused budget. He said corrective measures are needed to ensure that development benefits reach all sections of society.

His remarks have added to the ongoing political debate over the Telangana Budget, with opposition parties questioning its effectiveness while the government continues to defend its policies.

Revanth Reddy Highlights Futuristic Budget Priorities

Hyderabad, March 20 | TPN Bureau

During a discussion in the Telangana Assembly, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy outlined key highlights of the state's 2026-27 budget, describing it as a "futuristic budget" that balances development and welfare priorities. He emphasized that the allocations were carefully made to strengthen infrastructure, support economic growth, and provide equitable benefits across all sectors and communities.

The CM noted that the budget lays a strong foundation for the state's long-term development, aligning with the Telangana Rising Vision. He highlighted that funding has been distributed across all areas and social groups to ensure inclusive growth, with particular attention to infrastructure, education, and healthcare.

A landmark initiative introduced under this budget is the Indira Family Life Insurance Scheme, the first of its kind in the country. Under this scheme, families are entitled to an insurance cover of ₹5 lakh, benefitting approximately 1.15 crore families across Telangana. The scheme demonstrates the government's commitment to social security and inclusive welfare measures.

In education, the Chief Minister stressed that major reforms have been implemented to improve quality and accessibility. Funds have been prioritized for public healthcare and education initiatives, with measures aligned to the National

Education Policy. A notable step includes the integration of pre-primary to higher secondary education under a single, unified government school system, ensuring students have access to continuous, standardized education in one location.

Transparency in finances was another key focus of the CM's statement. He highlighted that since coming to power, the government has managed state debt responsibly, with total borrowings amounting to ₹3.47 lakh crore. Out of this, ₹3.30 lakh crore has been spent solely to repay interest on loans from the previous administration, ensuring fiscal stability.

To enhance revenue, the Chief Minister emphasized that the government is actively curbing leakages across departments and ensuring the efficient utilization of funds. Efforts are also being made to secure all central funds due to the state.

"This budget is designed not just for immediate welfare, but to ensure sustainable economic growth, strengthen infrastructure, and empower every family in Telangana," CM Revanth Reddy said. His presentation highlighted the government's dual focus on development and social security, signaling a future-ready approach to governance and public service.

The Chief Minister concluded by affirming the government's commitment to equitable progress, stating that the budget reflects a balanced vision of growth, welfare, and transparency for all citizens.

Newly Appointed Government Whips Meet CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, March 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The newly appointed government whips of the Telangana Legislative Assembly and Council paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy today.

The MLAs appointed as government whips—Addanki Dayakar, Balmuru Venkat Narsing Rao, Vemula Veeresham, Yennam Srinivas Reddy, and Vijaya Ramana Rao—met the Chief Minister in a cordial session. During the meeting, Chief Minister Reddy congratulated them on their new responsibilities and extended his best wishes for their roles in maintaining legislative coordination and discipline.

The meeting underscores the government's focus on strengthening



legislative management and fostering cooperation among party members in both Houses.

Revanth Reddy Extends Warm Ramzan Greetings to Muslims

Hyderabad, March 20 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy extended heartfelt greetings to the Muslim community on the occasion of Ramzan (Eid-ul-Fitr), urging them to celebrate the festival with joy and togetherness alongside family, relatives, and friends.

The Chief Minister described Ramzan as a symbol of secularism and communal harmony. He highlighted the spiritual significance of the holy month, noting that the rigorous fasting, disciplined prayers, and charitable acts such as Zakat and Fitra followed by Muslims serve as inspiring examples for all of humanity.

CM Revanth Reddy emphasized Telangana's identity as a state that embodies the "Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb," underlining the government's commitment to the welfare and empowerment of Muslim minorities. He assured that the state administration accords the highest priority to initiatives aimed at the development and upliftment of mi-



nority communities.

Wishing for the prosperity of Telangana, the Chief Minister prayed that all citizens live together in harmony, peace, and happiness. He also invoked Allah's blessings for the well-being of the people, expressing hope that the

festival strengthens social unity and brotherhood across the state.

This message reflects the government's dedication to fostering communal harmony while celebrating religious and cultural diversity in Telangana. CM Revanth Reddy's greetings encourage inclu-

sive participation in festivities and underscore the values of charity, compassion, and civic responsibility during Ramzan.

The occasion serves not only as a religious celebration but also as a reminder of the importance of social solidarity and mutual respect in a multicultural society. By extending these greetings, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his administration's commitment to empowering communities and ensuring that all citizens share in the state's progress and prosperity.

Muslims across Telangana were encouraged to uphold the spirit of Ramzan by observing traditional practices and contributing to the welfare of those in need, reinforcing the festival's role as a beacon of humanity and moral values.

CM Revanth Reddy's message concludes with a call for unity, harmony, and joy, reflecting both the festive spirit of Ramzan and the government's vision of an inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Telangana.

Budget Prioritizes People's Development, Comprehensive Growth: Vakiti Srihari



Hyderabad, March 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Sports, Youth Services, Fisheries, and Industrial Development, Vakiti Srihari, expressed his appreciation for the state government's 2026-27 budget, emphasizing that it reflects public aspirations and serves as a roadmap for comprehensive development. He highlighted that the budget aims to benefit every section of society—from farmers and students to women and youth—combining social justice, welfare, and growth into a unified public-focused plan.

Minister Srihari pointed out that in the past, uneven development had left some segments of society behind. To address this, the current budget has been designed with equitable allocations, prioritizing sectors such as agriculture, education, healthcare, youth employment, and skill development. Special emphasis has been placed on farmer welfare through increased funding, while measures to enhance quality in education and healthcare aim to ensure long-term societal benefits.

The budget also focuses on creating new opportunities for youth employment and skill-building, alongside strengthening infrastructure for sports development. Minister Srihari stressed that empowering women through economic initiatives and providing enhanced resources across all sectors

ensures holistic growth. He noted that the government's approach is based on the principle that sustainable state development is possible only when all sections of society are strengthened and supported.

"By addressing the needs of farmers, students, women, and youth in a balanced manner, this budget is a true people's budget that integrates development, welfare, and social justice," Minister Srihari said. He expressed confidence that the budget would lay a strong foundation for Telangana's future, making the state more resilient and prosperous.

Minister Srihari also extended his gratitude to the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Ministers for allocating substantial funds to critical sectors under his purview, including animal husbandry, sports, and youth services. He reiterated that the government's guiding principle remains "People's development is the goal—Comprehensive Telangana is our direction", underscoring the administration's commitment to advancing inclusive growth and improving the quality of life for all citizens.

The minister concluded by asserting that this budget will not only enhance sectoral performance but also strengthen the state's overall development trajectory, ensuring that Telangana progresses sustainably while empowering its people across all walks of life.

Journalists Criticize State Budget for Neglecting Media Welfare

Hyderabad, March 20 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Working Journalists' Federation (TWJF) has expressed strong dissatisfaction over the recent state budget, highlighting a glaring absence of provisions for journalists and media welfare. Acting President P. Ramchander and State Secretary B. Basavapunayya criticized the government for completely overlooking journalists, the Information Department, and media academy programs in the budget. They emphasized that without dedicated allocations, it is impossible to implement welfare measures for media personnel.

According to TWJF leaders, several pressing issues remain unaddressed. Housing for journalists, accreditation, digital health cards, and welfare benefits for female journalists were completely ignored. Despite repeated requests and promises over the past two years, journalists have yet to receive basic support, including timely extensions, health benefits, or recognition awards. The federation argued that this lack of attention is unfair compared to provisions extended to government employees and other professional groups.



The absence of any mention of awards recognizing outstanding journalists was also criticized. TWJF representatives highlighted that journalists play a key role in communicating government programs, developmental projects, and welfare initiatives to the public. Ignoring their contributions in the budget, they argued, undermines both the profession and public awareness efforts. They emphasized that incentives such as housing, health cards, and awards are crucial for maintaining the morale and professional efficiency of

media personnel. Additionally, the federation pointed out that the budget failed to address promises related to housing in Future City, a commitment previously made to journalists. This omission has caused anxiety and frustration among thousands of journalists across the state, who feel neglected and unsupported despite their ongoing contributions to society. TWJF emphasized that female journalists, in particular, face additional challenges, and their welfare needs were completely omitted from the

budget discussion.

The federation urged the state government to take immediate corrective action to address these gaps. They stressed that acknowledging journalists' contributions through dedicated budgetary allocations is essential not only for their welfare but also for the proper functioning of the media and effective public information dissemination. TWJF also called for the implementation of digital health cards, proper accreditation systems, and housing schemes as a priority to bring journalists at par with other state employees in terms of benefits.

In conclusion, TWJF warned that neglecting journalists in the state budget could demoralize media personnel and hinder their ability to perform their duties effectively. The federation demanded that the government act swiftly to include journalists' welfare in the upcoming revisions, ensuring recognition, support, and security for the thousands of professionals dedicated to serving the public through media. The statement underscores the urgent need for government intervention to rectify long-standing oversights in supporting journalists' welfare.

Minister Tummala Highlights ₹1.09 Lakh Crore Spent on Farmer Welfare in Two Years



Hyderabad, March 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala has highlighted that the state government has invested over ₹1.09 lakh crore in just two years toward farmer welfare, setting a benchmark for the nation. He emphasized that the administration is fulfilling election promises by improving farmers' financial stability and making agriculture profitable, positioning Telangana as a model for farmer-centric governance.

Minister Tummala criticized previous governments for announcing schemes like loan waivers for political gain but failing to implement them effectively, leaving farmers burdened with debt. He noted that earlier administrations caused interest accumulation of ₹2,630 crore (2014-18) and ₹8,515 crore (2018-23). In contrast, the current government waived loans under ₹2 lakh in a single tranche for the first crop cycle, freeing hundreds of thousands of farmer households. The recent Parliament report confirms these efforts.

On the Rythu Bharosa scheme, Tummala pointed out that past governments delayed fund disbursement for months, while the present administration deposited ₹9,000

crore into farmers' accounts within nine days. He also highlighted recovery of central government scheme benefits worth nearly ₹3,000 crore that were previously ignored.

The minister detailed key initiatives, including ₹103 crore for agricultural mechanization, ₹400 crore for the next financial year, ₹375 crore in crop loss compensation, and payment of pending seed subsidies. Soil testing reached 3.5 lakh samples, and procurement of soybean, pulses, and jowar crops continues. Farmer insurance programs have been maintained without disruption.

Infrastructure improvements include ₹316 crore spent to modernize warehouses and market yards, construction of 38 new warehouses to expand storage by 4.53 lakh metric tons, and projects like the Kohed Integrated Market to strengthen long-term agricultural prospects.

Tummala concluded that the current government stands firmly with farmers through tangible results, contrasting with opposition parties that make hollow claims, and said recent elections reflect public acknowledgment of the government's performance.

Ponguleti Pushes for International Standard Disaster Management Training Centre in Telangana



Hyderabad, March 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is taking a significant step toward strengthening its disaster preparedness by planning a state-of-the-art training centre that meets international standards. State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy instructed officials to prepare detailed proposals for establishing the State Institute of Disaster Management (SIDM). The proposals will be reviewed in consultation with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy before final approval.

The initiative aims to provide uniform disaster management training across all government departments, minimizing human and economic losses through scientific approaches. The institute will also serve as a high-level research and policy support centre, enhancing the capacity of district-level authorities to effectively respond to emergencies.

On Friday, Minister Ponguleti chaired a review meeting at his office with representatives from the Disaster Management Department, Fire Services, SDRF, HYDRA, and ICICC. He emphasized that disaster management efforts should not be limited to reactive measures alone but should include proactive preparedness to re-

duce potential damage. "Our vision is to make Telangana a model state in disaster response," he said, urging all departments to work in coordinated synergy.

The government is also investing in modern equipment to respond promptly to floods, fire incidents, and other emergencies. The planned infrastructure includes advanced information systems, real-time monitoring, early warning mechanisms, drones, and high-speed boats to ensure rapid response during critical situations.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Danakishore, Special Chief Secretary for Disaster Management; Vikraman Singh, Director of the Agri & Environment Department; Ranganath, Commissioner of HYDRA; Kamal Hasan Reddy, Director of ICICC; and Sanjay Jain, Additional Director General of the Special Police Battalion, among others.

Minister Ponguleti concluded that SIDM will not only enhance operational readiness but also provide policy guidance and scientific support for disaster mitigation. Once established, it is expected to transform Telangana's disaster management framework and position the state as a national benchmark in efficient emergency response.

Master Plan Launched for Bhadradri Temple Development



Hyderabad, March 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy, has prioritized the development of the revered Sri Sitarama Chandra Swamy Temple in Bhadradri, often called the "Southern Ayodhya." State ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Konda Surekha, Tummala Nageswara Rao, and Vakiti Srihari stated that the government is committed to transforming Bhadradri into an international-level spiritual hub.

On Friday, a meeting was held at Minister Konda Surekha's office at the Secretariat to discuss the master plan for the temple's redevelopment. The ministers said the plan has been designed keeping in mind the temple's 200-year heritage and the sentiments of devotees, following Agama Shastra guidelines. The redevelopment will be executed in three phases to ensure both preservation of tradition and enhanced facilities for pilgrims.

After discussions with CM Revanth Reddy, the master plan was finalized, setting the roadmap for the phased development. Officials were instructed to complete the first phase, including the construction of a Pushkar Ghat, before the start of the Godavari Pushkaralu next year. The government aims to make Bhadradri the largest spiritual hub in Telangana, enhancing both its cultural and religious prominence.

The plan also includes establish-

ing a Tribal Museum in nearby Ramavaram to showcase local heritage. Additionally, development work is proposed for key temples in the region, including the Korivi Veerabhadra Swamy Temple and the Narasimha Swamy Temple in Malluru, which will be given special priority as part of the Godavari Pushkaralu celebrations.

Parliamentary and legislative members, including MP Balaram Naik and MLA Tellam Venkata Rao, participated in the meeting, lending their support to the initiative. The ministers emphasized that the master plan balances infrastructure improvement with the preservation of religious and cultural heritage, ensuring devotees' spiritual experiences are enhanced while attracting tourism to the region.

The government has stated that all redevelopment activities will respect traditional practices and devotee sentiments while providing modern amenities, including better crowd management, improved access, and enhanced facilities for pilgrims. This initiative marks a significant step in positioning Bhadradri as a major spiritual and cultural landmark in Telangana.

By executing the master plan in structured phases, the Telangana government aims to offer a world-class experience for pilgrims, boost regional tourism, and preserve the spiritual sanctity of one of the state's most iconic temples.

Seethakka Hails 2026-27 Budget as People-Centric and Development-Oriented



Hyderabad, March 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka expressed her delight over the 2026-27 state budget, describing it as a comprehensive framework addressing social justice, inclusive growth, and rural development. She said the budget prioritizes welfare for marginalized communities, backward classes, and economically weaker sections, making it a people-friendly and forward-looking plan. Following the budget speech, Minister Seethakka met Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, presenting him with a bouquet and conveying her congratulations. Speaking to the media, she emphasized that the government's substantial allocation to the Panchayat Raj department reflects its commitment to strengthening rural infrastructure and ensuring sustainable village development. The minister highlighted the government's focus on social security, noting the approval of 200,000 new pensions for the elderly, differently-abled, and widows. "This financial support is not merely monetary assistance but a pledge toward a dignified

life for vulnerable groups," she said. Minister Seethakka also praised the expansion of the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme, which will provide coverage to around 1.15 crore families. She explained that the scheme safeguards families against sudden loss of primary income earners, ensuring financial stability and building confidence among lower- and middle-class households. Education received special attention in the budget, she noted, particularly the implementation of a breakfast program for students from pre-primary to intermediate levels. "This initiative will improve student health, attendance, and academic performance while eliminating hunger as a barrier to education for children from underprivileged families," she added. In conclusion, Minister Seethakka said the budget demonstrates a clear understanding of public needs and represents a comprehensive roadmap for welfare and rural development. She expressed confidence that the plan will play a key role in advancing Telangana along a sustainable development path.

TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Speaks on Drugs and Political Issues



Hyderabad, March 20, 2026

TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, addressing the media from Gandhi Bhavan, extended congratulations to the newly appointed Whips and reiterated the party's commitment to transparency, social responsibility, and law enforcement in Telangana. Highlighting recent government initiatives, he emphasized that the state administration has taken a strict stance against drugs, aiming to create a completely drug-free Telangana. Goud revealed that in the latest crackdown, government teams raided multiple locations and apprehended a former BRS MLA and an MP red-handed in drug-related offenses, demonstrating the seriousness with which the state is addressing this menace. He expressed concern that several young leaders, including those from prominent political families, have been implicated in drug-related activities. According to Goud, drugs were discovered at a farmhouse connected to KTR, and one of KTR's close associates reportedly died in Dubai due to excessive drug consumption. Additionally, illegal cockfighting activities were detected at another farmhouse in Pochampally. Goud questioned why BJP leaders had remained silent despite such widespread violations by BRS leaders, suggesting that the two parties may be cooperating in both electoral and non-electoral matters, which could explain the BJP's muted response. Addressing accusations against Backward Classes (BCs), Goud criticized the BJP for making selective comments, noting the party's own history of maneuvering political seats

for leaders like Kishan Reddy and Bandaru Dattatreya, while sidelining BC leaders in strategic ways. He described the BJP's remarks on BC issues as ironic and politically motivated, contrasting them with the Congress government's track record of fulfilling all promises made to BC communities. Goud emphasized that the Congress government is implementing every assurance related to social welfare and development. Regarding drugs, he urged BJP leaders to openly address the ongoing issue and inform citizens about the state's crackdown. He expressed concern that a week had passed since these drug cases came to light, yet there had been no public statements from the opposition, creating a gap in public awareness about law-and-order measures. The TPCC Chief concluded by highlighting the dual approach of the government: actively curbing illegal activities like drugs while ensuring social justice and accountability in politics. He stressed that the crackdown is not only a law enforcement effort but also a message to society that illegal activities, regardless of political affiliation, will not be tolerated. Goud's statements reflect Congress' positioning as proactive and responsible, committed to public safety, transparency, and social welfare, in contrast to the perceived inaction of political rivals in Telangana. This speech reinforced Congress' commitment to a drug-free, accountable, and socially responsible Telangana, while pressing the BJP to respond publicly to ongoing governance and law-and-order issues.

Ponnam Prabhakar Hails 2026-27 Budget as Pro-People and Inclusive

Hyderabad, March 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has expressed his appreciation for the 2026-27 state budget, describing it as a people-centric plan that prioritizes development and welfare, particularly for backward classes and marginalized communities. He credited Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka for presenting a "pro-people" budget with significant allocations for social welfare programs and infrastructure development. Highlighting allocations for the Backward Classes Welfare Department, Prabhakar said the budget proposes ₹12,511 crore, an increase of nearly ₹1,000 crore compared to 2025-26. He noted that within 48 hours of assuming office, the government initiated RTC bus services for women, ensuring safe and convenient travel. Under the Maha Lakshmi Scheme, ₹4,305 crore has been earmarked for 2026-27, and new programs have been launched to ensure equitable access to resources for poor and marginalized communities.



Among the newly announced schemes, the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme will provide ₹5 lakh life insurance to 1.15 crore families across Telangana, irrespective of social or economic status, with a proposed budget allocation of ₹4,000 crore starting June 2, 2026. The government will also introduce 200,000 new pensions under the Cheyutha Scheme for the elderly, differently-abled, and other

vulnerable groups, with a proposed budget of ₹14,861 crore. In education, the budget proposes modernizing government schools with digital facilities, trained teachers, and enhanced transport systems, serving 1,500 students from pre-primary to grade 12 at a proposed cost of ₹500 crore. A new breakfast program for students from pre-primary to intermediate levels will provide nutritious meals three

days a week, complemented by a mid-day meal program for junior college students, with proposed allocations of ₹800 crore and ₹100 crore respectively. The government will also launch a cashless health security program covering 23.51 lakh government employees, pensioners, and dependents, offering treatment for 1,998 diseases across public and 421 private hospitals under the Rajiv Arogyasri Trust. Additionally, a first-of-its-kind comprehensive accident insurance and term life insurance scheme will cover 7.57 lakh employees and pensioners, with a proposed budget of ₹1,056 crore. For youth employment, the CM Overseas Employment Program will provide skill training, visa guidance, and job opportunities abroad in sectors such as healthcare, hospitality, construction, and logistics, with ₹1,056 crore allocated. Minister Prabhakar thanked the Chief Minister and Deputy CM for ensuring that the budget emphasizes welfare and employment for backward and vulnerable communities.

BRS Walkout Disrupts Bhatti Vikramarka's Budget Speech in Telangana Assembly

Hyderabad, March 20, 2026

The Telangana Legislative Assembly witnessed a dramatic disruption on Friday as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka began presenting the 2026-27 state budget. Opposition members from the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) staged a protest inside the House, forcing an early halt to the proceedings and walking out in a show of dissent. The BRS legislators entered the Assembly with symbolic flowers tucked behind their ears, signaling their opposition to what they called the government's "deceptive promises" to the public. As Bhatti Vikramarka detailed the budget proposals, the opposition members rushed toward the Speaker's podium, chanting slogans and demanding immediate answers on key issues, including the status of previously promised guarantees, unemployment allowances, and the government's pledge to provide two lakh jobs. Their vocal protest made it impossible for the budget speech to continue uninterrupted.



Following the disruption, the BRS members staged a walkout from the Assembly and later assembled outside the legislature to voice their grievances publicly. Opposition leaders accused the government of making hollow promises and failing to fulfill key commitments, particularly concerning support for youth, women, and farmers. They criticized the budget allocations as largely symbolic rather than reflecting tangible benefits for the public. Among the key points raised by the BRS legislators was their opposition to the government's announcement regarding financial support for newly married daughters, which they claimed failed to address broader economic challenges. They also emphasized that the budget did not sufficiently cater to unemployment concerns or provide adequate measures to improve livelihoods, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. The protest underscored the heightened political tensions within the Assembly, as the opposition seeks to hold the ruling government accountable for what they perceive as policy gaps. The walkout reflected a continuation

of the ongoing friction between the ruling party and the BRS, with both sides accusing the other of misrepresenting facts and failing to prioritise citizen welfare effectively. Despite the disruption, Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka remained composed and reiterated his commitment to presenting the government's budgetary vision for development, social welfare, and infrastructure growth. Officials noted that the budget includes multiple new schemes targeting marginalized communities, women, and youth, alongside measures for rural development, health, and education, which the government claims are designed to strengthen welfare outcomes across the state. The Assembly session resumed after the opposition's exit, with the Finance Minister continuing to outline budgetary allocations and projected developmental initiatives. However, the BRS walkout highlighted the persistent challenges in maintaining a cooperative legislative environment and the ongoing scrutiny that the government faces regarding its promises and policy priorities.

Ministers Launch "Arrive-Alive" Road Safety Review Under 99-Day Action Plan

Hyderabad, March 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

As part of the Public Governance - Pragati Plan 99-Day Action Plan, Telangana Roads and Buildings Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar led a high-level review meeting on the "Arrive-Alive" road safety initiative at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat on Friday. The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, Transport Commissioner Ilambarti, State DGP Shivadar Reddy, R&B ENCs Mohan Nayak and Jaya Bharati, senior officials from the Transport and Police Departments, and other key personnel. Minister Venkat Reddy highlighted that road safety is not merely a government policy but a collective responsibility to save lives. "Money can be recovered, but lives cannot," he said, citing 2025 national figures from MoRTH: 4.5 lakh road accidents resulting in 1.6 lakh fatalities, with Telangana alone recording 22,441 accidents and 6,221 deaths, averaging 18-20 deaths per day. He noted that 60% of the victims were aged 18-40 and stressed the high risk posed by negligence among heavy vehicle drivers. He called for stricter rules for heavy vehicle operators, stringent enforcement of penalties for reckless driving, overloading, drunk driving, and use of mobile phones while driving. He also



stressed public awareness measures such as mandatory helmet use, proper signage, zebra crossings, and identifying accident-prone "black spots." He cited ongoing work on 17 black spots along the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway and measures to prevent heavy vehicle parking at night. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized local-level initiatives, including forming Village Road Safety Committees with re-

tired teachers, educated residents, and women representatives. Committees are expected to meet monthly, monitor local hazards, and promote 100% helmet use, zero-accident villages, and child safety near schools and colleges. He also proposed awareness campaigns in collaboration with film personalities, enforcement of strict rules for minors, school bus driver checks, and digital campaigns in urban areas

like GHMC. Officials including Special CS Vikas Raj and DGP Shivadar Reddy provided inputs for the six-day Arrive-Alive campaign, scheduled from April 13-18, ensuring coordinated implementation across departments. The program aims to reduce road accidents through a combination of enforcement, public awareness, and infrastructure improvements.

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Road in Ruins Leaves Commuters in Distress

Quthbullapur, March 20 | TPN Bureau

A severely damaged stretch of road between Dulapally and the Substation under Kompally Circle in Quthbullapur has turned daily commuting into a nightmare for motorists, with potholes and dust creating hazardous conditions for travelers and local residents alike.

The BT road, which serves as a crucial link to the Dulapally and Jeedimetla industrial areas, is witnessing heavy vehicular movement every day. However, the road has deteriorated to such an extent that it is now riddled with large potholes, making travel slow, uncomfortable, and risky. Commuters complain that navigating through the stretch has become a daily ordeal, especially during peak hours when traffic congestion worsens due to vehicles slowing down to avoid damage.

Local shopkeepers along the route are also bearing the brunt of the poor road conditions. They say that constant movement of vehicles raises thick clouds of dust, which enter their shops and damage goods. Many traders have expressed concern over declining business and increasing health issues caused by prolonged exposure



to dust.

The situation becomes even more alarming during nighttime. Poor visibility makes it difficult for drivers, particularly two-wheeler riders, to identify potholes in advance. Residents report a rise in minor accidents, attributing them to loose gravel and uneven road surfaces. The absence of proper lighting in some stretches further

adds to the danger.

Locals allege that despite repeated complaints, no significant repair work has been undertaken by the authorities. They stress that the road is vital not only for industrial transport but also for daily commuters, including workers, students, and small business owners.

Motorists and residents are now

urging the concerned officials to take immediate action and carry out necessary repairs. They demand that the road be restored to a safe and motorable condition at the earliest to prevent further inconvenience and potential accidents.

Until then, the battered Dulapally route continues to test the patience and safety of all who depend on it.

Commissioner Cracks Down on Sanitation, Encroachments

Quthbullapur, March 20 | TPN Bureau

In a strong push to improve sanitation and civic management, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Srujana conducted a surprise field inspection in Bahadurpally under Dundigal Circle on Friday morning, focusing on cleanliness, waste management, and illegal encroachments.

During the visit, the Commissioner personally reviewed the ongoing sanitation works in the ward and interacted directly with local residents, shopkeepers, and sanitation workers to understand their concerns. Stressing the importance of maintaining cleanliness, she instructed that dustbins must be placed in front of every shop without exception. She also urged residents not to dump garbage on roads and instead hand over waste to door-to-door collection vehicles.

Taking a strict stance, Srujana warned against the burning of garbage under any circumstances,



citing environmental and health hazards. She directed officials to ensure timely clearance of waste and maintain regular monitoring of sanitation practices across the area.

The Commissioner also focused on the growing issue of footpath encroachments, ordering strict action against violators. She em-

phasized that public pathways must remain free for pedestrians and that unauthorized occupations would not be tolerated. In addition, she instructed authorities to prevent the dumping of construction and demolition (C&D) waste on roads and ensure that such waste is transported to designated recycling plants.

Warning of stringent action against those violating municipal rules, Srujana made it clear that maintaining civic discipline is a shared responsibility. She called upon residents and business owners to cooperate with authorities to keep the locality clean and organized.

The inspection also included a review of the ongoing "99-day action plan" and progress under the Pattana Pragathi programme. The Commissioner directed officials to further strengthen the door-to-door waste collection system and ensure its efficient implementation.

Dundigal Circle Commissioner N. Venkateshwar Naik, Assistant City Planner Srinivas, and other officials and staff participated in the inspection.

The initiative reflects the civic body's renewed focus on sanitation and urban governance, aiming to create a cleaner and healthier environment for residents in Quthbullapur.

BRS Leader Rakesh Extends Help to Auto Driver's Family



Quthbullapur, March 20 | TPN Bureau

In a compassionate gesture, BRS leader Jaligam Rakesh extended financial assistance to an auto driver's family struggling to arrange a marriage due to economic hardships in Chintal.

The beneficiary, Praveen, an auto driver, was reportedly facing severe financial difficulties while trying to organize his sister's wedding. Upon learning about the situation, Rakesh responded promptly and visited the family to offer support. He provided the necessary financial assistance to help them conduct the marriage without further stress.

The timely intervention brought much-needed relief to the family, easing their burden during a crucial time. Local residents appreciated the gesture and praised Rakesh for his generosity and quick response to the needs of the underprivileged.

Residents said such acts of kindness reflect a strong sense of social responsibility and humanity. They noted that supporting families in distress, especially during important life events like marriages, can make a significant difference in their lives.

Many locals also expressed hope that more leaders and individuals would come forward to help those in need, following the example set by Rakesh. They emphasized that community support plays a vital role in addressing the challenges faced by economically weaker sections.

The incident highlights the importance of timely assistance and collective responsibility in building a supportive society, where individuals stand by each other during difficult times.

The family expressed gratitude for the help received and said the support would always be remembered.

State Budget Neglects Education, Says RL Murthy



Hyderabad, March 20 | TPN Bureau

Alleging that the state government has neglected the education sector and failed to address the concerns of unemployed youth, R L Murthy strongly criticized the recently presented state budget during a media conference held at the Arts College of Osmania University on Thursday.

The press meet was organized under the banner of the Unemployed Joint Action Committee (JAC), where Murthy, who is also the state convenor, expressed disappointment over what he described as an "anti-youth budget." He stated that key promises made in the Congress party's election manifesto, including the youth declaration, unemployment allowance, job calendar, and the formation of a youth commission, were ignored.

Murthy pointed out that the government had raised expectations among unemployed youth, who hoped that the budget would allocate funds for a monthly unemployment allowance of ₹4,000 until job opportunities were created. However, he alleged that the budget speech did not even mention the unemployment allowance, leaving many disillusioned.

He further criticized the government for failing to implement the previously announced job calendar and

for not issuing adequate job notifications. According to him, this reflects a lack of commitment to addressing unemployment in the state.

Highlighting budget allocations, Murthy said that out of the total state budget of ₹3,24,234 crore, only ₹26,674 crore (8.22%) was allocated to the education sector. He noted that this falls significantly short of the 15% allocation promised in the party's manifesto and does not even reach 10%, exposing a gap between promises and implementation.

Murthy also questioned the government's claims on job creation. He said that while the government stated it had filled around 67,000 jobs, only about 12,000 were recruited through its own notifications, with the rest stemming from previous government processes.

He added that the announcement of ₹6,000 crore under the Rajiv Yuva Vikas scheme for self-employment loans would benefit only a limited number of people, approximately five lakh, which he said was insufficient given the scale of unemployment.

Murthy demanded that the government revise the budget and allocate at least 30% of funds to the education sector while taking concrete steps to fulfill promises made to youth.

Strict Clean Drive in Kompally, ₹25,000 Fine Warning Issued



O/O DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
KOMPALLY CIRCLE.
GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

మేడ్చల్-మల్కాజ్ గిరి జిల్లా



Quthbullapur, March 20 | TPN Bureau

Authorities in Kompally Circle-56 under Quthbullapur Zone have intensified sanitation measures, warning residents and shopkeepers to strictly follow waste management rules or face heavy penalties, including fines of up to ₹25,000.

Kompally Circle Deputy Commissioner Krishna Reddy directed that all households and commercial establishments must maintain twin bins for waste segregation within their premises. Despite months of awareness campaigns, officials observed that several residents and business owners are still not adhering to proper waste disposal practices.

He emphasized that using damaged bins, trays, or plastic covers for waste collection is unacceptable and urged people to adopt proper methods of segregation. Starting from tomorrow, every household and shop is required to install twin bins without fail.

Shopkeepers have also been instructed to place dustbins in front of their establishments in visible locations for public use. Officials

said this step would help prevent littering and improve overall cleanliness in the area.

Residents and traders were advised to hand over their waste only to designated sanitation vehicles, commonly referred to as Swachh autos. Dumping garbage on roads or in open spaces has been strictly prohibited.

Authorities warned that strict action will be taken against violators, including imposing fines of up to ₹25,000 by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Continuous monitoring will be carried out to ensure compliance with sanitation norms.

In addition to waste management rules, officials also stressed that all shop owners must possess a valid GHMC trade license. Running businesses without proper authorization will invite legal action, they said.

The initiative is part of the municipal body's ongoing efforts to improve sanitation standards and promote responsible waste management practices across Kompally, ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for residents.

Bulldozer Drive Clears 80 Encroachments in Bahadurpally



Quthbullapur, March 20 | TPN Bureau

Authorities of the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation carried out a major anti-encroachment drive in Bahadurpally under Dundigal Circle, removing around 80 illegal structures and restoring free movement on key roads.

The action followed a field visit by Commissioner Srujana, IAS, who inspected the area on Friday morning and issued clear directions to officials to act firmly against encroachments. Acting swiftly on her instructions, municipal teams launched a large-scale operation to clear footpath obstructions along the busy stretch.

Encroachments were removed on both sides of the road from Bahadurpally crossroads to the ward office. The drive targeted small temporary structures, tea stalls, roadside kiosks, and unauthorized signboards that had occupied pedestrian pathways and road margins. In total, nearly 80 encroachments were cleared during the operation.

Officials said the encroachments had been causing significant inconvenience to both pedestrians and motorists by narrowing the road space and creating congestion. With their removal, the road has now become wider and safer, offer-

ing relief to daily commuters and residents of the area.

Local residents welcomed the move, stating that the encroachments had long been a problem, especially during peak hours when traffic movement became difficult. Pedestrians, in particular, faced challenges due to blocked footpaths, often forcing them to walk on the road and risk accidents.

Municipal authorities emphasized that such drives will continue in the future to ensure that public spaces remain free from illegal occupation. They also warned that strict action would be taken against those attempting to re-establish encroachments.

Officials reiterated that maintaining clear roads and footpaths is essential for smooth traffic flow and public safety. They urged vendors and shopkeepers to adhere to civic regulations and avoid unauthorized use of public land.

Dundigal Circle Deputy Commissioner N. Venkateshwar Naik, Assistant City Planner Srinivas, and other staff members participated in the operation.

The successful drive reflects the corporation's commitment to enforcing civic rules and improving urban infrastructure in Quthbullapur.

Municipal Warning Against Roadside Encroachments



Quthbullapur, March 20 | TPN Bureau

Municipal authorities in Quthbullapur have issued a strict warning to shop owners against encroaching on footpaths and roads in the Gajularamaram Circle, stating that goods placed on public pathways will be seized if violations continue.

Officials said they have observed widespread encroachments by shopkeepers, who are occupying footpaths and portions of roads to display goods and conduct business. These activities have been causing significant inconvenience to pedestrians, forcing them onto busy roads and increasing the risk of accidents. In several instances, pedestrians have reportedly suffered injuries due to the lack of safe walking space.

In response to growing complaints, the municipal authorities have decided to take firm action to clear encroachments and restore footpaths for public use. The initiative aims to ensure pedestrian safety and improve traffic flow in the area.

Under the directions of Gajularamaram Deputy Commissioner Sripada Rameshwar, officials launched an

awareness drive using audio announcements to inform shopkeepers about the rules. They instructed all business owners to immediately remove items placed on footpaths and roads and avoid unauthorized occupation of public spaces.

Authorities made it clear that failure to comply with the instructions would lead to strict enforcement measures. With the support of traffic police, officials will seize goods placed on roads and footpaths and take legal action against violators.

The officials emphasized that public spaces are meant for pedestrians and vehicles, not for commercial use. They urged traders to cooperate with the administration and follow civic regulations to avoid penalties.

Town Planning ACP Sumitra, along with town planning staff including Raziuddin, participated in the enforcement and awareness program.

The municipal body reiterated its commitment to maintaining clear and safe pathways, warning that continuous monitoring will be carried out to prevent further encroachments in Quthbullapur.

HYDRAA Chief Urges Group1 Officers to Build Public Trust



Hyderabad, March 21, 2026 | TPN Bureau

HYDRAA Commissioner A. V. Ranganath has called on newly selected Group1 officers to uphold honesty, transparency, and a strong commitment to public welfare, emphasizing the importance of building public trust in government institutions.

Speaking at the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute (MCRHRD) during a training session on Friday, Ranganath underscored the need for officers to distinguish themselves through impactful work that resonates positively with citizens. He highlighted that administrative effectiveness increases when people understand and support government actions, and urged officers to strive for visible results in their respective departments.

Ranganath cited recent improvements in public perception of HYDRAA — the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection Agency — noting that the agency's image has shifted dramatically in a positive direction. He explained that while social media sentiment towards HYDRAA was largely negative in the past, consistent field engagement and successful operations have helped reverse that trend and foster a more favourable public view.

The commissioner said that action matters more than policy pronouncements, stressing that wellcrafted laws and regulations are only effective

when implemented effectively on the ground. He pointed to key achievements by HYDRAA that have contributed to strengthening the agency's credibility, including the removal of encroachments, restoration of urban lakes, and clearing of drainage systems. According to Ranganath, these interventions played a significant role in preventing flooding and waterlogging in Hyderabad during the last monsoon season.

Ranganath also outlined ongoing efforts, noting that three lakes have already been restored successfully and work is underway to reclaim 22 additional water bodies. He encouraged officers to remain accessible to the public and to use grievance redress platforms to understand and address citizens' concerns promptly.

The Commissioner's address aimed to inspire the new cohort of Group1 officers to adopt a citizen-centric approach to governance, emphasizing that positive public engagement and trustworthy service delivery are essential for effective administration.

By urging a focus on public trust, Ranganath sought to reinforce the broader goal of improving governance outcomes and enhancing the quality of public services throughout Telangana. His call to action reflects a push to build stronger bonds between the administration and the communities it serves, paving the way for more responsive and accountable governance.

Osmania University to Host First International Women's Conference

Hyderabad, March 20 | TPN Bureau

Osmania University is set to host its first-ever International Women's Conference from March 24 to 26 at Tagore Auditorium, marking a historic milestone in its 108-year legacy. Vice-Chancellor Kumar Molugaram announced on Thursday.

Addressing a media conference, the Vice-Chancellor said the event aims to promote global innovation through women's empowerment in education and leadership, in line with the vision of "Telangana Rising 2047." He emphasized that the conference is designed not only to enhance academic knowledge but also to transform students into responsible leaders capable of contributing to society.

The conference will focus on aligning academic research with real-world solutions, particularly in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By encouraging interdisciplinary discussions, the event aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice while highlighting the role of women in driving



sustainable development.

The programme is being conducted with financial support from the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and the Telangana State Council of Higher Education. According to organizers, the conference is expected to witness participation from around 1,200 delegates representing various countries and Indian states. Among them, nearly 500 are faculty members

and 700 are students.

A total of around 250 research papers will be presented during the three-day conference, covering a wide range of disciplines including science, technology, social sciences, management, and medicine. The sessions are expected to provide a platform for intellectual exchange and collaborative learning.

Officials said the State Governor is likely to attend the inau-

gural session on March 24 as the chief guest. The conference is expected to bring together academicians, researchers, and students to discuss key issues related to women's empowerment and innovation.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor Kumar Molugaram expressed happiness over the state government's allocation of ₹1,000 crore to Osmania University in the recent budget. He stated that the funds would play a crucial role in strengthening infrastructure and improving academic facilities across the campus.

Praising Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, he said the allocation reflects the government's commitment to higher education. He added that with such support, Osmania University aims to evolve into a globally recognized center of excellence.

The upcoming conference is expected to enhance the university's international profile and reinforce its commitment to academic excellence and women's empowerment.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Reviews SLBC Tunnel Progress, Stresses Safety

Hyderabad, March 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced the resumption of excavation work on the inlet side of the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel, placing the project on fast-track mode. The move follows the recent restart from the outlet (Devarkonda) side and aims to complete what is set to become the world's longest tunnel excavated without intermediate access shafts.

Chairing a high-level review at the Secretariat, Minister Reddy assessed progress on the SLBC tunnel, the Dindi Irrigation Project, and the Achampet branch canal. He instructed officials to strictly follow safety protocols, emphasizing continuous ventilation, monitoring, and deployment of safeguards for workers. "Money can be recovered, lives cannot," he remarked, underlining the project's commitment to worker safety.

Preparatory work on the inlet



side, including a 20-metre open cut and safety installations, has been completed. Earlier, the outlet side resumed operations last month, achieving 20 metres of excavation in the first week using seven successful cycles with advanced tunneling methods, after being stalled for nearly seven years.

The 43.93 km-long SLBC tunnel, part of the Alimineti Mad-

hava Reddy Project (AMRP) initiated in 1983, faces technical and geological challenges, including quartzitic and granitic formations, 15 nalas, and dense forest cover that prevent intermediate shafts. A roof collapse on February 22, 2025, near the inlet side caused flooding, buried a 130-metre-long Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), and claimed eight lives,

prompting a high-level technical review.

Following the review, advanced tunneling methodologies, observational techniques, and scientific monitoring have been adopted. A helicopter-borne VTEM Plus Magnetic Survey by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) mapped subsurface risks over 200 km. A panel of top Indian tunnel and rock mechanics experts, including Lt Gen Harpal Singh and Col Parikshit Mehra, guides the execution.

The government targets tunnel breakthrough by end-2027 and full commissioning by June 2028. Once completed, the SLBC tunnel will enable gravity-flow irrigation of 3 lakh acres and provide safe drinking water to fluoride-affected villages, eliminating Rs 500 crore annual electricity costs of current lift irrigation.

Minister Reddy reiterated 24x7 operations, zero tolerance for delays, and a firm commitment to water security for Telangana's farmers and rural communities.

Demand Raised for Sports Stadium in Gajularamaram



Quthbullapur, March 20 | TPN Bureau

A demand has been raised for the establishment of a sports stadium in Gajularamaram under Quthbullapur mandal, with local leader Akula Satish urging the government to allocate at least 20 acres of land for the purpose.

Satish stated that the proposed stadium should be set up in Survey No. 307, where government land is available. While appreciating the government's efforts to protect public lands, he emphasized the need to utilize a portion of such land to meet the growing requirements of the local population.

According to him, there are around 317 acres of government land in the area, out of which nearly 265 acres have already been allocated to various departments. He pointed out that the remaining land should be earmarked for public use, particularly for the development of sports infrastructure.

Highlighting the lack of adequate sports facilities, Satish said that thousands of residents from Quthbullapur, Pragathi Nagar, Nizampet, and Dundigal are facing difficulties due to the absence of a proper playground or stadium. He noted that the youth in these areas are deprived of op-

portunities to engage in physical activities and sports.

He stressed that establishing a sports stadium is essential for promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and overall development among young people. A dedicated sports facility would not only encourage healthy lifestyles but also help nurture talent and support the growth of sports at the grassroots level.

Satish revealed that he had already submitted a complaint to the Quthbullapur MRO last month regarding the issue. He also submitted a representation to Additional Collector Vijender Reddy, who reportedly assured that the matter would be discussed with the District Collector and an appropriate decision would be taken.

Residents have echoed similar concerns, stating that rapid urbanization in the region has reduced open spaces, making it difficult for youth to find safe and accessible areas for sports and recreation.

The demand for a stadium reflects the increasing need for community infrastructure in expanding urban areas, with locals urging the government to act promptly and allocate land for the proposed facility.

Congress Leaders Thank CM for ₹30 Crore Lake Development in Nacharam



Nacharam, March 20 | TPN Bureau

Congress leaders in Nacharam expressed gratitude to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for allocating ₹30 crore for the development of lakes in Uppal constituency.

The celebrations were held near HMT Lake in Nacharam under the leadership of senior Congress leaders from the HMT division. Party workers burst firecrackers to mark the announcement and welcomed the government's decision to improve water bodies in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, leaders said the funds would be used for the development of Patel Kunta Lake and HMT Nagar Lake, which play an important role in maintaining ecological balance and groundwater levels in the region. They also extended special thanks to Uppal constituency Congress in-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy for his efforts in securing the funds.

The leaders stated that the allocation reflects the government's commitment to urban development and environmental conservation. They expressed confidence that the project

would improve living conditions for residents in Nacharam and nearby areas.

However, the event also witnessed political tension, with Congress leaders criticizing BRS representatives. They alleged that despite the funds being sanctioned through Congress efforts, BRS leaders were attempting to take credit for the development works.

In protest, Congress workers reportedly carried out a symbolic purification of the site using cow urine at the location where BRS leaders had earlier held their event. The act was intended to express their disapproval over what they described as misleading claims by opposition party members.

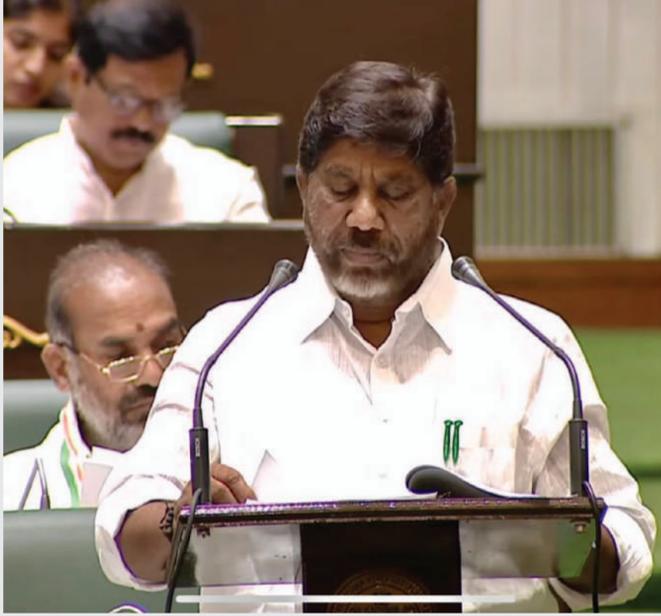
Congress leaders reiterated that development initiatives should be acknowledged transparently and urged political parties to avoid unnecessary disputes over public welfare projects.

The event concluded with party workers reaffirming their support for the government and expressing hope that similar development works would continue across Uppal constituency.

TG Budget 2026–27: Welfare With Vision, Dev With Purpose

Telangana Budget 2026–27 is more than just a financial statement. It is a strong political message, a welfare promise, and a development roadmap for the State. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy & Dy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, this Budget clearly shows that the government wants to balance public welfare, social justice, infrastructure growth, youth empowerment, and financial discipline. In simple terms, this is a people-first Budget. The biggest strength of this Budget is that it places welfare at the centre of governance. It is not just about big announcements. It is about reaching ordinary families, women, farmers, students, youth, employees, and the poor. The government wants people to feel that governance is not limited to offices, but is visible in their daily lives. One of the strongest examples is the Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme. Lakhs of women are using it every day. This is not just a free travel scheme. It is about relief, dignity, and empowerment for women. It has become a symbol of welfare with visible impact.

Another emotional and bold initiative is the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme. The government has announced ₹5 lakh life insurance cover for 1.15 crore families. This sends a powerful social message. It tells people that the State will stand with them even in their hardest times. That is not just welfare - it is compassionate governance. The Indiramma Illu housing scheme is another major pillar of the Budget. Poor families with land will receive ₹5 lakh assistance to build a house. This is not merely a housing programme. It is about self-respect, security, and dignity. For a poor family, a home is not just a building - it is a lifetime dream. If one sector stands out strongly, it is education. The government has given clear importance to the future of children and youth. The plan to establish Young India Integrated Residential Schools in Assembly constituencies is a socially meaningful



idea. It aims to bring together students from SC, ST, BC, Minority, and OC communities under one roof. This is not just a school plan - it is a message of equality and inclusion. The Breakfast Scheme is perhaps one of the most humane decisions in this Budget. From pre-primary to Intermediate, students will receive breakfast. No child should begin the school day hungry. This reflects both compassion and practical governance. Similarly, extending the Midday Meal Scheme to Intermediate students is a progressive step that can reduce dropouts and improve educational continuity.

The Budget also tries to address one of Telangana's most sensitive issues - employment. The government says it has already provided jobs to 67,763 un-

employed youth. Politically, this is a strong message. Administratively, it shows that employment is being treated as a priority. The Rajiv Yuva Vikasam Scheme also signals strong support for self-employment and entrepreneurship. The proposal for Young India Skill University is one of the smartest long-term ideas in the Budget. It shows that the government is thinking not just about government jobs, but also about skills, industry needs, and global opportunities. The health sector also receives meaningful attention. The introduction of a cashless health scheme for government employees and pensioners is a long-awaited reform. This is not just a policy decision; it is a trust-building measure. The expansion of hospitals, additional beds, and digital

health initiatives also suggest that the government is serious about strengthening public healthcare. For farmers, the Budget continues to send a supportive message. Rythu Bharosa remains important, and the incentive for fine variety paddy is a welcome step. But in agriculture, announcements alone are not enough. The real test will be in timely payments, procurement, and delivery at the field level. Farmers trust results, not speeches. Large allocations for irrigation and rural development show that the government understands village priorities. Roads, water, and rural infrastructure are not just development works - they directly affect people's lives. The Budget also strongly reflects social justice, with major allocations for SC, ST, BC, and Minority welfare. These are not side issues; they are central to the government's political and administrative vision. At the same time, the Budget tries to assure the middle class and investors that Telangana remains focused on growth and fiscal responsibility. The government's claim that it has restructured high-interest loans is significant. Welfare is easy to announce, but difficult to sustain without financial discipline. In the end, the Telangana Budget 2026–27 is a welfare-driven, politically sharp, and socially layered Budget. It carries the clear stamp of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's governance style - visible welfare, strong messaging, and long-term ambition. The intention is strong. The direction is clear. The design is impressive. But in the end, delivery will decide its true success.

Sagar Vanaparthi, Policy Analyst. 9100004402.



Cinema, Conflict and Memory: The Haunting Politics of "Dhurandhar" and Kashmir



The world of popular cinema often borrows from history, reshaping real events into stories of heroism, revenge, and national identity. Dhurandhar: The Revenge does precisely that—but beneath its high-octane action and dramatic storytelling lies something far more complex: a reflection of the unresolved trauma and political tensions surrounding Kashmir.

At its core, the film can be read as more than just a fictional spy thriller. It carries the emotional weight of a deeply personal story—one that mirrors the experiences of many displaced Kashmiri Pandits. The protagonist's journey, from loss to transformation, echoes the pain of a community uprooted from its homeland.

The narrative traces the life of a young man whose world collapses due to violence and injustice. His family suffers unimaginable tragedy, and the systems meant to deliver justice fail him. This breakdown of faith—in institutions, in society, and even in the idea of home—becomes the turning point. What follows is not just a quest for revenge but a complete transformation of identity. The protagonist evolves into a weapon, driven by anger and shaped by circumstances beyond his control.

In many ways, this transformation is symbolic. It represents how prolonged conflict can radicalize individuals, turning victims into agents of violence. The personal becomes political, and grief morphs into a larger narrative of nationalism and retribution.

The Kashmir Valley itself emerges as a silent but powerful presence in this story. It is not merely a backdrop but a metaphor—one that stands for loss, longing, and displacement. For those who were forced to leave, Kashmir becomes an idea rather than a place: something remembered, imagined, and mourned, but never fully reclaimed.

The film suggests that even decades later, the wounds remain unhealed. The "ghosts" of Kashmir are not literal, but emotional and psychological—memories of a home that no longer exists in the same way. These ghosts haunt both individuals and the national consciousness, shaping how stories are told and understood.

At the same time, Dhurandhar operates within a broader political framework. It presents a clear narrative of conflict between India and Pakistan, framing the latter as a source of ongoing aggression. However, the film simplifies a deeply complex geopolitical issue into a more straightforward battle between good and evil.

This simplification is both the film's strength and its limitation. On one hand, it makes the story accessible and emotionally compelling. On the other, it risks reducing a multifaceted conflict into a single perspective, leaving little room for nuance.

The portrayal of national security and intelligence agencies further reinforces this viewpoint. Figures modeled on real-life strategists are depicted as decisive and visionary, guiding the nation through turbulent times. Their actions are framed as necessary responses to persistent threats, offering a sense of order in an otherwise chaotic world.

Yet, beneath this narrative of strength lies a deeper unease. The film repeatedly returns to the idea that justice, when delayed or denied, can push individuals toward extreme measures. It raises uncomfortable questions about the cost of such transformation—both for the individual and for society.

Another significant aspect of the film is its engagement with real-world events. References to major incidents of violence and terrorism blur the line between fiction and reality. This blending creates a sense of immediacy, making the story feel grounded and relevant. However, it also complicates the viewer's understanding, as the boundaries between historical fact and cinematic interpretation become increasingly unclear.

This ambiguity is central to the film's impact. By weaving together personal trauma and national history, Dhurandhar invites viewers to reflect on how stories are constructed—and whose stories are being told.

The emotional core of the film lies in its exploration of displacement. For the protagonist, losing his home is not just a physical loss but an existential one. It strips away his sense of identity and belonging, leaving behind a void that can only be filled through action—however destructive that action may be.

This theme resonates strongly with the experiences of Kashmiri Pandits, many of whom continue to live in exile decades after their displacement. The film captures this sense of irreversible change: the idea that even if one returns, the place itself has transformed so profoundly that it no longer feels like home.

At the same time, the film reflects a broader cultural moment in Indian cinema, where stories of nationalism and security have gained prominence. These narratives often emphasize resilience, strength, and the ability to overcome adversity. Dhurandhar fits squarely within this trend, offering a vision of empowerment through action.

However, it also reveals the tension inherent in such storytelling. While it celebrates strength, it is also haunted by loss. While it seeks closure, it acknowledges that some wounds may never fully heal.

Ultimately, Dhurandhar: The Revenge is as much about memory as it is about conflict. It shows how the past continues to shape the present, influencing not just individual lives but collective narratives. The "ghosts" of Kashmir are a reminder that history is never truly behind us—it lingers, resurfacing in stories, emotions, and identities.

The film's power lies in its ability to evoke this lingering presence. It forces viewers to confront uncomfortable truths about violence, displacement, and the narratives we construct to make sense of them. At the same time, it offers a form of catharsis—a way to process complex emotions through the lens of cinema.

In the end, Dhurandhar is not just a story of revenge or patriotism. It is a story of loss, transformation, and the enduring impact of history. It reminds us that while nations may move forward, the echoes of the past continue to shape their journey—often in ways that are difficult to ignore.

Caught Between Wars: How Long Can India Stay Neutral in the Iran–Israel Conflict?



The escalating conflict between Iran and Israel is not a distant war for India—it is a crisis unfolding dangerously close to its strategic, economic, and human interests. As tensions intensify across West Asia, the question is no longer whether India will be affected, but how long it can realistically avoid being drawn into the consequences of "other people's wars."

At the heart of India's foreign policy lies the idea of strategic autonomy—the ability to maintain independent positions without formally aligning with any major power bloc. So far, India has followed a careful and measured approach. It has called for restraint, emphasized diplomacy, and avoided explicitly taking sides. This balancing act allows New Delhi to maintain relationships with both Israel and Iran, two countries that are crucial to its geopolitical and economic interests.

However, this neutrality is increasingly being tested by the scale and proximity of the conflict. The war has already spread beyond a localized confrontation, affecting the wider Gulf region—an area vital to India's energy security and trade routes. The Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of the world's oil supply passes, has become a zone of uncertainty. Any disruption here directly impacts India's access to energy, pushing up prices and threatening economic stability.

Energy is only one part of the equation. India is deeply connected to West Asia through its large diaspora—millions of Indians live and work in Gulf countries. Their safety, livelihoods, and remittances are all at risk if the conflict escalates further. A wider war could lead to evacuations, job losses, and disruptions in the flow of money back to India, which plays a critical role in supporting households and the broader economy.

There is also the question of trade and maritime security. As the conflict edges closer to key shipping lanes, insurance costs rise, routes become riskier, and supply chains face disruptions. India, as a major trading nation, cannot remain insulated from these effects. What may begin as a geopolitical conflict quickly translates into domestic economic stress.

Despite these pressures, India's current stance has been described as pragmatic. By avoiding strong public alignments, it preserves diplomatic flexibility. In a volatile situation, even a single statement can close doors to dialogue or limit future options. India's silence, or measured language, is not necessarily indecision—it is a strategic choice to keep communication channels open with all sides.

Yet, there is a deeper challenge beneath this approach. Strategic autonomy is not just about refusing to take sides; it is about having the capacity to act independently when circumstances demand

it. The current crisis exposes the limits of that autonomy. India's energy dependence on the Middle East and its reliance on global supply chains mean that external events can significantly constrain its choices.

Moreover, global power dynamics complicate the situation further. The United States remains a key partner for India, particularly in areas such as defense and technology. At the same time, India has maintained ties with Iran for energy and regional connectivity projects. Navigating these relationships becomes increasingly difficult in a polarized environment where major powers expect clearer alignments.

The war also raises questions about India's role on the global stage. Can it position itself as a mediator or a voice of balance, or will it remain a cautious observer focused primarily on protecting its own interests? While India has traditionally advocated for dialogue and peaceful resolution, its ability to influence outcomes in such a complex conflict remains limited.

Another dimension to consider is the domestic impact. Rising oil prices, market volatility, and supply disruptions can quickly translate into inflation and economic pressure at home. Global conflicts today have a direct and immediate effect on Indian markets and industries. The longer the war continues, the harder it

becomes for India to shield itself from these ripple effects.

Ultimately, the idea that India can completely avoid the consequences of distant wars is increasingly unrealistic. In a deeply interconnected world, geography offers little protection from global crises. The Iran–Israel conflict demonstrates how quickly regional tensions can evolve into challenges with worldwide implications.

India's strategy, therefore, is not about staying untouched—it is about managing exposure. This involves diversifying energy sources, strengthening diplomatic engagement, safeguarding its diaspora, and preparing for economic shocks. It also requires a clear understanding that neutrality is not a passive stance but an active, constantly negotiated position.

The real test for India lies ahead. As the conflict continues to unfold, maintaining balance will become more difficult. External pressures may grow, choices may narrow, and the costs of staying neutral may rise.

In the end, the question is not whether India can avoid "other people's wars," but whether it can navigate them without compromising its own interests. Strategic autonomy, in this context, is not a fixed principle—it is a challenge that must be continually proven in the face of shifting global realities.

Broken Alliance Revived: Gaurav Gogoi and Akhil Gogoi Reunite Ahead of Assam Polls



In a significant political turnaround ahead of the Assam Assembly elections, the alliance between Congress and the regional party Rajiv Dal has been revived, with leaders Gaurav Gogoi and Akhil Gogoi joining hands once again after earlier disagreements.

The two leaders jointly announced that their parties will contest the upcoming elections together, marking the end of weeks of uncertainty and failed negotiations. The development is being seen as a major boost to opposition unity in the state.

From Breakdown to Breakthrough

The alliance had previously collapsed over seat-sharing disputes, particularly disagreements over key constituencies like Dhing. However, both sides returned to the negotiating table and managed to reach a compro-

mise, signaling a pragmatic approach in the face of a larger political battle.

The renewed partnership was formalised with a seat-sharing agreement. Under this arrangement, Rajiv Dal will contest 11 seats, while two additional constituencies—Gauripur and Goalpara East—will see friendly contests between the two parties.

Symbolic Unity Against BJP

The announcement carried symbolic weight, with both leaders appearing together publicly, exchanging traditional garlands and expressing mutual support. Akhil Gogoi even stated that his party would work towards making Gaurav Gogoi the next Chief Minister, highlighting the seriousness of the alliance.

This unity is aimed at presenting a consolidated opposition front against the ruling BJP-led alliance in Assam. With multiple opposi-

tion parties trying to coordinate strategies, such partnerships are crucial to avoid vote division.

Political Context and Strategy

The alliance is part of a broader opposition grouping in Assam that has been attempting to challenge the BJP's dominance. The Congress-led front had earlier faced setbacks due to internal disagreements and partners walking out over seat-sharing issues.

Rajiv Dal's exit from the alliance earlier this month had weakened the opposition bloc. Its return, therefore, strengthens the coalition's prospects and signals a renewed effort to unify anti-BJP forces ahead of the polls.

The agreement also resolves disputes over key seats like Margherita, where political developments—including a candidate withdrawal—helped clear the

path for consensus.

What It Means Going Forward

The coming elections in Assam are expected to be highly competitive, with both the ruling alliance and opposition blocs fine-tuning their strategies. For the Congress and Rajiv Dal, the revived alliance provides a chance to consolidate votes and present a stronger challenge.

However, the durability of this partnership will depend on how effectively both sides coordinate on the ground and manage remaining differences.

The Bottom Line

The reunion of the two Gogois marks a crucial shift in Assam's political landscape. After a fractured start, the opposition appears to be regrouping—hoping that unity, even if delayed, can translate into electoral gains in the upcoming battle.

“Who Calls the Shots?” MK Stalin Targets EPS Over Delhi Visits for Alliance Talks

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has launched a sharp attack on AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami, questioning his repeated visits to Delhi for alliance negotiations ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Stalin's criticism comes amid reports that Palaniswami has travelled to the national capital multiple times to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah for seat-sharing discussions with the BJP.

Stalin's Sharp Question: Who Is in Control?

Taking a dig at these visits, Stalin questioned whether decisions about Tamil Nadu politics are being made within the state or dictated from Delhi. His remarks suggest that the AIADMK is relying heavily on the BJP leadership for electoral strategy.

He contrasted this with the legacy of former AIADMK leader J. Jayalalitha, who was known for maintaining autonomy and making allies come to Chennai rather than travelling for negotiations.



AIADMK-BJP Alliance Talks Intensify

Palaniswami's Delhi visits are part of ongoing efforts to finalise a seat-sharing arrangement within the BJP-led NDA for the upcoming elections. Other allies, including leaders like T.T.V. Dhinakaran, have also been involved in discussions, indicating that negotiations are in an advanced stage.

The repeated high-level meetings highlight the importance of alliance arithmetic in Tamil Nadu, where multi-party coalitions often determine electoral outcomes.

Political Messaging Ahead of Polls

Stalin's remarks are seen as part of a broader campaign strategy by the ruling DMK to portray the AIADMK as dependent on the BJP. By raising questions about “who calls the shots,” the DMK aims to appeal to regional pride and reinforce its image as a party rooted in Tamil Nadu's autonomy.

On the other hand, the AIAD-

MK is focusing on consolidating opposition forces against the DMK, with its alliance with the BJP expected to play a crucial role in the upcoming contest.

High-Stakes Election Battle

With the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections approaching, political activity has intensified on all fronts. Alliances are being finalised, seat-sharing negotiations are underway, and leaders are sharpening their rhetoric.

The exchange between Stalin and Palaniswami reflects the larger narrative shaping the election—regional autonomy versus national alignment, and the role of central leadership in state politics.

The Bottom Line

Stalin's attack underscores a key political question ahead of the polls: whether Tamil Nadu's political decisions should be made locally or influenced by national alliances. As campaigning heats up, such narratives are likely to play a central role in shaping voter perception and the eventual outcome.

Premium Petrol Price Hiked by ₹2; Regular Fuel Rates Stay Unchanged

State-run oil company Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has increased the price of its premium-grade petrol by ₹2 per litre, while keeping the cost of regular petrol unchanged across the country.

The revised prices came into effect immediately, impacting consumers who use high-octane or “power” petrol variants. These premium fuels are typically preferred by high-performance vehicles and are priced above regular petrol due to their enhanced engine efficiency and additives.

Despite the hike in premium petrol, there has been no change in the price of normal petrol or diesel, offering some relief to the majority of everyday consumers. This selective increase suggests that oil companies are trying to balance rising costs without passing on the full burden to all users.

While the company has not officially specified the exact reason behind the price hike, it is widely believed to be linked to



fluctuations in global crude oil prices and increased logistics costs. Ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly in West Asia, have led to volatility in global oil markets, pushing crude prices higher and affecting fuel pricing strategies.

Interestingly, officials have clarified that there is no disrup-

tion in crude oil supply to India. Authorities have assured that additional cargo shipments are already on the way, and the country's fuel supply position remains stable. Consumers have also been advised not to panic or believe in rumours regarding shortages.

The move highlights how global developments continue to influence domestic fuel pricing, even when supply chains remain intact. Premium fuel prices are often adjusted more flexibly compared to regular petrol, allowing companies to manage costs without triggering widespread public impact.

India remains relatively insulated compared to many other countries, where fuel prices have seen sharper increases due to the same geopolitical tensions. By limiting the hike to premium variants, oil companies appear to be adopting a cautious approach to avoid broader inflationary pressure.

For now, the burden of rising costs is being selectively passed on to a smaller segment of consumers, while the general public continues to benefit from stable petrol and diesel prices.

Overall, the decision reflects a balancing act—managing global cost pressures while maintaining price stability for the majority of users.

LPG Panic Eases, Govt Boosts Production Amid Supply Fears Linked to Iran Crisis



India recently witnessed a surge in panic booking of LPG cylinders due to fears of supply disruption caused by the ongoing conflict in West Asia. However, the government has now reassured citizens that the situation is under control, with increased domestic production and strict action against hoarding.

According to officials from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, panic buying has begun to decline, indicating that public confidence is gradually returning. The initial spike in bookings was driven by concerns over disruptions in LPG imports, especially as tensions escalated around the strategically crucial Strait of Hormuz.

India is heavily dependent on imports for its LPG needs. Around 60% of the country's LPG demand is met through imports, and nearly 90% of these imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz—a key global shipping route now affected by geopolitical tensions.

Due to disruptions in maritime traffic in this region, a significant portion of India's LPG supply chain was impacted, triggering fears of shortages and leading to panic bookings across several cities.

To counter the situation, the government has ramped up domestic production. Officials stated that local LPG output has increased by about 40%, helping stabilise supply and ensuring there is no “dry-out” at retail outlets.

Authorities also took strict measures

against hoarding and black marketing. Over 4,500 raids were conducted to curb illegal storage and ensure fair distribution of cylinders. These steps were aimed at preventing artificial shortages and maintaining steady supply for genuine consumers.

In addition, the government has prioritised LPG supply for households and essential services such as hospitals and educational institutions. Commercial users have been encouraged to switch to alternative fuels where possible, easing pressure on limited supplies.

Officials also clarified that shipping operations are being closely monitored, and Indian vessels and seafarers remain safe despite the evolving situation in West Asia. Efforts are ongoing to ensure smooth movement of fuel shipments and avoid further disruptions.

The government has repeatedly urged citizens to avoid panic booking and only order LPG when needed, emphasizing that unnecessary demand spikes can strain the system and create avoidable shortages.

Overall, while global tensions have temporarily affected supply chains, India's response—boosting domestic production, cracking down on hoarding, and managing demand—appears to be stabilising the situation.

The message from authorities is clear: there is no immediate shortage, and with corrective measures in place, LPG supplies are being managed effectively despite external challenges.

Centre Reviews Crop Damage as Unseasonal Rains Threaten Wheat Output



Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has reviewed the crop situation across the country amid concerns that unseasonal rains and hailstorms could impact wheat production during the crucial harvest period.

The review comes at a time when rabi crops, especially wheat, are nearing harvest in several states, making them highly vulnerable to sudden weather changes. Unseasonal rainfall and hailstorms have already been reported from multiple regions, raising fears of crop damage and potential losses for farmers.

Focus on Crop Loss Assessment
During the meeting, the minister directed officials to carry out a thorough and scientific assessment of crop damage. The aim is to ensure that affected farmers receive timely compensation under crop insurance schemes.

He emphasized that if farmers have suffered losses, the extent of damage must be accurately evaluated so that insurance claims can be processed efficiently and relief can be provided without delays.

Officials have also been instructed to coordinate closely with state governments to identify affected areas, particularly where crops may have been flattened due to heavy rain or hail.

Wheat Output Under Watch
The concern is significant because the government has set a wheat production target of 119 million tonnes for the current rabi season—slightly higher than last year's output.

Any large-scale damage at this stage could affect overall production, especially since wheat is one of India's most important food crops, second only to paddy in terms of area coverage.

Weather Concerns Persist
The situation remains uncertain, with the India Meteorological Department warning of two more western disturbances likely to bring additional rainfall in the coming days. This has prompted the government to remain on alert and issue advisories to farmers to minimise potential losses.

Unseasonal rains at harvest time are particularly damaging, as they can lead to lodging (flattening of crops), grain spoilage, and reduced quality, directly impacting farmers' income.

Government Response
The Centre has assured that it is closely monitoring the situation and will take necessary steps to support farmers. Apart from insurance payouts, state governments can also provide relief through disaster response funds.

The focus, officials say, is on quick assessment, timely compensation, and preventive advisories to reduce further damage.

The Bottom Line
With wheat harvest season underway, the timing of unseasonal rains poses a serious risk. While the government remains confident about overall production, the coming days will be crucial in determining the actual impact on crops—and on farmers' livelihoods.

F-35 Hit by Iranian Fire? What the Incident Reveals About the Limits of Stealth Technology



Reports of a US F-35 stealth fighter jet being hit by suspected Iranian fire during a combat mission have sparked intense debate about one of modern warfare's most advanced technologies—stealth aviation. The incident, though still under investigation, challenges long-held assumptions about the near-invincibility of stealth aircraft.

According to available details, the F-35 was flying over Iranian territory when it was struck, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing at a US base in the Middle East. The pilot survived, and the aircraft was recovered, but the event is significant because it may represent one of the first times such a highly advanced stealth jet has been successfully targeted in an active conflict.

To understand why this matters, it is important to clarify what "stealth" actually means. Contrary to popular belief, stealth aircraft are not invisible. Instead, they are designed to reduce their visibility to radar, infrared sensors, and other detection systems. This is achieved through a combination of shape, materials, and electronic countermeasures that scatter or absorb radar signals, making the aircraft harder to detect and track.

The F-35, one of the most sophisticated fifth-generation fighters in the world, relies heavily on these technologies. Its design minimizes radar reflections, while its onboard systems allow it to detect threats long before being detected itself. In theory, this gives it a decisive advantage in contested airspace.

However, stealth is not absolute—it is relative. Detection becomes possible under certain conditions, especially when advanced air defense systems are used effectively. Modern surface-to-air missile systems, especially when integrated with multiple radar types and tracking methods, can sometimes pick up even low-observable aircraft. This is particularly true if the aircraft is operating in heavily defended airspace or if its flight path becomes predictable.

Another factor is the evolution of "low-tech" counters to "high-tech" systems. Military history has shown that simpler methods—such as coordinated radar networks, infrared tracking, or even visual spotting under the right conditions—can occasionally undermine sophisticated technology. If Iran's air defenses managed to detect and engage the F-35, it could suggest improved integration of such systems.

There is also the possibility that the aircraft was not directly "seen" in the traditional sense but tracked through indirect means. For example, radar operators may identify disturbances in the environment, communication signals, or patterns of movement that hint at the presence of a stealth aircraft. Once a general location is established, missiles can be fired into that area, increasing the chance of a hit.

The incident also highlights the risks involved in operating deep inside enemy territory. Even the most advanced aircraft are vulnerable when flying within range of dense and layered air defense networks. Missions over hostile regions often involve calculated risks, and stealth reduces—but does not eliminate—those risks.

Historically, stealth aircraft have faced similar challenges. During past conflicts, even earlier stealth platforms were occasionally detected or damaged, proving that no technology offers complete protection. The current situation reinforces that lesson in a modern context, involving far more advanced systems on both sides.

For militaries around the world, this event may serve as a reminder that technological superiority must be constantly

updated and complemented with strategy, training, and adaptability. Stealth aircraft remain incredibly powerful tools, but they are not immune to evolving threats.

At the same time, it is important to approach such reports with caution. In wartime, claims from both sides can be exaggerated or used for psychological impact. Iran's assertion that it successfully hit a stealth jet may serve as a morale boost and a signal of strength, while the US has maintained that the incident is still under investigation.

Regardless of the final conclusion, the episode has already sparked a broader discussion about the future of aerial warfare. As detection technologies improve and defenses become more sophisticated, the balance between stealth and counter-stealth continues to evolve.

In the end, the F-35 incident underscores a key reality of modern combat: no system is unbeatable. Even the most advanced machines operate within a dynamic environment where innovation on one side is quickly met with adaptation on the other. Stealth may tilt the odds—but it does not guarantee invisibility or invulnerability.

Iran Officer's Final Warning Before Death: "Missile Surprise Coming for Israel"

In a dramatic development amid the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, a senior Iranian military spokesperson was killed just hours after issuing a bold warning about an impending missile "surprise" for Israel.

According to reports, Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naini, a spokesperson for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), made a defiant statement challenging both the United States and Israel. He dismissed claims that Iran's military capabilities had been weakened and insisted that the country's missile program was stronger than ever.

In his final remarks, Naini openly mocked assertions that Iran could no longer produce ballistic missiles or enrich uranium. He claimed that despite sustained attacks, Iran's defense and missile capabilities had reached their "highest levels," signaling confidence in the country's ability to continue striking its adversaries.

He also hinted at a forthcoming escalation, warning of a "surprise" missile action against Israel. The statement appeared to be part of a broader psychological and strategic messaging effort aimed at projecting strength during an intense phase of the conflict.

However, within hours of making these remarks, Naini was killed in an airstrike attributed to US-Israeli forces. Iran's Revolutionary Guards later confirmed his death, describing it as a "martyrdom" resulting from what they called a "criminal" and "cowardly" attack carried out at dawn.

The timing of his death—so soon after his warning—has added to the already



heightened tensions in the region. It underscores the rapidly evolving and unpredictable nature of the conflict, where senior officials are being directly targeted in precision strikes.

Naini's killing is part of a broader pattern in the ongoing war, where several high-ranking Iranian military and political figures have been eliminated in recent weeks. These targeted strikes are seen as attempts to weaken Iran's command structure and disrupt its strategic operations.

Despite these losses, Iran has continued to project resilience. Officials have repeatedly stated that military production, especially missile development, remains unaffected. The messaging suggests that Tehran is determined to maintain both its operational capabilities and its image of strength, even under sustained

attack. The conflict itself has seen a sharp escalation, with missile strikes, drone attacks, and air raids becoming increasingly frequent. Key infrastructure and strategic sites on both sides have been targeted, raising fears of a wider regional war.

Naini's final statement and subsequent death highlight the high-stakes nature of this confrontation. His warning of a "missile surprise" reflects the ongoing threat of further escalation, while his killing demonstrates the vulnerability of even senior figures in this conflict.

As tensions continue to rise, such incidents are likely to fuel further retaliation, deepening the cycle of violence. The situation remains volatile, with each development bringing the region closer to a broader and more dangerous confrontation.

Iran Strikes Disrupt Qatar's LNG Lifeline: Which Countries Are Hit the Hardest?



Iran's recent attacks on Qatar's key gas infrastructure have sent shockwaves through global energy markets, disrupting one of the world's most critical sources of liquefied natural gas (LNG). The strikes targeted facilities at Ras Laffan—home to the world's largest LNG export hub—causing significant damage and forcing a major reduction in output.

According to emerging details, the attacks have wiped out nearly 17% of Qatar's LNG export capacity, with repairs expected to take years in some cases. This is a major blow, considering Qatar is one of the top LNG exporters globally and supplies a large share of gas to both Asia and Europe.

The disruption is not just local—it has global consequences. Qatar accounts for roughly 20% of the world's LNG supply, meaning any prolonged outage can quickly ripple across international markets. In fact, earlier strikes had already forced the country to halt production temporarily and declare force majeure on shipments, signaling its inability to meet contractual obligations.

Countries Most Affected The impact is being felt most strongly in Asia, which depends heavily on Qatari gas. Nations such as India,

China, Japan, and South Korea are among the biggest importers and are likely to face supply shortages and rising costs.

- India has already seen disruptions, with some sectors facing reduced gas supply due to halted shipments.
- Japan and South Korea, major LNG consumers, may need to turn to alternative sources or tap reserves.
- China, another large buyer, could face increased competition for spot cargoes.

Beyond Asia, several European countries—including Italy and Belgium—are also exposed, especially as they rely on LNG imports to replace reduced Russian gas supplies.

Why This Matters Globally

The strikes highlight how vulnerable global energy systems are to geopolitical conflicts. LNG supply chains are tightly interconnected, and disruptions in one region can quickly lead to:

- Price spikes in gas and electricity
 - Increased inflation in importing countries
 - Industrial slowdowns due to fuel shortages
- Energy markets have al-

ready reacted sharply, with oil and gas prices surging amid fears of prolonged instability.

A Broader Energy Crisis Brewing

The situation is further complicated by tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route for both oil and LNG. Any continued disruption here could choke supply routes entirely, worsening the crisis.

Additionally, the attacks signal a dangerous escalation where energy infrastructure itself has become a direct target in conflict. This raises concerns about the security of similar facilities across the Gulf.

The Bottom Line

Iran's strikes on Qatar's LNG infrastructure are not just another episode in a regional conflict—they represent a major threat to global energy stability. With key exporters hit and major economies dependent on Qatari gas, the effects are already spreading across continents.

If the conflict continues or escalates further, the world could be heading toward a full-scale energy shock—one that affects everything from electricity bills to industrial production and economic growth.

Why Pakistan's Rumoured Ballistic Missile Is Raising Alarm in the US

Recent warnings from US intelligence about Pakistan's missile programme have triggered global attention, especially around reports that Islamabad may be developing long-range ballistic missiles capable of reaching far beyond South Asia. While much of this remains in the realm of assessment and speculation, several key theories explain why this possibility is causing concern in Washington.

1. The ICBM Possibility

The biggest reason for concern is the suggestion that Pakistan could be working toward an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)—a class of weapons capable of striking targets thousands of kilometres away, including the United States.

US intelligence officials have indicated that Pakistan's evolving missile programme "could include" systems with ranges sufficient to reach the American homeland.

If true, this would mark a major shift. Historically, Pakistan's missile capabilities have been designed primarily to counter India. Developing an ICBM would elevate Pakistan into a small group of nations with global strike capability.

2. A Shift Beyond Regional Deterrence

Analysts suggest that Pakistan's missile programme has long been focused on regional deterrence, particularly against India. However, a longer-range system could indicate broader strategic ambitions.

One theory is that such capability might serve as a deterrent against potential US intervention in South Asia, especially during a future India-Pakistan crisis. This would fundamentally change



how Pakistan is viewed in global strategic calculations.

3. Advancing Technology and Missile Evolution

Pakistan has steadily upgraded its missile arsenal over the years—from short-range systems to more sophisticated platforms, including missiles capable of carrying multiple warheads or evading missile defenses.

For example, newer systems are designed with advanced features such as improved accuracy, maneuverability, and the ability to bypass interception systems. These developments suggest a trajectory toward more complex and longer-range capabilities.

The concern is not just about range, but about quality and survivability—how effective these missiles would be against modern defence systems.

4. Possible External Assistance

Another theory often discussed in strategic circles is the possibility of technological collaboration, particularly

with countries like China. While not officially confirmed in this context, past reports and patterns of cooperation have raised questions about whether external support could accelerate Pakistan's missile development.

If such assistance exists, it could shorten the timeline needed to develop long-range systems, making the threat more immediate.

5. Changing Global Threat Perception

The US intelligence community is increasingly viewing missile threats in a broader context. Countries like China, Russia, North Korea, Iran—and now potentially Pakistan—are all seen as part of a growing pool of states advancing long-range strike capabilities.

This cumulative expansion of missile technology worldwide is what worries Washington the most. Even if Pakistan's programme is still in development, it contributes to a larger trend of increasing global missile reach.

6. Pakistan's Response: Defensive Intent

Pakistan, however, has consistently rejected such concerns, maintaining that its missile programme is purely defensive and aimed at ensuring regional stability.

Officials argue that their capabilities are designed to maintain deterrence and are not intended to threaten distant countries like the United States.

The Bottom Line

At present, there is no confirmed evidence that Pakistan possesses an operational missile capable of striking the US. The concern is based on intelligence assessments about what it could develop in the future.

The real issue, therefore, is not an immediate threat—but a potential shift in strategic capability. If Pakistan moves from a regional missile power to one with intercontinental reach, it would significantly alter global security dynamics and force a rethink of deterrence strategies worldwide.

Markets Trim Gains Amid Profit Booking; Nifty Holds Above 23,100, Sensex Ends Higher

Indian stock markets ended the session on a cautious note, with benchmark indices giving up a large part of their early gains due to profit booking. Despite the late pullback, both the Sensex and Nifty managed to close in positive territory, reflecting underlying resilience in the market.

The BSE Sensex closed higher by over 300 points, while the NSE Nifty held firmly above the crucial 23,100 mark. The markets had started the day on a strong footing, supported by value buying after recent declines and improving global cues. However, as the session progressed, investors chose to book profits at higher levels, trimming much of the intraday rally.

The day's movement highlights a cautious sentiment among investors. While there is optimism driven by selective buying, especially after recent corrections, concerns around global factors continue to limit sharp upside momentum.

Sector-wise, gains were seen in IT, metal, and select banking stocks, which helped the indi-



ces stay in the green. Public sector banks and technology stocks attracted buying interest, while some heavyweight stocks saw selling pressure during the latter half of the session.

Market participants are closely watching global developments, particularly geopolitical tensions and their impact

on crude oil prices. Rising oil prices and uncertainty linked to international conflicts have been key factors affecting investor sentiment in recent sessions.

Another important factor influencing the market is the continued outflow of foreign institutional investors (FIIs). Sustained selling by overseas

investors has added volatility and capped gains, even as domestic investors step in to provide support.

The broader market showed mixed trends. While large-cap stocks managed to hold ground, mid-cap and small-cap stocks witnessed some pressure, indicating selective participation rather than a broad-based rally.

Experts believe that the current phase reflects a consolidation period, where markets are trying to find direction after recent sharp swings. Profit booking at higher levels is being seen as a natural reaction, especially after intermittent rallies.

Going forward, investors are expected to remain cautious, tracking global cues, inflation trends, and central bank signals. Any stability in global conditions could support further upside, but near-term volatility is likely to persist.

Overall, the session reflects a balancing act—optimism from bargain buying on one side, and caution due to external risks on the other.

Zomato Raises Platform Fee to ₹14.9 Per Order, Adding to Delivery Costs



Food delivery giant Zomato has increased its platform fee per order to ₹14.9, up from the earlier ₹12.5, according to recent reports. The move is expected to slightly raise the overall cost of ordering food through the app for users across several cities.

The platform fee is a fixed charge applied to every order, separate from delivery charges, restaurant pricing, and taxes.

While the increase may appear modest at first glance, it adds to the cumulative cost that customers pay per order—especially for frequent users.

This is not the first time Zomato has revised its fee structure. The company has been gradually increasing charges over time as part of efforts to improve profitability and offset rising operational costs.

Factors such as fuel prices, delivery logistics, and investments in technology and customer experience have all contributed to the need for higher revenue per order.

The latest hike comes at a time when food delivery platforms are under pressure to balance growth with profitability. After years of offering discounts and absorbing costs to attract users, companies are now focusing on sustainable business models. Increasing platform fees is one way to achieve that without drastically altering menu prices or delivery charges.

For customers, however, the change means higher final bills. Even small increments in platform fees can make a noticeable difference over multiple orders. This has led to mixed reactions, with some users expressing concern over the steadily rising cost of convenience.

Industry experts believe such fee adjustments are part of a broader trend in the food delivery sector. As competition stabilizes and companies move away from aggressive discounting, users are likely to bear a larger share of the actual service cost.

At the same time, platforms like Zomato continue to expand their services and improve delivery efficiency, which they argue justifies the additional charges. Faster deliveries, better app features, and wider restaurant options are often cited as value additions for customers.

The fee hike also reflects changing consumer behavior. With food delivery becoming a regular habit for many urban users, platforms have more room to adjust pricing without significantly impacting demand.

In the long run, such changes could redefine how customers perceive food delivery—shifting it from a heavily subsidized service to a premium convenience.

While the increase may not drastically alter ordering habits immediately, it signals a clear direction: the era of ultra-cheap food delivery is gradually giving way to a more sustainable, cost-driven model.

Rupee at Record Low, RBI Likely to 'Wait and Watch' Instead of Aggressive Intervention

The Indian rupee's sharp fall to a lifetime low has put the spotlight on the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) strategy, with experts suggesting the central bank may now shift to a more cautious "wait-and-watch" approach rather than aggressively defending the currency.

The rupee recently slipped to around ₹93.49 per US dollar, marking its weakest level ever and one of the steepest single-day declines in recent months. This fall comes amid intense global pressures, particularly rising crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

Several factors are driving the currency's weakness:

- Surging crude oil prices: Brent crude has jumped sharply since the Iran-related conflict escalated, significantly increasing India's import bill.
- Global uncertainty: Ongoing geopolitical tensions have increased risk aversion among investors.
- Foreign investor outflows: Large-scale selling by foreign investors has added pressure on the rupee.

India, being a major oil importer, is particularly vulnerable to such shocks. Rising oil prices not only weaken the currency but



also increase inflation and widen the current account deficit.

RBI's Changing Strategy Traditionally, the RBI intervenes in the foreign exchange market—selling dollars to support the rupee and prevent excessive volatility. In fact, reports suggest the central bank may have already sold \$3-4 billion in a single day recently to curb the fall.

However, experts believe the RBI may now allow a gradual depreciation rather than aggressively defending a specific level. The reason is simple: sustained intervention can drain foreign ex-

change reserves and may not be effective if underlying global factors remain adverse.

Instead, the RBI is likely to step in only to smooth volatility, not to stop the rupee's overall downward trend.

Why "Wait and Watch" Makes Sense

Economists argue that the RBI's approach reflects a balancing act:

- Defending the rupee vs controlling inflation: High oil prices push inflation up, limiting policy flexibility.

- Preserving forex reserves: Continuous intervention is costly and unsustainable.
- Letting fundamentals play out: Currency levels often adjust based on global economic conditions.

With crude prices staying elevated and geopolitical tensions ongoing, defending the rupee aggressively could prove ineffective.

Market experts warn that if current conditions persist, the rupee could weaken further—possibly nearing ₹95 per dollar in the near term.

For investors and the broader economy, a weaker rupee means:

- Costlier imports, especially fuel
- Higher inflation
- Pressure on corporate earnings and markets

The Bottom Line

The RBI is not stepping back entirely—but it is becoming more selective. Instead of fighting the trend, the central bank appears ready to manage volatility while allowing the rupee to adjust gradually.

In a volatile global environment, this "wait-and-watch" stance may be less dramatic—but it could prove more sustainable.

IFSCA Tightens Oversight on Intermediaries in GIFT City Over Compliance Gaps

India's financial regulator for international markets, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), has stepped up its scrutiny of capital market intermediaries operating in Gujarat's GIFT City, following instances of non-compliance.

The move comes as GIFT City continues to expand rapidly as a global financial hub, hosting over 200 fund management entities and hundreds of capital market intermediaries. With increasing participation from domestic and international players, the regulator is now focusing on ensuring that growth is matched by strong compliance standards.

Why IFSCA Is Increasing Oversight

IFSCA recently conducted inspections of several intermediaries operating within the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). These inspections reportedly uncovered lapses in regulatory compliance among certain entities. While the regulator did not disclose specific names, the findings were serious enough to prompt stricter monitoring.

The authority has reiterated its commitment to maintaining high regulatory standards "in letter and spirit" and ensuring a transparent and robust financial ecosystem.

This signals a clear message: as GIFT City scales up, compliance expectations will become more



stringent, not relaxed.

What This Means for Market Participants

Capital market intermediaries—including brokers, custodians, and other financial service providers—are now likely to face:

- Closer inspections and audits
- Stricter adherence to reporting and governance norms
- Greater accountability for operational lapses

Entities that fail to meet regulatory requirements could face penalties or restrictions, making compliance a top priority.

Balancing Growth With Regulation

Interestingly, the tighter oversight comes alongside efforts by IFSCA to make GIFT City more attractive for global investors. Recent reforms have aimed at simplifying processes, easing registration, and improving ease of doing business.

However, the latest action highlights that ease of doing business does not mean dilution of rules. Instead, the regulator is trying to strike a balance—encouraging growth while ensuring that the ecosystem remains credible and globally competitive.

A Maturing Financial Hub

GIFT City has positioned itself as India's gateway for offshore financial services, attracting banks, asset managers, and global

institutions. As the ecosystem matures, regulatory vigilance becomes critical to maintaining investor confidence.

The increased oversight reflects this transition—from a growing financial centre to a more mature and tightly regulated one.

The Bottom Line

IFSCA's move is a clear signal that compliance will be non-negotiable in GIFT City. While the financial hub continues to expand and attract global players, the regulator is ensuring that governance standards keep pace with growth.

For intermediaries, the message is simple: scale brings opportunity—but also stricter scrutiny.

Metal Stocks Shine: JSW Steel Leads Rally, Tata Steel Gains on HSBC Upgrade



Metal stocks staged a strong comeback in the market, with the Nifty Metal index rising around 2% and snapping a two-day losing streak. The rally was largely driven by buying interest in steel companies, with JSW Steel emerging as the top gainer on the Nifty.

Shares of JSW Steel climbed over 4%, leading the sectoral surge and reflecting renewed investor confidence in the metals space. Other steel majors also joined the rally, signaling a broader recovery after recent declines.

Among them, Tata Steel posted notable gains, rising around 4-5% during the session. The stock received a boost after global brokerage HSBC raised its price target and reiterated a "buy" rating. The revised target of ₹250 indicates optimism about the company's growth prospects and improving sector fundamentals.

What Drove the Rally?

Several factors contributed to the strong perfor-

mance of metal stocks:

- Brokerage optimism: HSBC's upgrade on Tata Steel reinforced confidence in the sector.
- Rising steel prices: Domestic steel prices have surged in recent months, supported by policy measures like safeguard duties on imports.
- Improving margins: Falling input costs, such as coking coal, are expected to boost profitability for steel producers.

These factors together have created a favorable environment for metal companies, attracting fresh buying interest from investors.

Broader Market Support

The rally in metal stocks also aligned with a positive trend in the broader market. Alongside IT and pharma, the metal sector was among the key contributors to the day's gains, helping

benchmark indices close higher.

Stocks like JSW Steel and Tata Steel were among the top performers on the Nifty, indicating strong sectoral participation in the day's uptrend.

Outlook for the Sector

Market experts believe the outlook for metal stocks remains positive in the near term, supported by rising demand, favorable pricing trends, and policy support. However, they also caution that gains may be gradual, as global uncertainties and valuation concerns could limit sharp upside moves.

The Bottom Line

The latest rally highlights renewed momentum in the metal space, with JSW Steel leading the charge and Tata Steel benefiting from strong brokerage backing. As steel prices remain firm and margins improve, the sector could continue to attract investor interest—making it one to watch in the coming sessions.

Viral Lookalike Clears the Air: "I'm Not Epstein, I'm Just Palm Beach Pete"



A Florida man who recently became an internet sensation due to his uncanny resemblance to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein has finally spoken out, putting an end to widespread online speculation. Known on social media as "Palm Beach Pete," the man found himself at the center of a viral storm after a short video of him driving went viral, with many users claiming Epstein was still alive.

The clip, reportedly filmed on a highway, showed Pete casually driving a convertible while wearing a backward baseball cap. The person recording the video repeatedly suggested that Epstein had been spotted alive, fueling conspiracy theories and sparking millions of views across platforms. The resemblance was striking enough that many viewers were convinced the controversial figure had somehow resurfaced.

However, Pete has firmly denied these claims. In a response video shared online, he introduced himself and addressed the rumors directly, stating clearly that he is not Epstein. He explained that he had no idea he was being filmed at the time and only realized what had happened hours later when his phone was flooded with notifications.

According to him, the sudden at-

ention was overwhelming. What started as a random moment on the road quickly turned into a viral phenomenon, drastically changing his daily life. He revealed that strangers now recognize him in public, often approaching him for photos or questioning his identity.

Pete described the experience as surreal, noting how quickly misinformation can spread online. He expressed surprise at how easily people believed the claims, despite there being no factual basis behind them. The incident highlights the power of social media in amplifying rumors and the speed at which false narratives can gain traction.

The confusion largely stems from Epstein's notoriety and the lingering public fascination surrounding his life and death. Epstein, who died in 2019 while awaiting trial on serious criminal charges, continues to be the subject of numerous conspiracy theories.

In the end, Pete's message is simple: he is just an ordinary individual who happens to resemble a well-known figure. While the internet may have briefly turned him into a viral mystery, he hopes his clarification will finally put the rumors to rest.

"One Month, Endless Chaos": Why March 2026 Feels Like an Entire Year Online



March 2026 has taken over social media conversations, with many users joking that the single month feels as long and eventful as an entire year. From global tensions to academic stress and cultural moments, the sheer volume and pace of events have left people both overwhelmed and amused.

Across platforms, users have been sharing memes and posts highlighting how packed the month has been. Many point out that major developments—ranging from geopolitical conflicts to exam season pressures—have all collided within a short span of time. The combination has created a sense that time is moving unusually fast, while also feeling stretched due to the intensity of daily updates.

One of the biggest contributors to this feeling is the ongoing global uncertainty. News related to international conflicts has dominated headlines, keeping people constantly engaged with serious developments. At the same time, students in many regions are dealing with crucial exams, adding personal stress to an already heavy news cycle.

Social media has amplified this perception. With constant notifications, trending topics, and viral discussions, users are exposed to a nonstop stream

of information. What might have once felt like events spread over several months are now being consumed within days or even hours. This rapid flow of content has made March feel unusually dense and emotionally exhausting for many.

Memes have played a major role in shaping the narrative. Users are humorously comparing March 2026 to a "full year," sharing posts that list everything that has happened so far in the month. Others joke about feeling mentally drained, as if they've already lived through several phases of a year in just a few weeks.

The phenomenon also reflects a broader trend of how people experience time in the digital age. With information constantly at their fingertips, individuals are more aware of global and local events than ever before. This heightened awareness can make periods of intense activity feel longer and more significant.

Ultimately, the online reaction to March 2026 highlights how perception of time is influenced not just by the calendar, but by the volume and impact of events. While the month may only have 31 days, for many on the internet, it already feels like they've lived through much more.

Lost at Birth, Found After 28 Years: Woman Reunites With Biological Family

In a deeply emotional story of separation and reunion, a Chinese woman raised in the Netherlands has finally met her biological parents after nearly three decades. Her journey, marked by loss, uncertainty, and hope, highlights the power of persistence and modern technology in reconnecting families.

The woman, identified as Hong Yangli, was abandoned shortly after birth under tragic circumstances. According to reports, her grandfather, influenced by a preference for a male heir, took the newborn away from her mother under the pretense of caring for her. Instead, he left the infant in a public place in a nearby village, an act that would separate mother and daughter for 28 long years.

Just two days old, the baby was discovered crying by a passerby and taken to a welfare home. She was left with a small amount of money, milk powder, and a note containing her date of birth—clues that would later become crucial in uncovering her identity. Soon after, she was adopted by a Dutch couple and



grew up in the Netherlands, far removed from her origins in China.

Despite having a stable upbringing, questions about her roots remained. As she grew older, the desire to understand her past and find her biological family became stronger. In December 2024, she took a significant step by submitting her DNA to a Chinese database designed to help locate mis-

ing children and reconnect families.

The decision proved life-changing. The DNA match eventually led authorities to her biological parents, who had spent years wondering about the fate of their daughter. Her mother revealed that the day her child was taken away was the last time she saw her, carrying the pain of that loss for decades.

The reunion, when it

finally happened, was filled with overwhelming emotions. After 28 years of separation, mother and daughter were able to meet face-to-face, bridging a gap created by circumstances beyond their control. The moment symbolized closure, healing, and a second chance at building a relationship.

This story sheds light on the lasting impact of cultural pressures and

the consequences of gender bias, while also offering a message of hope. Advances in DNA technology are increasingly helping people uncover long-lost connections, turning what once seemed impossible into reality.

For Hong, the reunion marks not just the end of a long search, but the beginning of a new chapter—one that reconnects her with her past while shaping her future.

"Find Me a Flat, Get Paid": Frustrated Bengaluru Tenant's Unique Offer Goes Viral

A frustrated house-hunter in Bengaluru has caught the internet's attention after making an unusual offer—promising to pay half a month's rent to anyone who helps them find a suitable home. The post, shared on social media, reflects the growing challenges of finding affordable housing in the city's competitive rental market.

The tenant, struggling to secure a 3BHK apartment, took to Reddit with a straightforward yet striking proposal. They offered a financial reward to literally anyone who could connect them with a suitable property, saying they were "super frustrated" after an exhausting search. The requirement was specific: a good 2.5 or 3BHK flat in prime areas such as Koramangala or HSR Layout.

The budget mentioned in the post ranged between ₹45,000 and ₹48,000 per month. However, even with this relatively high budget, the user found it



extremely difficult to find a suitable option in preferred locations. The post quickly gained traction, with many users reacting to both the desperation and creativity behind the offer.

Social media users responded with a mix of sympathy and realism. While some shared potential leads and tried to

help, many pointed out that finding a 3BHK within that budget in these areas is increasingly rare. The discussion highlighted how rising rents and high demand have made house-hunting in Bengaluru a stressful experience for many residents.

The viral post also sparked a broader conversation about the city's

rental crisis. Over the past few years, Bengaluru has seen a sharp rise in housing costs, especially in tech-centric neighborhoods. Many tenants have complained about inflated rents, unusual conditions set by landlords, and limited availability of spacious homes.

This is not an isolated case. Similar viral posts

in the past have shown how renters are often forced to stretch their budgets or compromise on location and amenities. The increasing demand for larger homes, particularly 3BHK apartments, has further pushed prices upward, making them inaccessible for many middle-income tenants.

The tenant's offer, though unconventional, reflects a deeper issue—how difficult it has become to secure a decent home even with a substantial budget. It also shows how social media is increasingly being used as a tool for problem-solving, where users turn to the internet for help beyond traditional brokers and listings.

In the end, the post is both a humorous and telling snapshot of urban life in Bengaluru—where finding the right home can feel like winning a jackpot, and sometimes, even that requires a reward.

"You're Underselling Your City": Mumbaikar Praises Delhi After 14 Years

A lifelong resident of Mumbai has gone viral online after sharing an unexpectedly positive experience of visiting Delhi, saying the capital is far better than people often claim. His remarks have sparked fresh debate in the long-standing rivalry between the two cities.

In a widely shared Reddit post, the traveller revealed that he had visited Delhi after a gap of 14 years and was "humbled" by how much the city had improved. What stood out most to him was the overall infrastructure, which he described as more advanced and well-planned than he had anticipated.

One of the biggest highlights of his visit was the city's metro system. He praised its scale, efficiency, and connectivity, noting that it made commuting significantly easier compared to what he was used to. The metro, in particular, left a strong impression, contributing to his changed perception of the capital.

The visitor also pointed out that Delhi felt cleaner



than expected. While the city often faces criticism for pollution and congestion, he said his personal experience was quite different. He noticed better-maintained public spaces and an overall sense of order that challenged his

earlier assumptions.

Another aspect that surprised him was the weather. Compared to Mumbai's humid climate, Delhi's conditions felt more pleasant during his visit. This added to his overall positive impression and made

his stay more enjoyable.

He also observed differences in how the two cities are structured. According to him, Delhi has a clearer separation between different types of neighborhoods, whereas Mumbai tends to have a more

mixed urban layout. This distinction gave Delhi a more organized feel in his view.

His post quickly gained traction, with many social media users agreeing that Delhi is often unfairly criticized. Others, however, pointed out that experiences can vary depending on the area and time of visit, and that both cities have their own strengths and challenges.

The viral reaction reflects how deeply people identify with their cities, especially when it comes to Mumbai and Delhi—two of India's most iconic urban centers. While Mumbai is known for its fast-paced life and financial importance, Delhi is often associated with its history, political significance, and expanding infrastructure.

In the end, the traveller's message was simple but impactful: sometimes, cities are judged more by reputation than reality. And in his experience, Delhi turned out to be far more impressive than he had imagined.

BCCI Shortlists Core Group for 2027 ODI World Cup: Big Names in Early Plans

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reportedly already begun serious groundwork for the 2027 ODI World Cup, with selectors identifying a preliminary pool of players well in advance. According to reports, around 20 probable players have been shortlisted, marking an early step toward building a strong and balanced squad for the marquee tournament.

This move highlights how determined Indian cricket authorities are to avoid past mistakes and ensure thorough preparation. After falling short in the 2023 ODI World Cup final, the focus has clearly shifted toward long-term planning, with the next edition seen as a major opportunity to reclaim the title.

The shortlisted group is expected to include a mix of experienced stars and emerging talents. Senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are still part of discussions, especially given their continued involvement in the ODI format. However, with both players nearing the latter stages of their careers, the selectors are also closely monitoring younger options who could take on bigger roles in the future.

Reports suggest that performances in upcoming tournaments, especially the IPL 2026 season, will play a crucial role in shaping the final squad. The BCCI and selection committee are expected to track players' form, fitness, and adaptability to



different conditions before narrowing down the list further.

Team management is also believed to be working in alignment with this long-term vision. With the 2027 World Cup set to be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, conditions are expected to be challenging, particularly for subcontinent teams. This makes it essential to identify players who can perform well on bouncy pitches and in unfamiliar environments.

Another key aspect of the plan is increasing India's exposure to ODI cricket. With fewer 50-over

matches being played in recent years due to the rise of T20 leagues, the BCCI is reportedly looking to schedule more ODIs. This will help players gain match practice and build consistency in the format ahead of the global event.

The early identification of probables also allows for better role clarity within the squad. Players can be groomed for specific responsibilities, whether as top-order anchors, middle-order finishers, all-rounders, or specialist bowlers. Such clarity is expected to help the team build

a more cohesive unit by the time the tournament arrives.

Overall, the reported move reflects a proactive and structured approach by the BCCI. Instead of last-minute selections, the board appears focused on creating a well-prepared squad with depth, flexibility, and experience.

While the final team is still far from being decided, the message is clear—India has already begun its mission for the 2027 ODI World Cup, with a roadmap aimed at turning potential into success on the biggest stage.

“Shaadi Ke Agle Din?” Arjun Tendulkar’s Dedication Leaves Rishabh Pant Stunned Ahead of IPL 2026



Young all-rounder Arjun Tendulkar has grabbed attention ahead of IPL 2026—not just for his skills, but for his remarkable commitment to the game, even immediately after his wedding.

During a training session with the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), captain Rishabh Pant was left surprised when he learned about Arjun's dedication. The youngster revealed that he had resumed cricket-related preparations just a day after his wedding, leaving Pant

amused and impressed.

Pant's reaction—“Shaadi ke agle din hi?”—quickly went viral, capturing the light-hearted yet inspiring moment. His response reflected disbelief at Arjun's enthusiasm, as most players would typically take time off after such a major personal event. Instead, Arjun chose to jump straight back into training and preparation for the upcoming season.

This incident has come at a crucial stage in Arjun's career. After limited opportunities

with Mumbai Indians over several seasons, he has now joined LSG, looking for a fresh start and more consistent game time. The move is seen as a significant opportunity for him to prove himself at the highest level of franchise cricket.

What stood out during the training camp was not just his work ethic but also his eagerness to improve. Reports suggest that Arjun has been actively working on his game, including training sessions and guidance from experienced

players and mentors. His willingness to stay focused despite personal commitments highlights his determination to succeed.

Pant, who leads LSG, has already shown support for the youngster. Their interaction during the camp reflected a positive team environment, where senior players are encouraging and guiding emerging talents. Such backing could play a key role in helping Arjun settle into the team and perform under pressure.

Arjun, the son of legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, has often been under the spotlight due to expectations surrounding his surname. However, moments like these show that he is keen on building his own identity through hard work and discipline.

As IPL 2026 approaches, this episode serves as a reminder that success in professional cricket often comes down to commitment and mindset. For Arjun, showing up to train just a day after his wedding sends a strong message about his priorities and ambition.

With a new team, renewed focus, and visible dedication, Arjun Tendulkar will be aiming to make a meaningful impact this season—and if his early efforts are anything to go by, he is determined to make the most of the opportunity.

“He Doesn’t Need to Be Dhoni”: Gautam Gambhir’s Strong Message on Sanju Samson



A resurfaced conversation involving Gautam Gambhir, Shashi Tharoor, and Sanju Samson has once again sparked debate in the cricketing world—this time about comparisons with legends like MS Dhoni.

The discussion dates back to a remark by Tharoor, who recalled meeting a young Sanju Samson when he was just 14 years old. Impressed by his talent even at that early stage, Tharoor had predicted that Samson could one day become the “next MS Dhoni.” It was a statement rooted in admiration, reflecting the expectations placed on promising young cricketers in India.

However, Gambhir had a very different perspective. Responding to Tharoor's comment, he made it clear that Samson did not need to follow in anyone's footsteps. Instead, Gambhir emphasized that Samson should carve out his own identity, famously stating that he would be the “one and only Sanju Samson.”

This viewpoint has gained renewed relevance following Samson's remarkable performances in recent international tournaments. His standout showing in the 2026 T20 World Cup, where he emerged as one of India's key players, has reinforced the idea that he is no longer a prospect living under comparisons, but a star in his own right.

Gambhir's stance also highlights a broader issue in Indian cricket—the tendency to compare every talented wicketkeeper-batter with Dhoni. While

Dhoni's legacy as one of India's greatest captains and finishers remains unmatched, such comparisons can sometimes place unnecessary pressure on emerging players.

For Samson, the journey has not been straightforward. Despite his evident talent, he has faced inconsistent opportunities at the international level. Yet, his recent performances have showcased maturity, composure, and the ability to deliver in high-pressure situations—qualities often associated with Dhoni, but now increasingly recognized as Samson's own strengths.

Tharoor himself later acknowledged Gambhir's point, noting how Samson's growth has validated the belief that he did not need to be “the next Dhoni” to succeed. Instead, he has built his reputation through his unique style of batting and match-winning contributions.

The conversation ultimately reflects a shift in how Indian cricket views its next generation. Rather than searching for replacements for iconic figures, there is a growing recognition of individuality. Players like Samson are now being appreciated for their own skills and impact, rather than being measured against past legends.

In the end, Gambhir's message stands out as both simple and significant: greatness in cricket is not about imitation, but about identity. And for Sanju Samson, that identity is finally taking center stage.

“Doesn’t Even Deserve a Place”: Pakistan Great Slams Shaheen Afridi After Poor Form



Pakistan's premier fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has come under intense criticism after a former captain delivered a blunt and controversial verdict on his recent performances. The remarks have sparked debate over Afridi's place in the national team.

Former Pakistan skipper Rashid Latif did not hold back in his assessment, stating that Afridi “shouldn't even be in the T20I playing XI” given his current form. The strong statement comes after a series of disappointing outings for the left-arm pacer, particularly in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.

Afridi, once considered the backbone of Pakistan's bowling attack, struggled to make an impact during the tournament. His performances lacked consistency, and his economy rate came under scrutiny as Pakistan failed to reach the semi-finals. The team's early exit added to the pressure on senior players, with Afridi becoming one of the main targets of criticism.

Latif also questioned the growing discussions around Afridi's leadership role. After the World Cup setback, there were suggestions that Afridi could be considered for the T20I captaincy. However, Latif dismissed the idea outright, arguing that a player struggling for form should not even be in the starting XI, let alone lead the side.

His remarks reflect a broader concern about Pakistan cricket's recent performances. The team has faced set-

backs not only in global tournaments but also in bilateral series, including a disappointing ODI series loss to Bangladesh. These results have intensified scrutiny on both players and team management.

Afridi's decline has been a talking point for some time. After peaking as one of the most feared fast bowlers in world cricket, injuries and inconsistent performances appear to have affected his rhythm. Experts have pointed out issues such as reduced pace, lack of accuracy, and ineffective death bowling.

Despite the criticism, Afridi remains one of Pakistan's most experienced and high-profile players. His past performances, especially in major tournaments, have established him as a match-winner. However, the current phase of his career has raised questions about whether he can regain his top form.

The debate also highlights a larger issue in Pakistan cricket—the balance between backing experienced players and giving opportunities to younger talent. With increasing competition for places, underperforming players are facing greater pressure than ever before.

Latif's “bombshell” statement may be harsh, but it underscores the urgency for Afridi to rediscover his form. For now, the spotlight remains firmly on him, with fans and experts closely watching how he responds to one of the toughest phases of his career.

“We Have a Schedule”: FIFA Chief Sends Firm Message to Iran Amid World Cup Uncertainty

Amid growing uncertainty over Iran's participation in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, FIFA President Gianni Infantino has delivered a clear and firm message—the tournament will go ahead as planned, with no changes to the schedule.

Speaking after a FIFA Council meeting, Infantino emphasized that the global football body is committed to sticking to the original fixtures. His statement came at a time when Iran had raised concerns about playing matches in the United States due to escalating geopolitical tensions.

“We have a schedule... we want the World Cup to go ahead as scheduled,” Infantino said, underlining FIFA's stance on maintaining stability despite the surrounding controversy.

Iran had reportedly sought to move its group-stage matches from the United States to Mexico, citing security concerns following military tensions involving the US and Israel. However, FIFA rejected the request, making it clear that no adjustments would be made to the already announced match venues.



The Iranian team is currently scheduled to play its group matches in cities like Los Angeles and Seattle as part of the tournament, which will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Despite political pressure and uncertainty, FIFA has reiterated that all teams are expected to participate under the agreed framework.

Infantino also addressed the

broader context, acknowledging the ongoing conflicts but stressing that football cannot resolve geopolitical disputes. He highlighted FIFA's role as a unifying force, stating that the sport should help “build bridges and promote peace” rather than become entangled in political disagreements.

The situation has become increasingly complex, with mixed signals emerging from Iran.

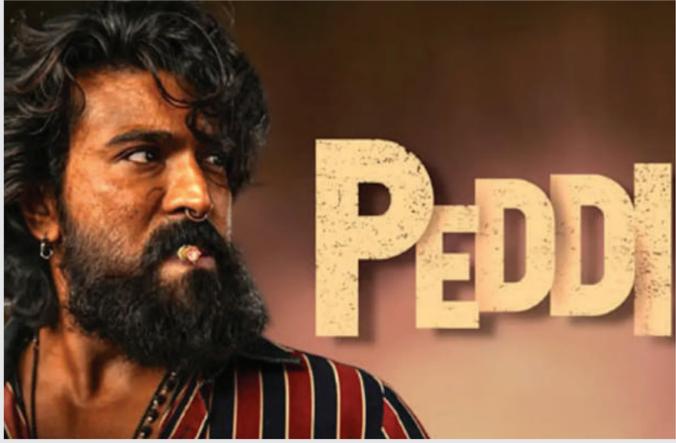
While some officials have questioned participation due to safety concerns, others have indicated a willingness to compete, provided certain conditions are met. This has added to the uncertainty surrounding the team's involvement in the tournament.

Despite these challenges, FIFA has maintained a consistent position—ensuring that the World Cup proceeds without disruption. Infantino's remarks make it clear that the organization is prioritizing continuity and global unity over political complications.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup, set to be the first edition featuring 48 teams, is one of the most anticipated sporting events in history. With preparations already underway across host nations, any major changes would have significant logistical and financial implications.

In the end, Infantino's message sends a strong signal not just to Iran, but to all participating nations: the World Cup will move forward as planned, and football must remain a platform for unity—even in times of global conflict.

Ram Charan's 'Peddi' Faces Fresh Delay Buzz, Fans Await Official Clarity



Speculation is once again swirling around the release of Ram Charan's much-awaited film Peddi, with reports suggesting that the movie may face another postponement. However, there is still no official confirmation from the makers, leaving fans in a state of uncertainty.

Originally planned for release on March 27, 2026, the film was earlier pushed to April 30, 2026 due to pending shooting work and production delays. This initial postponement had already disappointed fans who were expecting the film to coincide with Ram Charan's birthday.

Now, fresh rumours indicate that Peddi might not make the April 30 release date either. Industry buzz suggests that some portions of the shoot and post-production work are still incomplete, prompting discussions about a possible further delay.

Some reports even hint that the film could be pushed to June 2026, although this has not been officially announced yet. The makers are reportedly prioritising quality and are unwilling to rush the film to meet a deadline.

At the same time, there are conflicting reports that the film is still on track. Sources close to the production claim that most of the shooting has already been completed, with only a few

portions—such as a special song and select sequences—remaining. This has created mixed signals, adding to the confusion among fans.

The uncertainty has led to growing curiosity on social media, with fans demanding clarity from the team. Given the high expectations surrounding the film, any delay is being closely watched.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is a rural sports drama featuring Ram Charan in a rugged new avatar. The film also stars Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, along with a strong supporting cast that includes Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and Boman Irani. Music for the film is composed by A. R. Rahman, further adding to the anticipation.

Despite the delay rumours, the buzz around the film remains strong, with songs and promotional content already receiving positive responses.

For now, the situation remains unclear. While speculation about another postponement continues to grow, fans are eagerly waiting for an official announcement from the makers to confirm the final release date.

Until then, Peddi remains one of the most talked-about upcoming films, with its release plans still hanging in the balance.

Abbas Returns to Films After 11 Years with 'Happieraj'



Telugu actor Aadi Sai Kumar is set to expand his career by making his debut in Tamil cinema with his upcoming film Ego Raja. This project marks a significant milestone for the actor, as it will be his first straight Tamil film. Interestingly, the movie is being made as a bilingual in both Telugu and Tamil, allowing it to reach a broader audience across the South Indian film industry.

The film is being produced by G. Suresh under the SGS Productions banner and directed by Guru Saravanan. The director, who has previously worked with well-known filmmakers, is aiming to deliver a strong commercial entertainer with this project. Ego Raja is expected to showcase a mix of action, drama, and mass appeal elements that cater to fans of mainstream cinema.

The makers officially announced the film on the occasion of Ugadi by unveiling its title and releasing the first-look poster. The poster has already generated considerable buzz among fans and movie enthusiasts. In the first look, Aadi Sai Kumar appears in a rugged and intense avatar. He is seen surrounded by rowdies, with injuries and blood marks visible on his body, while holding a cigar.

rette. His fierce expression and aggressive body language hint at a powerful, action-packed storyline.

Tamil actor Sathish plays a key role in the film alongside Aadi Sai Kumar, adding further interest to the project. The film also features a strong technical team. Cinematographer Manoj Paramahansa is handling the visuals, promising high-quality cinematography, while music composer Ghibran is in charge of the soundtrack, which is expected to enhance the film's overall impact.

Following the success of his recent film Shambhala, Aadi Sai Kumar appears to be on a positive trajectory in his career. With Ego Raja, he is not only experimenting with a new style of storytelling but also entering a new industry, which could significantly expand his reach and popularity.

The film is currently under production, and shooting is progressing steadily. The makers are expected to announce more details, including the release date, in the near future. With its strong cast, experienced crew, and action-driven narrative, Ego Raja is shaping up to be an exciting and important project in Aadi Sai Kumar's career.

Chiranjeevi Plans Nationwide Free Education Drive Inspired by Suriya

Megastar Chiranjeevi has announced an ambitious new social initiative aimed at providing free education to underprivileged students, drawing inspiration from Suriya. The move has received widespread appreciation, highlighting his continued commitment to social welfare beyond cinema.

The initiative was revealed during a special Ugadi event, where Chiranjeevi spoke about expanding his philanthropic efforts into the education sector. Having spent over two decades focusing on healthcare initiatives through his charitable trust—including blood and eye banks—he now plans to address the challenges faced by economically weaker students in accessing quality education.

Chiranjeevi acknowledged that his decision was influenced by Suriya's educational initiatives, which have helped thousands of students pursue studies and build better futures. Interestingly, he noted that while Suriya was once inspired by his own social service efforts, he is now drawing inspiration in return to launch this educational mission.

The actor emphasized that his goal extends beyond the Telugu states. He aims to take this



initiative nationwide, ensuring that deserving students across India are not deprived of opportunities due to financial constraints.

While detailed plans regarding the structure and execution are yet to be officially announced, Chiranjeevi assured that a comprehensive roadmap is currently being prepared. The program is expected to focus on enabling access to education, possibly through finan-

cial support, institutional partnerships, or direct assistance to students in need.

This initiative adds another chapter to Chiranjeevi's long-standing legacy of humanitarian work. Over the years, his charitable efforts have played a significant role during medical emergencies and crises, earning him immense respect among fans and the public.

The announcement has been widely welcomed, with many

viewing it as a meaningful step toward reducing educational inequality. By leveraging his influence and resources, Chiranjeevi's initiative has the potential to positively impact thousands of lives across the country.

With this move, Chiranjeevi once again reinforces his image not just as a superstar, but as a socially responsible figure dedicated to bringing about real change.

Aadi Sai Kumar Makes Tamil Debut with Action Entertainer Ego Raja

Telugu actor Aadi Sai Kumar is set to expand his career by making his debut in Tamil cinema with his upcoming film Ego Raja. This project marks a significant milestone for the actor, as it will be his first straight Tamil film. Interestingly, the movie is being made as a bilingual in both Telugu and Tamil, allowing it to reach a broader audience across the South Indian film industry.

The film is being produced by G. Suresh under the SGS Productions banner and directed by Guru Saravanan. The director, who has previously worked with well-known filmmakers, is aiming to deliver a strong commercial entertainer with this project. Ego Raja is expected to showcase a mix of action, drama, and mass appeal elements that cater to fans of mainstream cinema.

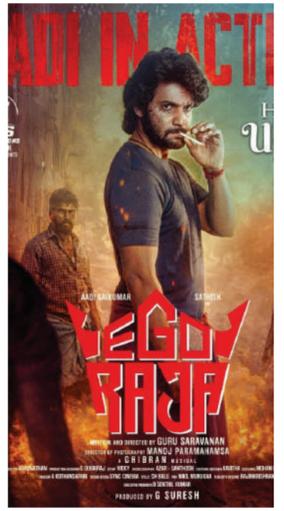
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"Dhurandhar: The Revenge" Wins Big Applause from Film Fraternity



Dhurandhar: The Revenge has emerged as one of the most talked-about releases of the year, receiving massive appreciation from both audiences and celebrities soon after its debut. The spy action thriller, directed by Aditya Dhar, began with paid previews on March 18 and hit theatres on March 19, quickly creating a strong buzz across the industry.

Several prominent stars from Bollywood and the South film industries watched the film early and took to social media to express their admiration. Among them, Jr NTR described the film as a "storm" that has arrived for Indian audiences. He particularly praised R. Madhavan, noting that the actor dominated every frame with his powerful screen presence. NTR also appreciated the performances of Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, and Akshay Khanna, highlighting their impactful contributions to the film.

Joining the chorus of praise, Mahesh Babu called the film an "explosive cinematic experience executed with precision." He lauded Ranveer Singh for

delivering one of his finest performances and commended Aditya Dhar's vision in crafting a film of such scale and intensity. Mahesh Babu also singled out R. Madhavan's role as a standout and appreciated the background score by Shashwat Sachdev, stating that the film is best experienced on the big screen.

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma offered his own unique take, describing the film as a "horror for filmmakers." His remark suggested that the film sets such a high benchmark in storytelling and execution that it could intimidate others in the industry.

With strong word-of-mouth and glowing endorsements from top names, Dhurandhar: The Revenge has not only made a mark at the box office but also earned the respect of the film fraternity. The overwhelming response indicates that the film has struck the right chord, combining scale, performances, and storytelling into a cinematic experience that continues to resonate with audiences and critics alike.

Vijay Sethupathi, Sai Pallavi to Share Screen for First Time in Mani Ratnam's 'Onava'



In an exciting development for South Indian cinema, Vijay Sethupathi and Sai Pallavi are set to team up for the first time in an upcoming film directed by legendary filmmaker Mani Ratnam. The project, tentatively titled Onava, has already created significant buzz among fans and industry circles.

This collaboration is particularly special as it marks Sai Pallavi's first-ever association with Mani Ratnam. At the same time, it will also be the first on-screen pairing of Vijay Sethupathi and Sai Pallavi, making the film a fresh and highly anticipated combination.

For Vijay Sethupathi, the film will be a reunion with Mani Ratnam after their earlier collaboration in Chekka Chivantha Vaanam. However, this new project is expected to be very different in tone and storytelling, raising curiosity about what the filmmaker has planned this time.

The film is expected to be produced jointly by Mani Ratnam's Madras Talkies and Lyca Productions, continuing their association after previous successful

ventures. Adding to the excitement, Oscar-winning composer A. R. Rahman is likely to be part of the project, which further elevates expectations.

While the makers have not officially revealed the storyline, industry buzz suggests that the film could be a romantic or emotional drama, a genre Mani Ratnam is well known for. The combination of Vijay Sethupathi's versatility and Sai Pallavi's natural screen presence is expected to bring strong emotional depth to the narrative.

The announcement has already generated excitement among fans, as both actors are known for their powerful performances and unique script choices. Their pairing, under the direction of Mani Ratnam, is being seen as one of the most promising collaborations in recent times.

With shooting expected to begin soon, Onava is shaping up to be a major project to watch out for. If the early buzz holds true, this fresh pairing and experienced direction could deliver a memorable cinematic experience.