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## Are Temple Assets Safe? A Growing Concern in Andhra Pradesh



Temples have always been symbols of faith, devotion, and spiritual peace. For most devotees, visiting a temple is a simple and sacred act — offering prayers, making donations, and returning home with a sense of satisfaction and hope. However, beyond this spiritual experience, there lies a complex and often overlooked reality regarding the management and safety of temple assets.

In Andhra Pradesh, temples are not just religious centers but also custodians of vast resources, including land, buildings, and other forms of wealth. Reports suggest that there are over 27,000 temples in the state, out of which nearly 4,000 are considered major temples. Collectively, these temples own approximately 4.65 lakh acres of land. However, a significant portion of this land — around 87,000 acres — is reportedly under encroachment. Additionally, nearly 50,000 acres are said to be lying unused, raising serious concerns about asset management and utilization.

Apart from land, temples under the Endowments Department reportedly include thousands of shops, buildings, and marriage halls. These assets are expected to generate substantial revenue for temple maintenance and development. Some estimates suggest that the department earns around 210 crore annually. However, the lack of transparent and officially verified data creates uncertainty about the accuracy of these figures and whether the revenue is being properly accounted for.

The issue becomes more concerning when questions arise about oversight and accountability. While systems and administrative bodies are in place to monitor temple assets, it remains unclear how effectively they function. There is limited public awareness about whether proper audits are conducted, whether encroachments are being addressed, or whether temple properties are

being utilized in a way that benefits devotees and preserves cultural heritage.

Another important aspect is the trust of devotees. When people donate money or resources to temples, they believe their contributions will be used for religious and social purposes. Any mismanagement or lack of transparency can weaken this trust and create dissatisfaction among the public.

Highlighting these concerns, a leader from the Vishva Hindu Parishad in Krishna district, Dr. Buragadda Srinath, filed an application under the Right to Information (RTI) Act seeking detailed data from the government. His request includes information about temple assets, their usage, revenue generation, and the extent of government oversight. He also raised questions about the payment of salaries to temple priests by the government, as well as financial support provided to religious figures of other communities, such as pastors and imams. His demand emphasizes the need for clarity on the criteria used for allocating public funds.

In response to these growing concerns, organizations like the Vishva Hindu Parishad are reportedly planning to initiate large-scale movements to protect temple properties across Andhra Pradesh. Their aim is to bring attention to the current state of temples and ensure better governance and accountability, irrespective of which political party is in power.

In conclusion, while temples continue to be centers of faith and devotion, the safety and management of their assets require serious attention. Transparency, proper monitoring, and responsible administration are essential to safeguard these valuable resources. Only then can temples truly serve their purpose — not just as places of worship, but also as institutions that uphold trust, culture, and community welfare.

To  
The Chief Secretary  
Government of Andhra Pradesh  
Secretariat, Velagapudi  
Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh  
Subject: Request for information under the Right to Information Act, 2005

Respected Sir/Madam,  
Under the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005, I kindly request the following information regarding the administration of temples and religious institutions under the Endowments Department of Andhra Pradesh.

### Information Requested

1.	Total number of Hindu temples currently under the control of the Endowments Department of Andhra Pradesh.
2.	Total extent of land (in acres) belonging to temples under the Endowments Department.
3.	Total amount of funds held as bank deposits by temples under the Endowments Department.
4.	Total number of employees working under the Endowments Department.
5.	Total annual revenue generated by the Endowments Department in the last five financial years (year-wise).
6.	Total number of employees in the Endowments Department and the total salary expenditure per month.
7.	Total administrative expenditure of the department per month.
8.	Total number of priests (Archakas) receiving salaries under the Endowments Department.
9.	The criteria and eligibility rules prescribed by the Government to recognize or appoint a person as a priest (Archaka) in temples under the Endowments Department.
10.	Total number of Imams registered or recognized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
11.	The criteria and eligibility rules prescribed by the Government for recognition or appointment of Imams.
12.	Total number of Pastors registered or recognized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
13.	The criteria and eligibility rules prescribed by the Government for recognition of Pastors.
14.	The total amount paid annually to Imams and Pastors by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
15.	From which government account, scheme, or budget head these payments to Imams and Pastors are made.

I request that the above information be provided in written or electronic form as available in official records.

I am enclosing the prescribed RTI application fee as per rules.

Yours faithfully,  
Name:  
Address:  
Contact Number:  
Email (if any):  
Date:  
Place:



Dr BURAGADDA SRINATH

## AP Government Signs MoU with Centre for Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

Amaravati, March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Tuesday signed a crucial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central government to implement the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, aiming to provide safe, piped drinking water to every household across the state. The agreement was formalised in New Delhi in the presence of senior officials from the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and Andhra Pradesh.

Under the MoU, Andhra Pradesh will collaborate with the Centre to roll out the second phase of the mission, focusing on delivering Har Ghar Jal—water to every home—by 2028 in rural and peri-urban areas. The initiative emphasises not only tap connections but also sustainable water supply systems, strengthened monitoring, and active community participation.

Chief Minister Naidu said

ensuring safe and reliable drinking water is a top government priority and a key electoral promise. He stressed that this initiative will improve public health, quality of life, and rural development while expressing confidence that cooperation with the Centre will help Andhra Pradesh achieve its water security goals.

The MoU also includes technical and financial coordination, transparency, and accountability measures. Plans will strengthen water quality monitoring, promote efficient operation and maintenance of supply systems, and empower village water committees to manage local water resources effectively.

Officials highlighted that the mission's second phase will significantly expand rural tap connections, improve access to potable water, and ensure long-term sustainability. The agreement positions Andhra Pradesh as a model state for achieving the Har Ghar Jal vision and sets a benchmark for rural water supply management by 2028.



## Pawan Kalyan Urges Janasena Representatives to Strategically Prepare for Delimitation and Local Elections

Vijayawada, March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a detailed legislative party meeting held in Vijayawada, Janasena Party President and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan emphasised the need for party representatives to approach delimitation of constituencies with a pragmatic and people-centric mindset. He reminded members to reflect on past experiences, particularly the 2009 delimitation, to ensure the process is conducted fairly and benefits the public.

Kalyan stressed that representatives must stay connected with all sections of society in their constituencies, maintain weekly interactions with citizens, and address grievances proactively. He highlighted the importance of long-term planning for development, focusing on agriculture, employment, industries, and other sectors to benefit all communities. Young voters, who make up 8-12% of the population, should be engaged through skill development and outreach programs tailored to Gen Z preferences.

The meeting also underlined the party's readiness for upcoming local elections, with instructions to coordinate with coalition parties and work towards winning every contest. Kalyan noted that strong party organisation is essential for empowered representatives

and urged members to strengthen grassroots structures, ensure continuous interaction with voters, and implement schemes effectively, including the recently signed Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 MoU for potable water in every constituency.

PAC Chairman Nadendla Manohar highlighted that the party's numerical strength in the assembly is a point of pride, and strategising at the local level is critical for success. He urged that every contest be approached with a goal of achieving 100% results in areas where Janasena is competing.

The three-hour session included detailed discussions in groups and one-on-one interactions, focusing on constituency development, voter outreach, and internal committee formation to provide feedback and recommendations to the party. Kalyan announced that similar meetings with representatives will continue every month, with the first week of next month set aside for a larger gathering with senior leaders to discuss political challenges and devise action plans.

The meeting concluded on a constructive note, with a clear message: party unity, proactive planning, and constant engagement with people are essential to ensure success in both delimitation and forthcoming local elections.

## TDP Launches 'Version 3.0' Strategy with No-Intermediaries Policy

Amaravati, March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national general secretary and Andhra Pradesh minister Nara Lokesh on Tuesday unveiled the party's new organisational vision, dubbed TDP "Version 3.0", focusing on internal reforms, grassroots empowerment, and a strict no-intermediaries approach to decision-making.

Speaking at a training session for party cluster in-charges at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Lokesh said the party will strengthen direct links between leadership and grassroots workers, removing layers of intermediaries to improve efficiency and accountability. He emphasized identifying hardworking activists

through direct engagement rather than relying on middlemen.

Lokesh likened the party to a university for leadership development and highlighted plans to hold at least 300 training sessions annually to prepare workers for future roles at different levels. He stressed that the party's recent successes are the result of sustained effort despite political challenges, and urged members to remain humble and focused on public service to maintain momentum.

Under the new structure, no leader will hold the same post more than three times, allowing opportunities for new leaders from grassroots levels to rise to senior positions, including the politburo. Even village-level party presidents are expected to have pathways to central decision-making roles.



Lokesh also announced a digital platform, 'My TDP' app, designed to track and evaluate grassroots workers' performance directly, eliminating middlemen and ensuring recognition for merit-based contributions. Emphasizing that organisational strength is the party's top priority, Lokesh described the TDP as "our own home" and urged cluster in-charges to focus on strengthening weak booths and preparing

for future elections. He said the reforms are aimed at making the party more transparent, accountable, and directly connected with the people it serves, ensuring sustained growth and leadership development for years to come.

# Jana Sena Focuses on Delimitation and Grassroots Strengthening: Pawan Kalyan Calls for Strategic Action

**Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:**

Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party President Pawan Kalyan emphasized the need for a realistic and people-centric approach towards constituency delimitation, urging party representatives to prioritize public welfare while preparing for upcoming political challenges. He made these remarks during the Jana Sena Legislative Party meeting held in Vijayawada on Tuesday, attended by ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and MLCs.

Addressing the gathering, Pawan Kalyan highlighted that the proposed delimitation exercise by the central government is expected to significantly increase the number of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies.

He noted that the addition of nearly 88 Assembly seats and around 12 Parliamentary seats presents an opportunity to enhance democratic representation. However, he cautioned that the process must be carried out transparently and responsibly to prevent misuse. To ensure a structured approach, he suggested forming a committee of legislators to study the implications of delimitation and recommend a clear course of action for the party. He directed the party's Political Affairs Committee Chairman Nadendla Manohar to oversee the formation of this committee, which will guide the party's strategy based on its findings.

Pawan Kalyan also called upon party representatives to gear up for the upcoming local body elections with a clear focus on victory. He stressed the

importance of coordination among alliance partners at the grassroots level and urged leaders to work diligently to ensure electoral success in every contested seat.

Highlighting the importance of public engagement, he instructed leaders to remain accessible to people and regularly interact with various sections of society, including farmers, workers, youth, and women. He made it mandatory for representatives to dedicate at least one day a week to receive petitions from the public and work towards resolving their issues effectively.

The Jana Sena chief further emphasized the need for comprehensive development plans at the constituency level, covering sectors such as agriculture, employment, and industry. He urged leaders to understand the aspirations of

Gen Z and design policies that cater to their needs, particularly in skill development and employment opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Nadendla Manohar stated that the party's strong presence in the Assembly is a matter of pride and called for strategic planning at the local level to achieve 100 percent success in upcoming elections. He noted that delimitation processes are largely handled by district administrations and stressed the importance of vigilance and preparedness. The meeting, which lasted for nearly three hours, was described as engaging and productive. Pawan Kalyan assured that such interactions would be held regularly to review progress and address challenges faced by party leaders, reinforcing the party's commitment to organizational strength and public service.



## Nadendla Manohar Aims to Restore Tenali's Past Glory with Comprehensive Development Plan

**Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:**

Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar has directed officials to take concrete and coordinated steps to restore the past glory of Tenali town, with a vision to position it among the top five cities in the state across key development indicators.

During a review meeting held at the Tenali Municipal Office on Tuesday, the minister stressed the need for visible transformation in administration and infrastructure. He instructed officials to ensure at least 95 percent tax collection efficiency, emphasizing that improved revenue generation is crucial for sustained urban development. He also directed authorities to expedite the release of 9 crore pending funds from the Registration Department to the municipality.

Taking a firm stance on project delays, the minister warned of strict action against contractors who have secured tenders but failed to commence or complete works on time. At the same time, he instructed that bills of contractors who have completed their work should be cleared without delay to maintain efficiency and accountability.

Focusing on urban infrastructure, Nadendla Manohar asked officials to identify incomplete buildings in the town and prepare a structured plan for their completion. He further suggested that vacant government buildings be utilized effectively by relocating offices such as secretariats and sanitary inspector units currently operating from rented premises.

Highlighting the importance of green spaces, the minister directed that the development works at Ficus Park in Aitanaagar be completed by the end of April and opened to the public in May. He also announced that



two parks in Amaravati plots would soon be taken up for development.

The minister emphasized the importance of responsive governance and urged officials to address public grievances promptly. He called for courteous interaction with citizens and stressed that administrative efficiency should translate into visible improvements in the town. He also instructed officials to prepare for repair works of major drainage and irrigation canals in the first week of May.

Sanitation and urban cleanliness were also identified as priority areas. The minister directed officials to develop an action plan for improving sanitation and utilizing vacant lands effectively for public benefit.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava noted that with the minister's support, the district achieved a record procurement of 90,000 metric tonnes of paddy. He expressed confidence in reaching a target of one lakh metric tonnes in the coming year.

He also stated that assuming charge as the Special Officer of Tenali Municipality was a matter of pride and assured that a detailed review meeting with officials would soon be conducted to accelerate development initiatives. The meeting was attended by several key officials, who were instructed to work with clear targets and timelines to ensure effective implementation of development projects.

## Strict Measures Planned to Stop Tamil Nadu Boats Entering AP Waters: Minister Kollu Ravindra

**Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:**

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, stated that the state government will take stringent measures to prevent Tamil Nadu fishing boats from entering Andhra Pradesh waters. He emphasized that the coalition government is firmly committed to the welfare and development of fishermen and will ensure justice for them.

The minister made these remarks during a review meeting held at the Nellore District Collectorate under the leadership of District Collector Himanshu Shukla. The meeting was conducted in response to a recent incident in Isukapalli village, where eight Tamil Nadu boats were seized and later released. Officials from revenue, police, forest, fire departments, and leaders of fishermen associations participated in the discussion.

Minister Ravindra expressed concern that unauthorized fishing by Tamil Nadu boats in AP territorial waters is causing significant losses to local fishermen. He stressed that such issues should be resolved at the village level through mutual understanding and coordination, rather than being politicized. He accused opposition parties, particularly the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), of attempting to create divisions among fishermen communities for political gain and bringing disrepute to the government.

He further stated that the AP government would also initiate discussions with the Tamil Nadu government to address the issue diplomatically. Highlighting the current challenges, the minister noted that out of the 18 boats under the AP Coastal Marine system, many are under repair, which has



weakened surveillance capacity. To address this, the government plans to strengthen the Coastal Marine Task Force by forming a dedicated team comprising officials from revenue, police, fire, fisheries, and forest departments, equipped with advanced technology.

The minister directed officials to ensure that no Tamil Nadu fishing boats enter AP waters at least until April 15, and added that a full-fledged surveillance system would be established by June 15 to effectively monitor and control maritime activities.

Reaffirming the government's support to fishermen, Ravindra said that several welfare measures have been implemented under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. These include financial assistance during the fishing ban period, with 20,000 being provided to around 1.2 lakh fishermen, and pensions of 4,000 per month for those aged 50 and above. Subsidies for fishing nets and boats are also being provided to improve livelihoods.

He also mentioned that Government Order No. 217, which was considered unfavorable to fishermen, has been revoked,

reflecting the government's commitment to their welfare. Addressing infrastructure concerns, the minister said that efforts are underway to resolve issues related to fish landing at Krishnapatnam Port and to complete all pending fishing harbors at the earliest through a structured roadmap.

Additionally, steps will be taken to resolve issues related to Pulicat Lake, and the government will effectively utilize the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana to enhance employment opportunities and economic growth among fishermen. He assured that challenges in securing bank loans for fishermen would also be addressed. Several leaders and officials, including district in-charge minister N.M.D. Farooq, district minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, MLCs Beeda Ravichandra and Kalyan Chakravarthy, and other public representatives, attended the meeting.

The minister concluded by urging people to remain vigilant against attempts to create divisions along caste, religion, or regional lines and reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding the interests of fishermen across the state.



## Andhra Pradesh Targets Top Position in Renewable Energy Sector - Gottipati Ravi Kumar

**Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:**

Andhra Pradesh is aiming to emerge as a national leader in the renewable energy sector, with a strong push from the state government to accelerate ongoing projects and attract fresh investments. State Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar emphasized the government's commitment during a high-level review meeting held at the Secretariat on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on the progress of renewable energy projects currently under construction across the state. Representatives from Brookfield-Axis and senior officials from the New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NED-CAP) participated in the discussions. The minister reviewed the implementation status of solar, wind, and pumped storage projects and urged stakeholders to ensure timely completion without delays.

Highlighting the importance of speed and efficiency, Ravi Kumar directed investors and project developers to fast-track construction and move towards early commissioning. He also instructed them to immediately report any operational or administrative challenges to the government so that swift resolutions could be ensured. Reaffirming the government's proactive approach, he assured full support to investors, including facilitation of land acquisition, infrastructure development, and necessary clearances.

The minister noted that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is implementing an Integrated Clean Energy Policy designed to attract large-scale investments while

generating employment opportunities for local youth. He stated that the policy framework is aligned with long-term sustainability goals and aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a hub for clean energy innovation.

Special emphasis was placed on projects in the Rayalaseema region, where several large-scale solar, wind, and pumped storage initiatives are being developed. According to Ravi Kumar, these projects are expected to serve as a model for other states and significantly boost Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy capacity. Once completed, they could propel the state to the top position in renewable energy production nationwide.

In addition to generation capacity, the government is also focusing on energy storage solutions. The minister reiterated the Chief Minister's vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a "Battery Storage Capital" in the coming years. This initiative is expected to strengthen grid stability, enhance energy efficiency, and support the integration of renewable sources into the power system.

Ravi Kumar also underlined the employment potential of the renewable energy sector, stating that thousands of job opportunities would be created for local youth as projects progress. To ensure consistent monitoring, he announced that review meetings would be conducted every 15 days to track implementation and address bottlenecks promptly.

Senior officials from the Energy Department and representatives of various renewable energy companies attended the meeting, reaffirming their commitment to the state's ambitious clean energy goals.

## Minister Dr. Narayana Fulfills Promise: Contributes 2 Crore for Kapu Bhavan Modernisation

**Nellore, March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

The Andhra Pradesh Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Dr. Ponguru Narayana, has once again demonstrated his commitment to community welfare by contributing 2 crore from his personal funds for the modernisation of Kapu Bhavan. This move reinforces his longstanding support for social initiatives and the development of facilities serving the Kapu community.

On Tuesday, the second installment of 1 crore was handed over to District Collector Himanshu Shukla by Dr. Narayana's son, Puneeth, in a formal ceremony. Earlier, the Minister had already donated 1 crore to kickstart the modernisation project. Kapu Bhavan committee members

warmly welcomed the contribution, expressing their gratitude and appreciation for the Minister's consistent support and dedication to the project.

During the event, District Collector Himanshu Shukla assured all stakeholders that with the funding provided by Dr. Narayana, the modernisation of Kapu Bhavan would be completed and fully operational by July 2026. He emphasised that the allocated funds would be used efficiently to ensure high-quality construction and timely completion of all renovation works.

The Kapu Bhavan committee, recognising the Minister's commitment to fulfilling his promises, formally conveyed their thanks and highlighted that the contribution would not only expedite the renovation work but also enhance the functionality and aesthetics of

the facility for community events and social gatherings.

The ceremony was attended by several prominent Kapu Bhavan leaders, including Gadiraju Ashok, Potaraju Srinivas, Anil Kumar, Gunukula Kishore, Bhupati Vijay Kumar, Pasupati Kishore Kumar, Shankhavarapu Srihari, Surishetti Gayatri, Vanamala Govinda Rao, Puli Srinivasulu, as well as former ZPTC winner Vijeta Reddy and Usman Saheb Pet Ramalay Chairman Srinivasulu. Their presence highlighted the broad support and anticipation from the community for the modernisation project.

Dr. Narayana's gesture is being hailed as an example of responsible leadership and personal commitment to public welfare. By allocating personal funds for the development of Kapu Bhavan, the Minister has



set a precedent for proactive support to community infrastructure projects. The funds will allow for upgrades in facilities, improved amenities, and ensure that the Kapu Bhavan becomes a state-of-the-art centre for cultural and social activities.

With the project expected to be completed by July, Kapu Bhavan is poised to become a

modern, fully functional facility that will serve the community efficiently and provide a venue for various social, cultural, and public events. The initiative reflects a strong partnership between the state government, community leaders, and responsible political leadership, ensuring tangible benefits for the Kapu community.

# Modernization of Oil Palm Mills Crucial for Farmers and Economy: MP Purandeswari

Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:



Raising a matter of urgent public importance in Parliament, MP Daggubati Purandeswari has called upon the Central Government to extend immediate support for the modernization of oil palm processing mills in Andhra Pradesh. Highlighting the critical role of oil palm cultivation in the state's agricultural economy, she emphasized that upgrading outdated infrastructure is essential to protect farmers' livelihoods and reduce India's heavy dependence on edible oil imports.

Speaking under Rule 377, Purandeswari noted that Andhra Pradesh holds the distinction of having the largest area under oil palm cultivation in the country. Spread across approximately 2.49 lakh hectares, the crop serves as a primary source of income for nearly 1.97 lakh farmers, particularly in the Godavari regions. She described oil palm

as the "lifeline" of these farmers and stressed the need for policy and technological support to sustain and enhance their earnings.

The MP also drew attention to the economic burden posed by edible oil imports. India spends over 70,000 crore annually on importing edible oils, which significantly impacts the country's foreign exchange reserves. She underlined that increasing domestic production through initiatives like the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) is vital for achieving self-reliance in this sector.

A major concern highlighted by Purandeswari is the inefficiency of existing oil palm processing mills in Andhra Pradesh. Many of these mills, particularly those run by cooperatives and government bodies, continue to operate with outdated batch processing machinery. This leads to a lower Oil Extraction Ratio (OER), directly affecting farmers' incomes. She explained that even

a 1% drop in OER can result in a loss of about 10 kilograms of oil per tonne of fresh fruit bunches, causing substantial financial losses over time.

To address this issue, she urged the Central Government to provide targeted financial and technical assistance under the NMEO-OP scheme for upgrading these mills with modern technology. Such improvements would not only enhance oil recovery rates but also increase overall production efficiency. Purandeswari expressed optimism that with timely intervention and modernization, Andhra Pradesh can play a pivotal role in boosting India's edible oil output. This, in turn, would reduce import dependency and move the country closer to achieving self-sufficiency in edible oils, benefiting both farmers and the national economy.



## Chandrababu Naidu Orders Probe into Rayapudi Fire; Conspiracy Angle Being Examined

Amaravati, March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday held a high-level review of the recent fire incident in Rayapudi, focusing on whether there could be a conspiracy behind a series of similar accidents in the Amaravati capital region. With rapid construction activity underway, repeated fire mishaps have raised concerns among officials and residents.

The latest blaze occurred late Monday night near a major construction site when a large stock of building materials was engulfed in flames, sending thick smoke into the sky and causing extensive property damage. Firefighters acted quickly to contain the fire, but significant losses were reported.

At the Secretariat, Naidu convened senior police, intelligence, and development officials to examine the circumstances surrounding the Rayapudi incident. Officials briefed him on the timing of the outbreak, emergency response actions, and the rapid spread of the fire. Naidu emphasized the need for a deeper forensic probe to determine whether the fire was accidental or intentional.

"This is not the first such occurrence," Naidu said, noting that multiple fire incidents have taken place in

the capital area in recent days. "We must establish whether these are coincidences or part of a larger, orchestrated effort to disrupt progress."

The Chief Minister called for tighter security protocols at construction and storage sites, including increased deployment of security personnel, enhanced surveillance, and constant monitoring of suspicious activities. He also stressed rigorous questioning of individuals found near material storage areas or work sites.

Naidu highlighted the strategic importance of ongoing development in Amaravati, where large stocks of materials support multiple infrastructure projects. He warned that any attempts to sabotage these projects could have serious economic and administrative consequences for the state.

Officials are expected to reconvene later Tuesday evening with top police and development authorities to implement measures to strengthen safety and prevent future incidents. Naidu made it clear that any evidence of deliberate sabotage will result in strict legal action against those responsible. This review underscores the government's determination to protect critical development projects in Amaravati and ensure the safety of the capital region amid growing concerns over suspicious fire incidents.

## YSRCP Leaders Block Illegal Sand Mining in Pottilanka

East Godavari, March 24 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party leaders in East Godavari district took a strong stand against illegal sand mining in Pottilanka village, Kadiyam Mandal of Rajahmundry Rural constituency on Monday. Former Minister and district party president Chelluboyina Venugopalakrishna personally intervened to stop the unlawful excavation of river sand in Survey Number 147, halting JCBs and trucks engaged in unauthorized mining.

Venugopalakrishna criticized the coalition government for allowing rampant exploitation of natural resources. "Even as National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines prohibit sand mining and transportation along riverbanks, the authorities remain indifferent. Mines are digging up to

two meters deep, while sand is being sold at over 14,000 per truck, plundering public wealth," he said. He alleged that illegal operations were facilitated through undue pressure on officials and forged documents, even targeting lands with bank loans.

Pointing out the scale of the operation, Venugopalakrishna questioned the revenue and mining officials about their inaction. "Hundreds of trucks move day and night under officials' watch. Is this incompetence or political influence?" he asked, urging authorities to wake up and take strict action immediately. The former minister also challenged senior legislator Gorantla Buchayya Chowdary, asking why he had not intervened despite such large-scale illegal mining within his constituency. He demanded immediate inspection of the site and accountability

for those involved.

The protest and intervention included State Secretary Girjala Babu, Mandal party president Yadala Stalin, Kothapalli Shivaji, Eli Gopalam, Tirumalashetty Srinu, Tadala Chakravarthy, along with numerous local party workers.

Venugopalakrishna emphasized that public resources like sand are part of the community's wealth and must be protected. He reiterated that local leaders would continue to monitor illegal activities and ensure that mining operations comply with environmental norms and legal procedures.

This initiative reflects the YSRCP leadership's commitment to protecting natural resources and holding authorities accountable for negligence. The intervention at Pottilanka is expected to send a strong message to illegal operators across East Godavari district.

## Surveyapalli MLA Launches Major Development Initiatives for Tribal and SC Communities

Nellore, March 24 | TPN Bureau

Surveyapalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy on Tuesday inaugurated a wide range of development activities in Pinapuru Panchayat, Mutukururu Mandal, with a focus on tribal and Scheduled Caste (SC) communities. He highlighted the government's commitment to improving living standards and providing basic amenities to marginalized residents, especially in Devaradibba tribal colony, where living conditions have been challenging for years.

Under the initiative, a 15 lakh drinking water sump with household pipeline connections was constructed in Devaradibba tribal colony. In Chinnu Sangham tribal colony, an RO plant and drainage canal slab were built at a cost of 10.50 lakh. Vagarath SC colony saw the construction of a CC



road for 12.70 lakh, while in Dibbamida SC colony, 14 lakh was spent to extend piped water connections to homes. Additionally, a foundation stone was laid for the Panchayat office building at 30 lakh.

Two mega water plants funded under SEIL's CSR initiative with 66 lakh were inaugurated, and 210 solar lights were installed at a cost of 52 lakh to promote sustainable development. The MLA expressed satisfaction that SEIL's mobile van initiative is enabling tribal

children to access schooling and emphasized the need for continuous efforts to uplift tribal and SC communities.

Reddy criticized the previous administration for neglecting the construction of R&R colonies. He noted that while housing in Nelaturu main village is nearly complete, other colonies are still at the foundation stage and require urgent land acquisition. He stressed that the coalition government is committed to completing these projects and ensuring adequate infrastructure, including drinking water, roads, and electricity, in every village.

The event saw participation from local leaders and party representatives, reflecting a collaborative approach to inclusive development. The MLA reaffirmed his dedication to improving the lives of tribal and SC residents and urged private companies to support and adopt tribal colonies for holistic development.



## TDP MLA Pulivarthi Nani Holds Warm Meet with Party Cadre

Chandragiri, March 24 | TPN Bureau

Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani on Tuesday held a cordial meeting with senior leaders, cluster, and unit members of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Aitepalli village, emphasizing that no obstacle will be tolerated in the path of Chandragiri constituency's development. Addressing the gathering, he expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who worked to secure his record majority in the 2024 elections.

During the meeting, MLA Nani detailed the developmental progress achieved in the constituency over the past 18 months since the coalition government assumed office. Party leaders highlighted that while the constituency remained largely stagnant during the previous five-year YSRCP regime, the TDP-led coalition has accelerated development immediately upon taking charge. They lauded the MLA for prioritizing constituency growth over partisan politics, focusing solely on improving infrastructure, amenities, and overall welfare. MLA Nani underscored his personal commitment to Chandragiri's progress, stating that even his

family's convenience takes a backseat to constituency development. He praised Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for leading the state towards modernization, implementing advanced technology, and steering Andhra Pradesh toward rapid growth. He also reiterated that the TDP ensures every hardworking party worker is duly recognized and rewarded, reflecting the party's commitment to its cadre. Leaders and workers shared their experiences and challenges faced during grassroots-level work, seeking guidance from the MLA. The session reinforced collaboration between party functionaries and constituency representatives, ensuring coordinated efforts for future development projects. The meeting witnessed active participation from senior TDP leaders, cluster and co-cluster in-charges, and booth unit in-charges, highlighting the party's focus on strengthening organizational unity while driving constituency development initiatives. Pulivarthi Nani's address emphasized transparency, dedication, and the importance of consistent engagement with both party members and local residents to achieve tangible progress.

## Tourism Sector a Growth Engine for Andhra Pradesh Economy: Minister Kandula Durgesh

Amaravati, March 24 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh has emphasized that the tourism sector is emerging as a key growth engine for the state's economic development. Ahead of a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday, Minister Durgesh held a high-level pre-meeting at his chamber in Velagapudi Secretariat on Tuesday to assess ongoing and upcoming tourism initiatives.

During the meeting, officials discussed the AP TDC's 15-year financial planning, progress on hotel and hospitality projects, home-stays, and projects funded under central government schemes. The minister instructed officials to complete the 'Akhand Godavari' project

ahead of the Godavari Pushkaralu and to implement innovative measures to increase tourist footfall. He also emphasized the development of a creative economy and the need for responsible tourism practices across the state.

Prior to the review, representatives from Modern Masti Private Limited, including Ram Prakash Maheshwari and Ankur Maheshwari, met Minister Durgesh. The meeting followed an understanding agreement signed at the IAAPI Expo 2026 (Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries) in Mumbai. The company plans to invest approximately 100 crore in establishing a state-of-the-art amusement park and resort in Visakhapatnam under the guidance of the Tourism Department. The representatives expressed satisfaction with the directions pro-

vided by officials and assured readiness to expedite approvals, highlighting the proactive approach of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu towards tourism development.

Minister Durgesh stressed the importance of boosting tourist numbers through innovative strategies and creative initiatives, urging officials to provide focused attention to all ongoing projects.

He called for a coordinated effort to promote hospitality, cultural tourism, and recreational facilities, ensuring that each project contributes to the state's economic growth. The review meeting was attended by Tourism Department Special Chief Secretary Ajay Jain, Executive Directors Padmavati and Sheshagiri Rao, APTA Deputy CEO Srinivas, Chief Marketing Officer Padma Rani Sila, Investments Head



Satyaprabha, and other senior tourism officials. Discussions included project approvals, central funding progress, home-stay developments, and promotional campaigns to enhance the visibility of Andhra Pradesh as a prime tourist destination.

Minister Durgesh directed officials to prioritize timely

completion of all projects, maintain high standards of quality, and ensure that tourism initiatives contribute directly to the economic growth of the state. He reiterated that strategic planning, efficient implementation, and innovative approaches would position Andhra Pradesh as a leading tourism hub in India.

# Self-Enumeration Facility to Simplify Census Process in Vijayawada

Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has announced a significant step towards simplifying the upcoming population census by introducing a self-enumeration facility for residents. Commissioner and Principal Census Officer Dhyanaachandra stated that this initiative will allow citizens to independently submit their personal and household details, making the census process more convenient and efficient.

Addressing the media, Dhyanaachandra explained that the next phase of the census, scheduled for February 2027, will incorporate digital tools and citizen participation to improve accuracy and reduce dependency on field staff. As part of the preparation, training sessions are currently being conducted for census staff to ensure smooth data collection and implementation of the process.

He further elaborated that while enumerators will visit households between May 1 and May 30, 2026, the government has introduced a self-enumeration window from April 15 to April 30, 2026. During this period, residents can voluntarily log on to the official census trial portal and submit their details in advance. This step is



expected to reduce the workload on census staff and minimize the chances of errors during data collection. The self-enumeration feature is part of a trial initiative

aimed at encouraging digital participation among citizens. By using the portal, individuals can enter essential information such as family details, occupation, education, and

housing conditions from the comfort of their homes. Officials believe that this method will not only save time but also empower citizens to take an active role in a crucial national exercise. Dhyanaachandra urged residents of Vijayawada to make full use of this facility and participate proactively in the census process. He emphasized that accurate data collection is vital for government planning, policy-making, and allocation of resources for development programs. The Commissioner also highlighted that public awareness campaigns will be conducted to educate citizens about the importance of the census and guide them on how to use the self-enumeration portal effectively. Special attention will be given to ensure that people from all sections of society, including those with limited digital access, are supported through assistance centers and field staff. With the introduction of self-enumeration, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation aims to make the census process more transparent, accessible, and citizen-friendly, setting a new benchmark in data collection practices.



## Mobile Court Imposes Fines for Public Health Violations in Vijayawada

Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

In a continued effort to improve sanitation and enforce civic discipline, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation organized a mobile court at its Circle-1 office to address public health violations across the city. The initiative, led by the corporation's public health department, aimed at identifying and penalizing individuals whose actions contribute to unhygienic conditions and environmental hazards. During the inspection drive, officials closely monitored various localities and identified several violations that pose a risk to public health. These included dumping garbage and waste materials on roads, allowing animals and pet dogs to roam freely in public areas, and disposing of waste into drainage systems, leading to blockages and disruption of sewage flow. Additionally, authorities found cases where individuals were running commercial establishments without valid D&O (Dangerous and Offensive) trade licenses, which are mandatory for certain types of businesses.

A total of eight cases were registered against the violators, who were subsequently produced before the mobile court for immediate hearing. Presiding over the proceedings, G. Lenin Babu carefully examined each case and imposed fines based on the severity of the violations. The court levied penalties on all offenders, and the municipal officials collected a total fine amount of 1,570.

Officials stated that such mobile courts are an effective mechanism to ensure quick justice and immediate enforcement of municipal laws. They emphasized that these drives are not just punitive but also intended to create awareness among the public about the importance of maintaining cleanliness and adhering to civic rules. The authorities further highlighted that improper waste disposal and negligence towards sanitation can lead to serious health issues, including the spread of infectious diseases. By penalizing such behavior, the corporation aims to instill a sense of responsibility among citizens and encourage them to actively participate in keeping the city clean.

Municipal staff who took part in the drive included AMH1 Annapurna, sanitary supervisors D. Somaraju and SVS Sridhar, along with sanitary inspectors and other field-level personnel. Their coordinated efforts ensured the smooth conduct of the inspection and enforcement process. The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has urged residents to strictly follow sanitation guidelines and cooperate with officials during such drives. It also warned that stricter actions will be taken in the future against repeat offenders and those who continue to violate municipal norms. Through such initiatives, the corporation aims to build a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable urban environment for all citizens.

## World TB Day Observed in NTR District with Awareness Programs

Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

On the occasion of World TB Day, a series of awareness programs were conducted across NTR district under the theme "Let's End TB... Let the Nation Win."

The day began with an awareness rally at 8:00 AM near the Old GGH Hospital. Medical staff, students, and representatives from voluntary organizations actively participated in the rally, spreading awareness among the public about tuberculosis prevention and control. The rally emphasized early detection, proper treatment, and the

importance of eliminating stigma associated with TB. Later, at 11:00 AM, a meeting was held at the IMA Hall, attended by several key officials and health experts. Among the dignitaries present were State TB Officer & Joint Director Dr. T. Ramesh, DM&HO Dr. M. S. Hasini, DLATO Dr. B. Bhanu Nayak, DCHS Dr. Madhavi, WHO consultants Dr. Prashanth and Dr. Dheeraj, along with other state officials, district staff, TU personnel, NGO representatives, Dr. Samaram, and Rashmi from Vasavya Mahila Mandali.

During the program, certificates of appreciation were presented to staff members who rendered outstanding services in TB control. As part of the support initiatives, nutritional kits were distributed to patients with the assistance of Nikshay Mitra partners such as Sri Satya Sai Seva Samithi Trust and Vasavya Mahila Mandali Apollo Tyres Health Care Center. Additionally, students from the Government Nursing College performed an awareness skit highlighting the causes, symptoms, and prevention of tuberculosis, making the session more engaging and informative. The programs underscored the importance of collective participation from all sections of society in achieving the goal of a TB-free India.

The investigation suggests that the trio may have been expressing support for extremist ideologies, prompting serious concern among security agencies. Police sources stated that the case is being probed from multiple angles. Officials are examining the accused's digital footprint, including their social media interactions, contacts, and possible links to larger networks. The investigation is ongoing, and more details are expected to emerge as authorities deepen their inquiry into the matter. Meanwhile, in a separate development addressing concerns over the ongoing global tensions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reassured citizens that there is no shortage of essential fuels such as gas and petrol in the country. He stated that adequate supplies are

## Three Remanded in Vijayawada Terror Links Case; PM Assures No Fuel Shortage Amid Global Crisis

Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

A key development has emerged in a suspected terror links case registered in Vijayawada, where three youths—Sharif, Danish, and Sohail Beg—have been arrested by the police. A local court has remanded the accused to judicial custody until April 6, following preliminary investigation into their alleged activities. According to police officials, the accused were found to be posting suspicious and potentially anti-national content on social media platforms. Authorities, who had been closely monitoring such online activities, identified the individuals and took them into custody.

available to meet domestic demand, urging people not to panic. The Prime Minister also expressed concern over the situation of Indian workers in Gulf countries, where geopolitical tensions have created uncertainty. He noted that over one crore Indian workers are employed in the Gulf region, many of whom are currently facing challenges due to the crisis. Highlighting the government's response, Modi said that approximately 3.75 lakh Indian nationals have already been safely brought back to the country. He added that the Indian government is in constant touch with global powers, including the United States, Israel, and Iran, to monitor the situation and ensure the safety of Indian citizens abroad.

turn to Deccan Chronicle as Business Editor in Hyderabad, where he earned recognition for his analytical writing and in-depth coverage of economic affairs. Apart from journalism, Shaukat briefly explored the corporate world, serving as a Senior Consultant at Tata Consultancy Services. However, his passion for journalism brought him back to the newsroom. Following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, he joined The Times of India in Vijayawada as a Special Correspondent, which became his final professional assignment. Known as an avid reader and a prolific writer, Shaukat believed journalism was a sincere and responsible profession. His colleagues remember him as a humble, dedicated, and principled journalist who inspired many young reporters. Shaukat H Mohammed is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. His passing marks a significant loss to the media fraternity, leaving behind a legacy of integrity and excellence in journalism.

## Senior Journalist Shaukat H Mohammed Passes Away at 63

Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

CR Media Academy Chairman Alapati Suresh Kumar expressed profound grief over the untimely demise of senior journalist Shaukat H Mohammed (63), who passed away on Tuesday in Hyderabad following a brief illness. Calling it a personal loss, Suresh Kumar described Shaukat as not only a valued colleague but also a close friend whose contribution to journalism would be remembered for years to come. He paid heartfelt tributes to the departed soul and extended his deepest condolences to the bereaved family. Hailing from Visakhapatnam, Shaukat began his journey in journalism in 1985 as a desk journalist with Deccan Chronicle. From his early days, he displayed a keen eye for detail and a strong commitment to journalistic ethics, which later defined his long and distinguished career. Over nearly four decades, he worked with several leading national publications, including The Indian Express, The Times of India, and The Economic Times. Shaukat also contributed to The Week, a publication of the Malayala Manorama group, where he served as the Tamil Nadu correspondent for a period. His expertise in business journalism later saw him re-



turn to Deccan Chronicle as Business Editor in Hyderabad, where he earned recognition for his analytical writing and in-depth coverage of economic affairs. Apart from journalism, Shaukat briefly explored the corporate world, serving as a Senior Consultant at Tata Consultancy Services. However, his passion for journalism brought him back to the newsroom. Following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, he joined The Times of India in Vijayawada as a Special Correspondent, which became his final professional assignment. Known as an avid reader and a prolific writer, Shaukat believed journalism was a sincere and responsible profession. His colleagues remember him as a humble, dedicated, and principled journalist who inspired many young reporters. Shaukat H Mohammed is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. His passing marks a significant loss to the media fraternity, leaving behind a legacy of integrity and excellence in journalism.

## Road Construction Works Accelerated in Avanigadda Constituency

Amaravathi 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad stated that road construction works in the constituency are being accelerated with the support of the coalition government. He inspected the ongoing construction of a highway connectivity road on Tuesday at Ramanagar in Lakshimpuram under Challapalli mandal. The road, being developed at a cost of 45 lakh, connects the Challapalli-Machilipatnam R&B road to the highway, aiming to improve transportation

and connectivity in the region. During his visit, the MLA reviewed the progress of the work and stressed the importance of completing the project within the stipulated time while maintaining quality standards. Speaking on the occasion, Mandali Buddha Prasad said that under the "Palle Panduga" program, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has been actively supporting rural development through the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department. He added that funds from the employment guarantee scheme, along with SASKI funds, are being utilized for the develop-

ment of rural roads across the constituency. The MLA highlighted that improving road infrastructure is a key priority for the government, as it directly benefits farmers, daily commuters, and local businesses by ensuring better accessibility and transportation facilities. He also instructed Panchayat Raj Department DEE Pagadala Suresh Babu to ensure that the road construction adheres to all quality norms and is completed on schedule without any delays. Local officials and representatives were present during the inspection



# Mega Health Camp for Journalists on March 26: A Timely Initiative for Media Welfare

East godavari 24.03. 2026  
TPN Bureau:

In a commendable move prioritizing the well-being of media professionals, the district administration of East Godavari has announced a Mega Health Camp exclusively for journalists and their families. Scheduled to be held on March 26, 2026, at the Arts College premises in Rajamahendravaram, this initiative reflects a growing recognition of the health challenges faced by those in the media profession. Journalists often work under intense pressure, with irregular schedules, long working hours, and constant exposure to stressful situa-

tions. Despite being the backbone of information dissemination in society, their personal health frequently takes a backseat. Acknowledging this reality, District Collector Keerthi Chekuri has taken special initiative to organize this comprehensive health camp in coordination with the District Medical and Health Department and the Information & Public Relations Department. The camp aims to provide a wide range of medical services under one roof. Basic health screenings such as blood pressure, blood sugar, hemoglobin levels, ECG, and eye examinations will be conducted. In addition, specialist consultations will be available in general

medicine, orthopedics, gynecology, pediatrics, and mental health. This holistic approach ensures that both physical and psychological health concerns of journalists are addressed. One of the key highlights of the camp is the provision of free medicines following diagnosis. Patients requiring further treatment will be referred to government hospitals, ensuring continuity of care. Mobile medical units and dedicated teams of healthcare professionals have also been arranged to ensure smooth execution of the camp. District Public Relations Officer K. Lakshminarayana has urged all journalists in the district to make the most of this

opportunity by attending the camp along with their family members. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM on the day of the event. Such an initiative is rare and highly appreciable. It not only underscores the government's commitment to the welfare of journalists but also sets a precedent for similar programs elsewhere. By focusing on the health of those who tirelessly work to inform society, this Mega Health Camp serves as a vital step toward building a healthier and more resilient media community. Ultimately, a healthy journalist contributes to a healthier society—making this initiative both timely and impactful.



# Chittoor Police Create Awareness Among Students on Safety, Laws, and Emergency Support

Chittoor 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

In an effort to promote child safety and awareness, the Chittoor District Police conducted an educational session for students on important topics such as Good Touch and Bad Touch, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, the POCSO Act, and the use of emergency helpline numbers and the Shakti App.

The awareness program was organized at B.S. Kannan High School under the directions of District Superintendent of Police Tushar Dudi. The session was held under the supervision of Shakti Team Nodal Officer and Additional SP (Operations) S.R. Rajashekar Raju. Women Police Station SI S. Shivashankar and ASI Ethirajulu led the session and interacted directly with students.

Addressing the students, the SI emphasized that they are the future citizens of the country and must be equipped with knowledge about personal safety from a young age. He explained the concept of Good Touch and Bad Touch in a simple and understandable manner, encouraging students to recognize inappropriate behavior. He advised them to firmly say "No" if they feel uncomfortable and immediately inform trusted individuals such as parents, teachers, or the police.

The session also focused on the issue of child marriage,



highlighting that marriage below the age of 18 for girls is illegal and can severely impact education, health, and overall future prospects. Students were encouraged to prioritize education and build a secure future.

Explaining the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the officers stated that it is a stringent law designed to protect minors from sexual abuse and exploitation. They urged students not to remain silent in case of any such incidents and to approach authorities without fear.

The importance of emergency helpline numbers was also highlighted. Students were asked to remember numbers such as 112 (emergency response) and 1098 (child helpline), which provide immediate assistance in critical situations.

Officials also explained the significance of the Shakti App, a safety initiative by the government aimed at ensuring women's security. They demonstrated how, in case of danger, pressing the SOS button on the app instantly alerts the nearest police station, enabling quick

response and assistance. The app also helps in notifying family members and accessing emergency services.

The program witnessed active participation from school Headmistress Komala, teaching staff, and women police personnel. Such initiatives reflect the police department's commitment to building awareness and ensuring the safety and well-being of children and women in the community.

# Tender Violations at Indrakeeladri Temple: Fine Imposed on Coconut Shell Contractor

Vijayawada 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

The authorities of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam at Indrakeeladri have taken strict action against a contractor for violating tender norms related to the collection of coconut shells offered by devotees. The Executive Officer, Sheena Nayak, imposed a fine of 25,000 on M/s Sri Srinivasa Stores, represented by proprietor K. Durgarao, after confirming multiple violations.

The contractor was granted a two-year license from September 6, 2024, to September 5, 2026, to collect coconut shells at the temple premises. However, several complaints from devotees prompted an inquiry, which revealed serious irregularities in the contractor's operations.

Officials found that unauthorized money was being col-

lected from devotees at coconut breaking points. Additionally, the contractor's staff reportedly behaved rudely with devotees and did not allow them to break coconuts themselves. Instead, coconuts were forcibly handled by the contractor's workers, with only small pieces returned to devotees, affecting both their religious sentiments and the temple's reputation.

It was also noted that the contractor failed to provide identity cards to workers operating on-site, raising concerns about accountability and security. Furthermore, despite previous notices, the contractor had not cleared earlier penalties amounting to 55,000. With the addition of the latest fine, the total dues have increased, and officials have directed the contractor to clear all pending payments within seven days of receiving the notice.

The Executive Officer warned that failure to comply or provide a satisfactory explanation within the stipulated time would lead to stricter action, including cancellation of the license based on temple records.

Later in the evening, the contractor paid the 25,000 fine at the temple's accounts section. To prevent further issues, the temple administration has now ensured that contractor personnel will not interfere with devotees at coconut breaking points. Their role will be limited strictly to collecting coconut shells. Additionally, one security guard and one home guard have been deployed at the site to maintain order and ensure a smooth and respectful experience for devotees.

The temple authorities reiterated their commitment to enforcing rules strictly and safeguarding the interests and sentiments of devotees.



# Toxic Smoke Near Government Offices in Kadiyam Raises Health Concerns

East Godavari 24.03.2026 TPN Bureau:

A serious environmental and public health issue has come to light in Kadiyam mandal of Rajamahendravaram Rural constituency, where thick smoke from burning waste is causing severe distress to patients and the general public. Ironically, this alarming situation is unfolding right in front of key government offices, exposing glaring negligence by local panchayat authorities.

Along the canal road connecting Kadiyam to Vemagiri, several important government institutions—including the Tahsildar office, Mandal Parishad office, Primary Health Centre (PHC), and Mandal Educational Resource Centre—are located in close proximity. However, the canal bund behind these offices has turned into an unofficial dumping yard, creating hazardous conditions.

Residents from nearby areas have been disposing of household waste along the canal bund. Due to the failure of panchayat staff to clear the garbage regularly, heaps of waste have accumulated over time. These waste piles are frequently set on fire, resulting in dense smoke that engulfs the surrounding government buildings, particularly the PHC.

The impact on public health



is deeply concerning. The Kadiyam PHC reportedly receives over 250 outpatients daily. Patients suffering from respiratory issues, elderly individuals, and children are finding it extremely difficult to breathe due to the toxic fumes. Even inside the hospital premises, the air quality has deteriorated significantly, leaving patients in distress.

According to PHC Superintendent Dr. Madhuri, the issue has been brought to the attention of the Tahsildar and MPDO multiple times. Despite

repeated complaints, there has been little to no response from the panchayat authorities, reflecting a serious lack of coordination among officials.

Locals are questioning the inaction of authorities, especially when such a grave issue is occurring in front of government offices that witness heavy public footfall every day. They allege that both the Panchayat Secretary and Sarpanch have failed to address the problem, putting public health at risk. The much-publicized "Swarna Panchayat"

initiatives, they say, remain only on paper, with no visible improvement on the ground.

Residents are now demanding immediate intervention from higher authorities to put an end to the practice of dumping and burning waste near the canal. Strict measures must be implemented to ensure proper waste management and prevent further environmental damage. Unless urgent action is taken, the situation could worsen, posing an even greater threat to public health in the days to come.

# Three Sandalwood Smugglers Sentenced in Tirupati

Tirupati, March 24 | TPN Bureau

The Tirupati Additional District Judge (ADJ), Justice Narasimhamurthy, on Tuesday sentenced three individuals involved in illegal sandalwood smuggling to imprisonment and fines, marking a significant crackdown on the illicit trade in the region.

The judgment comes as part of ongoing efforts by the Red Sandalwood Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) to curb the illegal transportation of red sandalwood from the Seshachalam Reserve Forests in Andhra Pradesh. These forests are known for their rich natural resources, and sandalwood smuggling has been a persistent threat to the ecosystem.

Under the direction of RSASTF Head L. Subbarao, a special operation was devised, supervised by Task Force Superintendent of Police P. Srinivas and Assistant Superintendent of Police J. Kulashakar. The op-

eration focused on cases previously registered and under trial in courts, with special attention given to collecting and presenting solid evidence to ensure successful prosecution.

Special Public Prosecutor Aluguri Amar Narayana spearheaded the legal proceedings, meticulously presenting the evidence to secure convictions. In the case registered as Crime No. 17/2016, the three accused were apprehended in the Mungilipattu range of Panapakam forest, Tirupati district.

The convicted smugglers are S. Tangaraju and T. Rajendran from Salem, Tamil Nadu, and D. Nawaz from Bengaluru. Based on the evidence presented, Justice Narasimhamurthy imposed prison sentences and fines: Tangaraju and Rajendran received five years of imprisonment each, along with fines of 3.10 lakh each, while Nawaz was sentenced to five years in prison and fined 6.10

lakh. Following the court's orders, the convicts were handed over to Nellore Central Jail to serve their sentences.

SP P. Srinivas emphasized that the judgment serves as a stern warning to criminals attempting to illegally exploit the red sandalwood resources of the Seshachalam Reserve Forests. He also lauded the RSASTF investigation officers and court staff for their coordinated efforts, which contributed to the successful conviction of the smugglers.

The RSASTF has reiterated its commitment to continuing strict enforcement measures against sandalwood smuggling, aiming to protect one of Andhra Pradesh's most valuable natural assets. Authorities hope this ruling will act as a deterrent and reinforce the message that illegal activities in protected forest areas will be met with stringent legal action.



# Electric Shock Incident in Pedathallapolam Claims One Life; Subhash Visits Victims

**Ramachandrapuram, March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

A tragic electric shock accident occurred on Tuesday in Pedathallapolam village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Konaseema district, leaving one person dead and two others seriously injured. The incident took place while workers were carrying out electric wire replacement

work in the village. The deceased, Dasari Surya Prakash (22), died on the spot, while P. Chandu and Namadi Vijay Kumar sustained severe injuries. The injured were immediately shifted to Ramachandrapuram Area Hospital for treatment. Police confirmed that all three were residents of Krishna district and had come to the village for daily wage work under a local

contractor. State Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash rushed to the site after being informed of the incident. He personally visited the injured and expressed deep condolences to the family of the deceased. The Minister instructed hospital authorities to ensure the victims receive the best possible medical care. Preliminary reports

suggest the accident may have been caused by negligence on the part of electricity officials. Minister Subhash assured that a departmental inquiry would be conducted, and strict action would be taken against those responsible. He also pledged to ensure compensation for the deceased and injured families. The Minister was accompanied at the site by

AMC Chairman Akkala Rishwantharay and other coalition party leaders, who joined him in overseeing relief measures and assessing the situation. This incident highlights ongoing safety concerns during electrical maintenance work in rural areas and underscores the need for strict adherence to safety protocols to prevent such tragedies.



# Tirupati Municipal Commissioner Warns Strict Action Against Attacks on Officials

**Tirupati, March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

Tirupati Municipal Commissioner N. Maurya has issued a stern warning that any assault on government employees performing official duties will invite strict legal action. The statement follows a recent incident where a municipal official was attacked while carrying out tax recovery duties.

According to reports, municipal secretary P. Nagarjuna visited C.N. Printers on Prakasham Road to inform the proprietors about a 50% rebate on property tax interest as per state government directives. The establishment had an outstanding tax of 1,44,658 over three years. With the interest waiver, the payable amount was revised to 1,25,820, which the official communicated to the owners.

Instead of cooperating, the owner Vasanth Kumar and associates allegedly confronted Nagarjuna aggressively, refusing to acknowledge the official instructions and reportedly made threatening remarks. The incident was immediately reported to the police, and a case has been registered against the printer owner.

Commissioner N. Maurya expressed strong disapproval of the attack and reiterated that all municipal employees performing duties—such as tax collection, public notifications, and administrative inspections—must be allowed to work without interference. He emphasized that the municipal



corporation will take stringent action against anyone obstructing or assaulting officials, and warned the public against similar misconduct in the future. This incident highlights the importance of cooperation between citizens and government officials, especially regarding compliance with tax regulations and official notices. The municipal administration urged residents and business owners to follow directives responsibly to avoid

legal complications. Commissioner Maurya's statement is also a reaffirmation of the municipal corporation's commitment to protecting its employees, ensuring that administrative functions are conducted smoothly, and maintaining law and order in the city.

Officials reminded citizens that the 50% interest waiver on property tax arrears is part of the government's effort to reduce financial burdens on tax-

payers and improve compliance. Residents are encouraged to approach municipal offices for clarifications rather than resorting to confrontation.

The municipal administration assured that it will continue to monitor such incidents closely and maintain strict enforcement against violators, ensuring the safety and dignity of government personnel during the execution of their official duties.

# AGICL MD Reviews Key Amaravati Government Complex Projects

**Amaravati, March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

S. VR Srinivas, Managing Director of Amaravati Growth & Infrastructure Corporation Limited (AGICL), conducted a detailed review on Tuesday of ongoing construction projects at the Amaravati Government Complex (AGC), the capital city's administrative hub. The assessment focused on the MLA and MP housing towers as well as ministerial bungalows being built in the complex.

During the review, Srinivas met with contractors and engineering teams overseeing the projects to examine progress,

quality, and adherence to timelines. He instructed officials to ensure that all works are completed to the highest standards of quality within the scheduled deadlines.

The Managing Director also emphasized the need for strict safety measures, noting recent fire incidents at several construction sites. He directed that all personnel and contractors take appropriate precautions to prevent accidents and follow security and safety protocols during ongoing construction activities.

This review reflects AGICL's continued focus on maintaining timely execution, safety,

and quality in developing the Amaravati Government Complex, a key part of the capital's infrastructure and administrative growth.

Officials and project teams were urged to closely monitor progress and resolve issues proactively to ensure the projects meet both functional and aesthetic standards while safeguarding the workforce.

The MD concluded that no compromise on safety or quality would be tolerated and reinforced AGICL's commitment to delivering state-of-the-art facilities for the city's public representatives and administrative operations.



# Sri Rama Bhajana Mandiram Gears Up for Grand Sri Rama Navami Celebrations in Tirupati

**Tirupati, March 24 TPN Bureau:**

Devotional fervor is building up at the Sri Rama Bhajana Mandiram located in Pedda Kapu Street, as elaborate arrangements are underway for the upcoming Sri Rama Navami festivities. The nine-day spiritual celebrations are set to commence from March 27, drawing devotees from across Tirupati city.

As part of the preparations, the temple is being thoroughly cleaned and artistically decorated with fresh colors, creating a vibrant and divine atmosphere. The organizing committee is making all necessary arrangements to ensure that the celebrations are conducted in a grand and spiritually enriching manner.

During the nine special rituals will be performed each day. Every evening, the Unjala Seva (swing ritual) of Lord Sri Rama will be conducted with devotion and traditional grandeur. One of the major highlights of the festivities will be the Sita Rama Kalyanam on the fifth day, which will be celebrated with great pomp and religious significance.

The concluding ninth day will witness the Sri Rama Pattabishekam, a visually and spiritually captivating ceremony symbolizing the coronation of Lord Rama. This event is expected to immerse devotees in deep spiritual bliss and attract large



gatherings.

Temple committee members have extended an open invitation to all devotees in Tirupati and surrounding areas to participate in the sacred celebrations, seek the blessings of Lord Sri Rama, and experience the spiritual ambiance. On Tuesday morning, members of the Bhajana

Mandali visited the temple premises to review the ongoing arrangements and expressed confidence that the event would be conducted successfully. Prominent attendees included Rayalaseema Rangasthali Chairman Gundala Gopinath, Secretary K.N. Raja, locals Kotte Subrahmanyam Reddy, priest

Suresh Swamy, Mittapalli Brahmanandam, and Thondamanati Subrahmanyam Reddy, among others.

With devotion, tradition, and community participation at its core, the Sri Rama Navami celebrations at Sri Rama Bhajana Mandiram promise to be a spiritually uplifting experience for all.

# Centre Allocates 7.64 Crore to Andhra Pradesh Under "Unnati" Project

**Nellore, March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau**

In response to a query in the Lok Sabha, Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy sought details on the allocation of funds to Andhra Pradesh under the "Unnati" project, a central initiative aimed at enhancing skill development and employment opportunities for rural and marginalized communities. The MP also requested information on how the programme prioritises Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities, women, and other disadvantaged groups, as well as awareness campaigns to ensure maximum benefit reach.

The query was addressed by Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, who explained that

the Unnati Project was launched in December 2019 to improve livelihood opportunities for families who have completed 100 days of work under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme, by providing them with skills for wage or self-employment. Priority for training selection is given to SC/ST, nomadic tribes, unrecognised castes, women household heads, physically challenged heads, beneficiaries of land reforms, PMAY (rural), and Forest Rights Act beneficiaries, based on socio-economic caste census (SECC) criteria.

Minister Prasada stated that in the 2020-21 financial year, the central government released 7.64 crore for Andhra Pradesh under the Unnati Project. Over the past five years, the state has also received 1,108.24 crore under the Deen

Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)—with the Centre contributing 664.94 crore (60%) and the state contributing 443.30 crore (40%).

The Unnati Project is implemented in coordination with the Rural Skill Development Division, DDU-GKY, and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs). States and Union Territories are responsible for awareness, branding, and outreach, while the programme authorities identify eligible beneficiaries for training and employment opportunities.

This funding aims to strengthen rural skill development, promote employment among disadvantaged communities, and enhance socio-economic inclusion across Andhra Pradesh.



## Modi, Trump Discuss West Asia Crisis, Stress Keeping Hormuz Open

New Delhi | March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump held a crucial phone conversation on Tuesday to discuss the escalating crisis in West Asia, focusing on ensuring stability in global energy and trade routes.

During the call, both leaders emphasized the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open, a vital maritime corridor through which a significant portion of the world's oil supply passes. The discussion comes amid heightened tensions in the region due to ongoing conflicts involving Iran, the United States, and its allies.

Officials said the conversation highlighted shared concerns over disruptions to international shipping lanes and the broader economic impact of the crisis. The Strait of Hormuz has emerged as a critical flashpoint, with any instability posing serious risks to global energy markets and supply chains.



Prime Minister Modi described the exchange as "useful," reiterating India's consistent position in favour of de-escalation, dialogue, and the early restoration of peace in the region. He stressed that maintaining open sea routes is essential not only for regional stability but also for the global economy.

The conversation also reflects India's proactive diplomatic engagement as it navigates the evolving geopolitical situation. With a large portion of its crude

oil imports passing through the Strait of Hormuz, India has a strong stake in ensuring that maritime routes remain secure and uninterrupted.

The developments come at a time when tensions in West Asia have raised concerns about potential disruptions to fuel supplies, trade, and the safety of Indian nationals in the Gulf region. The government is closely monitoring the situation to safeguard national and economic interests.

Both leaders agreed to remain in touch and continue consultations as the situation evolves. The call underscores growing coordination between India and the United States on global security challenges, especially those with far-reaching economic implications.

As tensions persist, the focus on keeping key trade routes open highlights the urgency of diplomatic efforts to prevent escalation and maintain stability in the region.

## Rahul Gandhi Slams Modi's Foreign Policy Amid West Asia Crisis

New Delhi | March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, criticising the government's handling of foreign policy in the backdrop of the ongoing West Asia crisis.

Addressing reporters at Parliament House, Gandhi alleged that India's foreign policy has been reduced to a "personal" approach driven by the Prime Minister, rather than a structured national strategy. He described the current approach as ineffective and warned that it could have serious consequences for the country's global standing and economic stability.

Gandhi further claimed that the lack of a clear and consistent position on the West Asia conflict has created uncertainty, particularly at a time when global tensions are affecting energy supplies and trade routes. He cautioned that disruptions in the region could soon impact essential commodities in India, including LPG, petrol, and fertilisers, thereby affecting common



citizens.

In a more pointed criticism, the Congress leader suggested that India's foreign policy decisions were increasingly influenced by external powers, raising concerns about the country's strategic autonomy. He argued that a strong and independent diplomatic stance is essential, especially during international

crises that have direct implications for India's economy and security.

The remarks came a day after the Prime Minister addressed Parliament on the West Asia situation, where he highlighted the government's preparedness to deal with emerging challenges. However, Gandhi dismissed the speech as lacking clarity and

substance, stating that it did not adequately address key concerns raised by the opposition.

He also criticised the Prime Minister for drawing comparisons between the current crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic. Gandhi said such comparisons overlook the scale of suffering experienced during the pandemic and should not be used to justify the government's current approach.

The Congress leader further indicated that structural issues in India's foreign policy framework need urgent attention, suggesting that corrective measures may take time. His remarks reflect growing political tensions between the ruling government and the opposition over India's diplomatic positioning in a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape.

The criticism adds to the ongoing debate in Parliament, where opposition parties have been demanding greater transparency and clarity on India's stance in the West Asia conflict and its potential impact on the country's energy security and economy.

## India Has Adequate Crude Oil Supply Amid West Asia Crisis: PM Modi



New Delhi | March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday assured the Rajya Sabha that India has sufficient crude oil reserves and robust arrangements in place to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply, despite the ongoing crisis in West Asia.

Addressing the Upper House, the Prime Minister described the situation in the region as "worrisome," noting that the conflict has disrupted global trade routes and affected the supply of petrol, diesel, gas, and fertilisers. He emphasized, however, that the government has taken proactive steps to safeguard India's energy security and mitigate the impact of the crisis.

Modi highlighted that India has significantly strengthened its strategic petroleum reserves over the past decade. The country currently maintains over 53 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil reserves and is working to expand this capacity further by more than 65 lakh metric tonnes. These reserves, along with diversified sourcing strategies, are helping India maintain supply stability during global uncertainties.

The Prime Minister also informed Parliament that the government is actively sourcing crude oil and natural gas from multiple regions to reduce dependence on any single supply

route. Efforts are ongoing to ensure that shipments continue to reach India without disruption, even as tensions persist in key maritime corridors.

He stressed that India has opposed attacks on commercial shipping and critical infrastructure, including energy transport routes. Ensuring safe passage for oil and gas vessels remains a top priority, with diplomatic channels being actively used to facilitate smooth transit.

In addition to energy concerns, Modi expressed worry over the safety of Indian citizens in the Gulf region. He informed the House that over 3.75 lakh Indians have returned home safely since the conflict began, as part of ongoing evacuation and assistance efforts.

Calling for a unified global response, the Prime Minister reiterated India's stand on resolving the crisis through dialogue and diplomacy. He urged that peace and stability in West Asia are essential not only for the region but also for global economic balance.

Modi cautioned that if the conflict continues for a prolonged period, it could have serious consequences for the global economy. However, he expressed confidence that India's preparedness, strong economic fundamentals, and strategic planning would help the country navigate the challenges effectively.

## Indian LPG Carriers Navigate Hormuz Amid Supply Concerns



New Delhi | March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Amid ongoing tensions in West Asia, India has managed to maintain a crucial lifeline in its energy supply chain, with several Indian-flagged LPG carriers successfully transiting the Strait of Hormuz despite heightened risks in the region.

Two key LPG vessels — Jag Vasant and Pine Gas — have recently crossed the sensitive maritime route and are expected to reach Indian ports later this week, providing relief amid concerns of supply disruptions. Their movement comes at a time when the Strait of Hormuz, a vital corridor for global oil and gas transport, has been witnessing significant geopolitical tensions due to the ongoing conflict involving Iran and Western powers.

The safe passage of these carriers marks an important step in ensuring continuity of LPG supplies to India, which relies heavily on imports to meet domestic demand. Officials noted that maintaining uninterrupted transit through the Strait remains critical, as a substantial portion of India's cooking gas requirements is sourced from the Gulf region.

The situation had earlier raised alarms after multiple Indian vessels, including LPG carriers, faced delays or were stranded in the Gulf due to security concerns and restricted movement in the region. At one

point, several ships carrying large quantities of LPG were unable to proceed, triggering fears of a potential supply crunch back home.

However, recent developments indicate a gradual easing of movement, with select vessels being allowed to pass under close monitoring and precautionary measures. Authorities are closely tracking ship movements and coordinating with international stakeholders to ensure safe navigation for Indian vessels.

The government has also taken contingency steps to manage any shortfall, including prioritising LPG supply for domestic households and essential services. Industrial usage has been curtailed in some cases to ensure that household demand remains unaffected.

Experts note that the Strait of Hormuz handles a significant share of global energy shipments, making any disruption a matter of international concern. For India, which imports a large portion of its LPG needs, the safe transit of carriers is essential to maintaining price stability and supply continuity.

As tensions persist in the region, the successful navigation of Indian LPG carriers offers a measure of reassurance. Authorities continue to monitor the evolving situation closely, with further shipments expected in the coming days to stabilise supplies.

## Supreme Court Raps Mamata Govt Over ED Obstruction Row



New Delhi | March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Supreme Court on Tuesday strongly questioned the West Bengal government over alleged obstruction of Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials during a probe, asking whether officers lose their rights while performing official duties.

The remarks came during a hearing on a petition filed by the ED against the West Bengal government led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The central agency has accused state authorities of interfering with its investigation during raids conducted at the offices of a political consultancy firm earlier this year.

A bench of the top court expressed concern over the situation, terming it unusual and raising fundamental questions about the protection available to officials discharging statutory duties. The judges asked what remedy would be available if officers are obstructed while carrying out lawful investigations, and whether such interference can be justified under any circumstances.

The case stems from an incident in January when ED officials conducting searches reportedly faced resistance from state authorities. The agency has alleged that its officers were restrained and prevented from carrying out their duties, prompting it to approach the apex court for relief.

During the proceedings, the West Bengal government argued that central in-

vestigative agencies like the ED do not have fundamental rights and questioned the maintainability of the petition. It maintained that the matter should not be treated as a violation of constitutional rights. However, the court appeared unconvinced, focusing instead on whether officials performing legal duties are entitled to protection from obstruction.

The bench also indicated that the issue goes beyond a routine legal dispute, touching upon the balance of power between state authorities and central agencies. It stressed the need to ensure that investigative processes are not hindered, while also maintaining constitutional boundaries.

The confrontation between the ED and the West Bengal government has been ongoing, with both sides accusing each other of overreach. The Supreme Court had earlier described the situation as serious and emphasised the need to find a workable solution to prevent such conflicts in the future. The matter has now gained significant political and legal attention, as it raises broader questions about federalism, institutional authority, and the functioning of investigative agencies in politically sensitive cases.

The Supreme Court is expected to continue hearing the case, with its eventual ruling likely to have far-reaching implications for the relationship between state governments and central probe agencies across the country.

## Opposition Seeks All-Party Meet on Women's Reservation Amendment



New Delhi | March 24, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Opposition on Tuesday demanded that the Centre convene an all-party meeting to discuss proposed amendments to the Women's Reservation Act, seeking greater clarity and consensus on the way forward.

The demand was led by Mallikarjun Kharge, who is expected to write to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju, urging the government to share detailed information on the proposed changes. Opposition leaders stressed that a structured discussion is essential before moving ahead with any amendment to the landmark legislation.

According to sources, opposition parties have insisted that the government circulate a detailed note outlining the scope and implications of the proposed amendments. They believe this will help facilitate a more meaningful and informed discussion among all political stakeholders.

The Opposition has also suggested that the all-party meeting be held after the completion of the ongoing Assembly elections, likely by the end of April, to ensure full participation and focus from all parties. Leaders said that such a timeline would allow for a more constructive dialogue on a matter of national importance.

The Women's Reservation Act, passed in 2023, aims to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legisla-

tive assemblies for women. However, its implementation is currently linked to the completion of the next Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise, which has led to delays and ongoing political debate.

Recent developments indicate that the government is considering amendments to accelerate the implementation of the quota. This includes proposals to delink the reservation from the Census timeline or to restructure constituencies, triggering concerns and discussions across political circles.

Opposition leaders have maintained that while they strongly support women's reservation, any changes to the existing framework must be discussed transparently and with broad consensus. They cautioned against unilateral decisions that could have far-reaching implications for electoral representation and federal balance.

The issue has gained prominence in Parliament, with both the government and Opposition acknowledging the need to enhance women's representation in legislatures. However, differences remain over the method and timing of implementation.

As political consultations intensify, the proposed all-party meeting is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the future of the Women's Reservation framework and ensuring that reforms are carried out with collective agreement.

# Trump Shifts Responsibility for Iran War Towards Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth

US President Donald Trump has indicated that the push for military action against Iran may have originated from within his own administration, specifically pointing to Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth. His remarks come amid growing scrutiny over the ongoing conflict and its origins.

Speaking at a public event in Tennessee, Trump revealed that Hegseth was the first senior official to advocate for launching military operations against Iran. Recalling internal discussions, Trump said Hegseth had strongly supported the idea, arguing that the US could not allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons.

The comments are being seen as an attempt by Trump to shift some responsibility for the war decision onto the Pentagon leadership. While praising Hegseth's decisiveness, Trump's remarks subtly distanced himself from being the primary driver behind the escalation.

The conflict, which began in late February 2026, has rapidly intensified, with US forces carrying out extensive strikes on Iranian targets. The war has raised global concerns due to its potential impact on regional stability, energy markets, and international security.

Interestingly, Trump also claimed that the United States is engaged in "very good" and productive discussions with Iran aimed at ending hostilities. However, Iranian officials have denied that any direct ne-



gotiations are taking place, highlighting ongoing uncertainty around diplomatic efforts.

Reports suggest that not all members of the administration were equally supportive of military action. Vice President JD Vance, for instance, was said to be more cautious compared to Trump and Hegseth, indicating internal differences over the approach to Iran.

Hegseth, a former military officer and media personality, has been one of the most vocal advocates of strong military action. He has consistently defended the war, framing it as necessary to counter Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional influence.

The timing of Trump's remarks is significant, as the war enters a critical phase with no clear end in sight. By attributing the initial push to

Hegseth, Trump may be attempting to manage political pressure and criticism over the conflict's consequences.

Overall, the episode underscores evolving narratives within the US leadership regarding the Iran war. While the administration continues to justify the military campaign, questions remain about decision-making, accountability, and the prospects for a diplomatic resolution.

# Pakistan Steps In as Mediator; US-Iran Talks May Be Held in Islamabad



Pakistan is emerging as a key diplomatic player in the ongoing Iran war, positioning itself as a mediator between the United States and Iran amid rising global concerns over the conflict.

According to recent developments, Islamabad is actively working to facilitate dialogue between Washington and Tehran. Pakistani leadership, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief General Asim Munir, has engaged with both sides in an effort to reduce tensions and open channels for negotiation.

Pakistan is reportedly offering its capital, Islamabad, as a neutral venue for potential talks. Discussions are underway to organize a meeting that could involve senior representatives from both countries, with some reports suggesting that US Vice President JD Vance could participate if talks materialize.

The mediation effort

comes at a critical time, as the conflict between the US and Iran has intensified, raising fears of a broader regional war. With direct communication between the two countries limited, backchannel diplomacy through intermediaries like Pakistan has become increasingly important.

Pakistan's unique position—maintaining ties with both the United States and Iran—has enabled it to step into this role. It also has strategic relationships with Gulf nations, allowing it to act as a bridge in a highly polarized geopolitical environment.

There are indications that these diplomatic efforts may already be yielding some results. Reports suggest that behind-the-scenes mediation involving countries like Pakistan, Turkey, and Egypt has contributed to temporary pauses in planned military escalation, even though active conflict continues.

However, uncertainty remains. While the US has hinted at ongoing or potential discussions, Iranian officials have repeatedly denied that formal negotiations are taking place. This highlights the fragile and sensitive nature of the current diplomatic efforts.

Experts note that Pakistan's attempt to mediate reflects both an opportunity and a challenge. While it seeks to enhance its diplomatic influence and promote regional stability, its ability to successfully broker peace will depend on the willingness of both the US and Iran to engage in meaningful dialogue.

Overall, Pakistan's involvement signals a significant shift in the diplomatic landscape of the Iran conflict. If successful, talks in Islamabad could mark an important step toward de-escalation, though much depends on how the situation unfolds in the coming days.

# Middle East Allies Near Possible Involvement in Iran Conflict

Recent developments suggest that key US allies in the Persian Gulf, notably Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), are moving closer to a more active role in the ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran.

The shift comes after a series of Iranian drone and missile attacks on Gulf targets, including energy infrastructure and bases hosting Western forces. These strikes have intensified security concerns in both Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

### Signs of Escalation

- Saudi Arabia has reportedly allowed increased US military access to its bases, which could be used more actively in operations against Iran.
- The UAE has taken tougher measures against Iranian interests, such as freezing or closing Iranian-linked entities, and is considering possible military in-



volvement as Iran's attacks persist.

- These moves reflect growing frustration within Gulf governments over security threats and economic disruptions, particularly near the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil transit route.

### Economic and Regional Impact

The evolving situation has already impacted markets, with global oil prices rising as traders anticipate the possibility of broader Gulf involvement. Brent crude prices have climbed above \$102 per barrel due to the uncertainty.

At the same time, Gulf stock markets have reacted cautious-

ly, reflecting investor concerns over continued geopolitical risks in the region.

### Regional Alarm and Strategic Calculations

While Saudi Arabia and the UAE have long maintained strong defense ties with the US, direct participation in the conflict would represent a significant escalation. Gulf leadership appears increasingly willing to support stronger military actions against Iran if Tehran's actions continue to threaten their security or economic stability.

However, experts warn that formal involvement in combat operations would carry considerable risks, including prolonged regional conflict and threats to domestic security.

In summary, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are edging closer to a more assertive role in the Iran conflict, driven by repeated Iranian attacks and strategic ties with the United States. The situation remains fluid, with diplomatic, military, and economic factors all playing a crucial role in determining the next steps.

# Mystery Trade Nets ₹840 Crore in Minutes After Trump's Iran Policy U Turn

A highly unusual financial trade tied to US President Donald Trump's sudden reversal of his Iran policy has sparked intense scrutiny and raised questions about potential insider advantage or unusually informed trading.

According to reports, an unidentified investor is believed to have made an extraordinary profit of about 840 crore in roughly 20 minutes by placing a large bet that anticipated Trump's abrupt change in stance on the Iran conflict. The trade was executed just before markets reacted sharply to the policy shift, allowing the investor to capitalise on the rapid movement in prices.

The timing of the transaction has drawn attention because it appeared to precede the public announcement by only minutes, suggesting that the trader may have had advance information or access to insights that weren't yet in the public domain. Such a window of profit in an event-driven scenario like this is extremely rare and, at face value, raises concerns among market watchers about fairness and transparency in fi-



nanical markets.

In the wider trading ecosystem, examples of big, well-timed block trades before official government announcements have been noted in recent months. Some hedge fund analysts described this as part of a pattern in which significant positions were taken ahead of major geopolitical news, particularly those related to the ongoing US Iran

tensions.

The incident has triggered a closer look from financial regulators and market participants, who are now examining whether the trade involved non-public information. If this were the case, it could potentially point to violations of insider trading rules, which prohibit trading on material information that isn't publicly available.

Market dynamics around geopolitical events are typically volatile, and traders often place speculative positions based on their interpretation of public signals and emerging trends. However, the sheer scale of profit made in such a compressed time frame makes this episode stand out.

At the same time, uncertainty around communications from global leaders has muddied investor expectations. Earlier mixed signals from Washington about possible talks or de-escalation with Iran may have amplified market reactions when more definitive statements emerged.

Overall, the episode underscores how sensitive financial markets have become to geopolitical developments and highlights the challenges regulators face in policing sophisticated trading behavior around major world events. The investigation into this trade and its implications could lead to broader discussions on market integrity and the need for robust surveillance mechanisms in times of global political stress.

# Iran War Becomes the First US Era Conflict of Social Media and Information Blackouts



The ongoing conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran is being described by analysts as the first major war involving the US in the age of social media, creating what many observers call an "information black box."

Unlike past conflicts such as Vietnam, where journalists enjoyed significant on-the-ground access, today's war zone is marked by restricted media coverage and intentional information control by all sides. Journalists have far less freedom to report from frontline areas, both because of military controls and because governments are increasingly limiting what can be shared with the public.

Iran has imposed internet blackouts inside the country, cutting off much online access and hampering the flow of information out of the nation. In neighbouring Gulf states affected by the conflict, authorities have banned filming of damage from attacks and arrested people who defy these orders. At the same time, Is-

raeli military censors have tightened media restrictions to manage coverage of its multi-front engagements, including in southern Lebanon and within Iran-linked theatres.

In the United States, political leaders have contributed to the confusion. President Donald Trump has made contradictory statements on social media about the war's progress and has publicly criticised mainstream news outlets. Meanwhile, senior Pentagon officials have echoed complaints that parts of the press are biased or untrustworthy, adding to the sense that clear, reliable reporting is scarce.

This environment has allowed social media platforms to play a heightened role. Without trusted, independent reporting from inside Iran or other conflict zones, both official state channels and unofficial online voices have filled the void. Iranian hardline and diaspora accounts alike have used memes, AI-generated videos, and viral posts

to shape narratives about the war, while Western and regional sources sometimes struggle to verify what is real because of the internet shutdowns and controls in place.

Experts warn that this fusion of restricted traditional reporting, digital censorship and rampant social media content—including unverified viral material—makes it very difficult for observers around the world to gain an accurate understanding of the actual situation on the ground. Instead of a transparent news flow, the conflict's information landscape resembles a "black box," where truth, propaganda and misinformation blur together and complicate public understanding.

This shift highlights how modern wars are fought not only with weapons and troops, but also through control and manipulation of information in the digital age—sometimes leaving people more uncertain about events than ever before.

## Markets Rebound Strongly; Sensex Jumps 1,372 Points, Nifty Ends Above 22,900

Indian equity markets staged a sharp recovery on March 24, bouncing back after the previous session's steep decline. Benchmark indices ended the day with strong gains, supported by improved global sentiment and easing geopolitical concerns.

The BSE Sensex surged 1,372 points, or 1.89 percent, to close at 74,068.45. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty 50 rose 399 points, or 1.78 percent, to settle at 22,912.40. Despite some volatility during the session, the overall trend remained positive, reflecting renewed investor confidence.

Markets opened on a firm note, tracking positive global cues, and sustained their upward momentum throughout the day. The Nifty even crossed the 23,000 mark during intraday trade, driven by consistent buying across sectors.

One of the key drivers of the rebound was optimism surrounding geopolitical developments. Reports suggesting a



temporary pause in US strikes on Iran's infrastructure lifted market sentiment, although uncertainty persisted due to conflicting signals from Iran regarding negotiations.

The rally was broad-based, with all sectoral indices ending in the green. Auto and IT stocks led the gains, each rising around 2 percent. Other

sectors such as banking, metals, media, and consumer durables also posted notable advances, indicating widespread participation in the uptrend.

Broader markets outperformed the benchmark indices, with mid-cap and small-cap stocks gaining approximately 2.6 percent each. This suggests strong investor interest beyond

large-cap stocks and points to improved overall market breadth.

Among individual stocks, key gainers included Larsen & Toubro, InterGlobe Aviation, Asian Paints, and Bajaj Finance. On the other hand, some stocks such as Coal India, Adani Enterprises, Sun Pharma, Cipla, and Power Grid Corporation ended the session with losses.

The rally also significantly boosted investor wealth. The total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies increased by nearly 8 lakh crore, reflecting the strong upward movement in stock prices.

Overall, the sharp rebound highlights the resilience of domestic equity markets, aided by supportive global cues and easing tensions. However, analysts remain cautious, noting that volatility may continue in the near term, and sustained buying interest will be essential to maintain the positive momentum.

## Limited Margin Deleveraging Signals Retail Investor Resilience Amid Market Fall



Despite a sharp correction in Indian equity markets, retail and high-net-worth investors have shown notable resilience, as indicated by relatively mild deleveraging activity. Recent data suggests that investors have not rushed to unwind leveraged positions, even as indices witnessed significant declines.

Outstanding positions under the margin trading facility (MTF) dropped by around 9-10 percent from their February peak of ₹25,178 crore to approximately ₹22,957 crore in March. In comparison, the Nifty index fell much more sharply—by nearly 11 percent during the same period.

This gap between the extent of market decline and the reduction in leveraged positions highlights a key trend: investors are not reacting with panic selling. Instead, they appear to be holding on to their positions, reflecting confidence

in market fundamentals despite ongoing volatility.

Market experts believe that such limited deleveraging is a positive sign. Typically, in periods of stress, margin positions tend to shrink rapidly as investors are forced to sell assets to meet margin calls. However, the current scenario indicates a more stable investor base that is willing to ride out short-term fluctuations.

Several global and domestic factors have contributed to recent market volatility, including geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and rising crude oil prices. Yet, these challenges have not triggered widespread distress among retail participants.

According to analysts, the absence of panic-driven unwinding suggests that investors are increasingly adopting a long-term approach. Many are using market dips as buying opportunities rather than exiting posi-

tions. This behavior marks a shift from earlier patterns where corrections often led to aggressive sell-offs.

Experts also note that if positive or even neutral news flow continues, markets could regain upward momentum. Projections suggest that the Nifty could potentially move towards the 23,500-23,800 range in the near term, provided sentiment remains stable.

The broader takeaway is that retail investors are becoming more mature and less reactive to short-term market swings. Their ability to withstand volatility without significant deleveraging is helping stabilize the market during corrections.

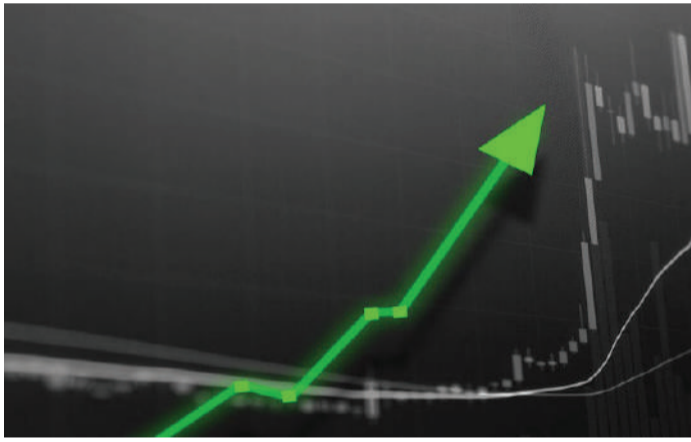
Overall, the data points to a healthier market environment where investor confidence remains intact, even in the face of external uncertainties. This resilience could play a crucial role in supporting future market recoveries and sustaining long-term growth.

## Smallcap AI Firm Gains Up to 6% After Securing Government Healthcare Project

Shares of small-cap IT company Blue Cloud Softech Solutions surged by nearly 6 percent during intraday trade after the firm announced a significant government-linked healthcare project win. The development boosted investor sentiment and led to increased buying interest in the stock.

The company received a purchase order from Central Electronics Limited (CEL), a Government of India enterprise, to deploy its AI-powered platform, "Access Genie," within the Telangana Arogyasree healthcare ecosystem. This project marks a key step in expanding the company's presence in India's growing digital healthcare segment.

The scope of the project includes implementing artificial intelligence capabilities across healthcare facilities under the Arogyasree scheme. The platform will be used for operational monitoring, security management, and data analytics, along with conducting



field-level assessments and end-user surveys.

"Access Genie" is designed to enhance efficiency through features such as real-time monitoring, AI-driven analytics, and advanced access control systems. It also incorporates technologies like facial recognition and biometric authentication, aimed at improving safety, transparency, and service delivery in public

healthcare infrastructure.

Although the company has not disclosed the financial value of the order due to confidentiality reasons, the deal is seen as strategically important. It strengthens the firm's positioning in the domestic healthcare space and aligns with its broader growth strategy of leveraging AI solutions in government projects.

The stock movement reflects

growing investor confidence in companies that are tapping into artificial intelligence and public sector digitisation opportunities. India's healthcare sector, in particular, is witnessing increasing adoption of AI-driven solutions, supported by government initiatives and rising demand for efficient healthcare delivery systems.

This order also builds on the company's earlier international engagements in AI-based healthcare, indicating a consistent push to scale its technology offerings across markets. Analysts believe such developments could support future revenue growth and improve long-term business visibility.

Overall, the strong market reaction highlights how contract wins, especially from government-backed entities, can act as key triggers for small-cap stocks. As digital healthcare continues to expand in India, companies with AI capabilities are likely to remain in focus among investors.

## Amir Chand IPO Sees Strong Day 1 Demand; NII Portion Fully Subscribed, GMP Remains Modest



The initial public offering (IPO) of Amir Chand Jagdish Kumar (Exports) received a strong response on its opening day, with notable participation from non-institutional investors (NIIs). The 440 crore issue opened for subscription on March 24 and will close on March 27.

On Day 1, the IPO witnessed healthy overall subscription levels, largely driven by high-net-worth investors. The NII segment was fully subscribed early and moved into oversubscription territory, reflecting strong confidence among this category. However, retail participation remained relatively subdued during the initial phase of bidding.

The IPO is a book-built issue consisting entirely of a fresh issue of shares. The funds raised are expected to be used primarily for working capital requirements and general corporate purposes. The company is engaged in processing and exporting basmati rice and other FMCG products, with a solid presence in both domestic and international markets.

In the grey market, the IPO is trading at a modest premium. The grey market premium (GMP) is around ₹6 per share, suggesting a potential listing gain of roughly 3 percent over the upper end of the price band. This indicates cautious optimism among investors

regarding the stock's listing performance.

The price band for the IPO is set at approximately ₹201-₹212 per share, making it accessible to a wide range of investors. The issue size and pricing have contributed to steady interest, especially from institutional and high-net-worth segments.

From a financial standpoint, the company has demonstrated strong growth. Its revenue has risen significantly in recent years, crossing ₹2,000 crore, while profits have also shown a sharp increase. This consistent financial performance has supported investor confidence and driven demand in the offering.

Despite the encouraging response from NIIs, the relatively lower participation from retail investors and the modest GMP suggest a balanced market outlook. Investors appear to be carefully evaluating both the company's fundamentals and broader market conditions before making investment decisions.

Overall, the IPO has made a solid start, backed by strong interest from larger investors and stable financials. Going forward, broader participation across all investor segments will play a key role in determining the final subscription levels and the stock's performance upon listing.

## Manipal Health Files Draft Papers for ₹8,000 Crore IPO; Plans Expansion and Debt Reduction



Manipal Health Enterprises, one of India's leading hospital chains, has filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise ₹8,000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The move marks a significant step for the Temasek-backed healthcare major as it looks to strengthen its financial position and expand operations.

The proposed IPO will include a fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹8,000 crore along with an offer-for-sale (OFS) component of over 4.3 crore shares by existing promoters and investors. Key stakeholders participating in the OFS include entities such as Imperius Healthcare Investments, Manipal Education and Medical Group, and global investors like TPG and Novo Holdings.

The company may also consider a pre-IPO placement of up to ₹1,600 crore. If executed, this could reduce the size of the fresh issue.

Proceeds from the fresh issue are primarily intended for debt reduction and strategic growth initiatives. A significant portion will be used to repay borrowings of its subsidiary, Manipal Hospitals, while funds will also be allocated toward acquiring a minority stake in Sahyadri Hospitals and for general corporate purposes.

Manipal Health operates

a wide network of multispecialty hospitals across India, offering services ranging from primary care to advanced tertiary and quaternary treatments. As of September 2025, the company had around 38 hospitals, which expands to nearly 48 hospitals on a pro forma basis, with over 12,000 beds across multiple states and union territories.

The company has shown strong financial performance, reporting revenue of over ₹8,200 crore and a net profit exceeding ₹1,000 crore in FY25. It has also served millions of patients annually, supported by a large network of doctors and healthcare professionals.

Leading investment banks such as Kotak Mahindra Capital, Axis Capital, Goldman Sachs India, JP Morgan India, Jefferies, UBS Securities India, and DBS Bank India are acting as book-running lead managers for the issue.

The IPO comes at a time when investor interest in India's healthcare sector is rising, driven by increasing demand for quality medical services, higher insurance penetration, and growing preference for specialized care.

Overall, Manipal Health's IPO is expected to be one of the largest in the healthcare space, and its success will depend on market conditions, valuation expectations, and investor appetite at the time of listing.

## Speciality Medicines IPO Subscribed 2.19 Times; QIB Portion Booked 96x by Just Two Investors



The IPO of Speciality Medicines saw a moderate overall response but an extraordinary surge in institutional demand, as the issue was subscribed around 2.19 times on the final day of bidding.

The ₹29.14 crore SME IPO, which was open from March 20 to March 24, attracted strong interest from select investors, particularly in the Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB) category. The QIB portion was oversubscribed an exceptional 96 times, largely driven by bids from just two institutional investors. This sharp concentration highlights strong conviction among a limited set of large players.

In contrast, participation from other investor segments remained relatively muted. The non-institutional investor (NII) category was subscribed about 1.6 times, indicating moderate interest from high-net-worth individuals. Mean-

while, the retail investor segment lagged significantly, with subscription levels staying below 0.5 times, reflecting cautious sentiment among smaller investors.

The IPO was entirely a fresh issue of shares, aimed at raising funds for business expansion, working capital needs, and general corporate purposes. The company operates in the specialty pharmaceutical segment, focusing on high-value medicines used in treating complex and chronic conditions such as oncology, neurology, and immunology.

The price band for the issue was fixed at ₹117-₹124 per share, with a minimum lot size of 1,000 shares, making the minimum investment relatively high for retail participants. This could have contributed to the subdued response from the retail category.

Despite the modest overall subscription, the strong institutional backing is seen

as a positive signal. However, the fact that the QIB portion was dominated by just two investors raises concerns about concentration risk and the lack of broad-based institutional participation.

Market observers note that while the IPO managed to cross the fully subscribed mark, the uneven demand across categories presents a mixed picture. Strong institutional interest may support listing performance, but weak retail participation suggests limited enthusiasm at the broader market level.

Overall, the IPO outcome reflects selective investor confidence, with large investors showing aggressive interest while retail investors remained cautious. The listing performance will likely depend on how the market interprets this imbalance in demand and the company's growth prospects going forward.

## 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-

tention 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 miss-

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.

## Rajasthan Royals Set to Become IPL's Most Expensive Franchise with \$1.63 Billion Sale



The historic Indian Premier League franchise Rajasthan Royals is on the brink of becoming the most costly team in IPL history following a blockbuster ownership change ahead of the 2026 season. A consortium led by US based entrepreneur Kal Somani has successfully agreed to acquire the franchise in a deal valued at roughly \$1.63 billion (around ₹13,600-₹15,000 crore), eclipsing previous sales and valuations across the league.

This dramatic rise in value underscores the increasing global interest in the IPL as not just a cricket competition, but a major commercial and sporting asset. The prospective sale, expected to take effect after the current season, marks one of the largest transactions in Indian sports and reflects the

massive growth in franchise valuations over the last two decades.

The Rajasthan Royals, one of the original eight teams when the IPL launched in 2008, have transformed from being one of the least expensive sides to now potentially becoming the most expensive. Over the years, the league's immense popularity, booming media rights deals, and commercial success have driven franchise worth through the roof, making team ownership one of the most coveted investments in global sports.

Under the new ownership, the Royals will look to scale both on and off the field. The fresh capital and strategic backing could lead to enhanced player acquisition budgets, expanded marketing initiatives, and broader com-

mercial partnerships. It also signals rising investor confidence in Indian cricket's brand and long term potential.

Kal Somani, who leads the winning bidding group, is known for his ventures in technology and sports investments. His entry as the principal figure in the ownership consortium highlights the growing appeal of IPL franchises among international investors seeking exposure to both sporting prestige and financial growth.

The sale concludes a competitive auction process that saw interest from multiple high profile bidders. The final agreement represents a significant premium over earlier franchise valuations and demonstrates how much the cricket league's economic value has grown since its

inception.

For fans of the Royals, this represents a new chapter for the franchise. While the team has enjoyed moments of cricketing success — including its inaugural IPL title — it has also faced challenges and fluctuations in performance. With fresh leadership poised to take over, supporters will be watching closely to see how this investment translates into on field success and brand expansion.

Overall, the monumental sale of the Rajasthan Royals underscores the IPL's evolution into one of the world's most commercially powerful sporting leagues. The enormous price tag not only highlights the franchise's current status but also sets a benchmark for future valuation trends in the global sports ecosystem.

## RCB Confirm Yash Dayal Will Not Play for Franchise in IPL 2026 Amid Rape Accusations

In a significant development, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) have confirmed that Yash Dayal, a player recently accused in a rape case, will not be part of the squad for IPL 2026. The franchise made a statement following the media attention around the allegations, clarifying that Dayal will not take the field this season.

The allegations, which have led to an investigation, have sent shockwaves through the cricket community, as Dayal had been seen as a rising talent with great potential. His exclusion from the team follows concerns surrounding the impact such accusations might have on the team's image, and the integrity of the league.

RCB has made it clear that the decision to exclude Dayal was made in light of the seriousness of the situation, and they are committed to upholding the values of the IPL and the broader cricketing community. They further stated that they are closely monitoring the investigation



and will continue to cooperate with authorities.

The situation has raised important questions about how franchises should handle sensitive matters such as criminal allegations and the welfare of players involved. Dayal's ab-

sence from the IPL 2026 season has sparked debate on accountability in professional sports and the importance of maintaining ethical standards within the sport.

The news has left many wondering about the future of the

player in the IPL and whether the investigation will lead to a broader review of his career and reputation. However, for now, his focus is on resolving the legal issues, while RCB prepares for the season without his participation.

## Australian Born Ryan Williams Likely to Make India Debut as Khalid Jamil Names Squad for Hong Kong Qualifier

The Indian men's football team has announced its squad for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers match against Hong Kong, and one of the most notable inclusions is Australian born winger Ryan Williams, who is expected to make his debut for India.

Williams, who qualifies to represent India through descent, has been training with the squad and impressed the coaching staff with his pace, skill and adaptability on the flanks. His selection marks another example of India integrating talent from abroad to bolster its attacking options.

The team has been carefully selected by head coach Khalid Jamil, featuring a mix of seasoned internationals and promising young players. Jamil's strategy appears focused on balancing experience with dynamic, creative talent capable of impacting matches in tight situations — especially important in qualifying fixtures where every point is crucial.

Williams' possible debut is generating excitement among fans who see his flair as an as-



set that could inject greater offensive threat into India's build up play. His ability to take on defenders, deliver dangerous crosses and contribute directly to goal opportunities adds another dimension to the Indian attack.

Alongside Williams, the squad includes several established players who have been mainstays in the national team. These experienced internation-

als are expected to anchor the team's performance, providing leadership and stability in key areas such as defence, midfield control and goalkeeping.

India's fixture against Hong Kong is a pivotal one in Group E of the qualifiers, with both teams aiming to keep their hopes alive for advancing to the AFC Asian Cup finals. The selectors have underscored the importance of a united

and focused squad that can rise to the challenge in a high pressure environment.

The announcement has also sparked discussions about India's evolving football identity, with naturalised and descent eligible players increasingly contributing alongside home grown talent. Supporters believe that such inclusions can help raise the overall quality of play and bring fresh tactical options to the team.

As the squad prepares for the qualifier, attention will be on how quickly Williams can acclimatise to the team's style and how head coach Jamil deploys him in what promises to be a competitive encounter. A strong performance against Hong Kong could set the tone for India's campaign, boosting confidence as the team pursues qualification for the continental showcase.

Fans are eagerly awaiting the match, hopeful that Williams' debut and the team's collective effort will deliver a positive result in their quest for a place at the AFC Asian Cup.

## “Should Retire Instead of Playing as Impact Player”:- Aakash Chopra on MS Dhoni's IPL Role



Former Indian opener Aakash Chopra recently sparked debate by suggesting that legendary cricketer MS Dhoni should consider retiring rather than continuing to play as an impact player in the IPL 2026 season.

Chopra expressed that Dhoni — one of the most successful captains and finishers in cricket history — has already achieved a legacy that few can match. In his view, continuing in a limited impact player role could dilute the immense reputation Dhoni has built over two decades. He argued that while Dhoni still draws fans and attention, the nature of his current cricketing contributions may not align with his legendary status.

The impact player rule allows teams to substitute a stronger batter or bowler at specific stages of a match to influence momentum. In recent seasons, Dhoni has been used in this role by the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) — the franchise he has captained since the IPL's inception. However, his on field involvement has been limited compared to his peak playing years, with shorter batting cameos and fewer dismissals behind the stumps.

Chopra's comments have sparked varied reactions among fans and cricket experts. Some believe Dhoni's enduring presence adds intangible value through leadership, mentorship, and experience — assets that are particularly valuable in high stakes T20 matches. Others agree with Chopra that step-

ping away at the right time would preserve Dhoni's status as one of the game's all time greats.

Dhoni's career is unmatched in many respects — from leading India to the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ODI World Cup to winning multiple IPL titles with CSK. These achievements have etched his place among cricket's elite. Yet, as he continues playing into his 40s, questions about timing and role have resurfaced.

Critics of Chopra's view argue that Dhoni has always defied expectations, continuing to perform even when odds were against him. They point out that Dhoni's ability to handle pressure, read game situations, and finish matches remains an asset regardless of age. Many fans also find value in seeing a beloved cricketer still compete at the highest level.

Ultimately, the debate touches on broader themes about athletes' career longevity, legacy preservation, and the evolving nature of T20 cricket. While some veterans choose to step aside as physical skills wane, others transition into hybrid roles — contributing strategically in short bursts when needed.

For now, Dhoni's decision about his IPL future hangs in the balance. Whether he continues as an impact player or decides to hang up his boots entirely, the cricket world will be watching closely — and passionately — as one of the sport's most iconic careers reaches its final chapters.

## All England Runner Up Lakshya Sen to Lead India's Thomas Cup Campaign



India's top men's singles badminton star Lakshya Sen is set to be the centerpiece of the national team's challenge at the upcoming Thomas Cup, Asia's premier men's team badminton championship. Sen's inclusion as the leader of the squad adds momentum to India's hopes of making a deep run in the tournament.

Sen recently showcased his world class form by finishing as the runner up at the prestigious All England Open, one of the sport's oldest and most competitive events. His performance there — taking on the world's best and pushing through high pressure matches — has bolstered expectations around his leadership role in the team event.

The Thomas Cup squad also includes a mix of established players and emerging talent, chosen to balance singles firepower with strong doubles pairings. With Sen leading the singles lineup, India aims to leverage both experience and momentum as they seek success in the team competition.

India's badminton contingent has been improving steadily on the world stage, and recent international performances suggest growing competitiveness against traditional powerhouse nations. Sen's form — marked by his speed, shot variety, and mental resilience — makes him a vital asset for In-

dia's prospects.

In team championships like the Thomas Cup, every match counts, and having a player of Sen's calibre at the top of the card is a significant advantage. Beyond his individual matches, Sen's presence also provides confidence to teammates and can inspire strong performances across both singles and doubles fixtures.

Badminton fans in India and beyond will be closely watching the team's campaign, as India seeks to build on recent progress and challenge perennial contenders. The Thomas Cup offers a different dynamic from individual events, requiring depth and strategic player deployment across multiple ties.

Sen's All England performance has already signaled his readiness to compete at the highest level, and now he will look to carry that momentum into team action. A successful Thomas Cup run would be another milestone in his burgeoning career and could signal India's growing stature in international badminton.

With the championship approaching, preparations are intensifying, and expectations are high. The Thomas Cup presents an opportunity for Sen and the Indian team to shine, showcasing their talent, unity, and competitive spirit on one of badminton's biggest stages.

## “Our Film Is a Theatrical Experience Driven by Visuals and Folklore, Like Chandamama Katha Blended With Stylised Technology and Comedy”: Manasa Sharma on Rakasa



**R**iding on growing digital traction and strong pre-release buzz, Rakasa is steadily emerging as a distinctive genre-driven entertainer. Headlined by Sangeeth Sobhan and Nayan Sarika, and produced by Niharika Konidela under Pink Elephant Pictures in collaboration with Zee Studios, the film marks the feature directorial debut of Manasa Sharma. Positioned as a fantasy adventure comedy rooted in folklore and powered by stylised visuals and evolving technology, the project has drawn attention for its unique tonal blend. Ahead of the trailer release, director Manasa Sharma interacted with print media, sharing insights into the film’s concept, making and her journey.

more context. The film majorly is a fantasy but blended it with comedy and crafted a good story. Horror acts as a tool element, that’s all.

**Q:** So Rakasa means?

**Manasa Sharma:** Devil.

**Q:** Male or Female?

**Manasa Sharma:** Again, you’ll get more context once you see the trailer tomorrow.

**Q:** Sangeeth mentioned he wasn’t the first choice.

**Manasa Sharma:** Well, it was not prepared for anyone specific. I went to the Netflix office for a meeting and when they asked for a genre specific plot,

I shared this line. I was working on another idea with Sangeeth which was a fantasy adventure. When he asked about my meeting with Netflix, I said it went well and shared the line. He got interested and I decided to go ahead with the theatrical.

**Q:** What were your challenges as a debutant director?

**Manasa Sharma:** Since I already made Bench Life which has 5 episodes, I never faced any difficulties regarding production or any such. The process is almost the same. But that is OTT and theatrical is different because everything falls upon the producers. So the responsibility factor was more for this project. I just want Niharika gaaru and Pink Elephant Pictures to be happy with this.

**Q:** How did you impress Niharika?

**Manasa Sharma:** It’s the story that im-

pressed her. We were already associated with each other and my previous projects Bench Life and Oka Chinna Family Story gathered good response. So within the 15-20 minutes of narration only, we were on board.

**Q:** Did you choose Nayan because of your previous collaboration?

**Manasa Sharma:** Nayan is actually a director’s actress. You can see the variation of her performances in her previous projects and even in Rakasa it varies significantly from Bench Life. She is a great performer and that is the only reason we took her for Rakasa. She was perfect and apt.

**Q:** Was it done within the budget?

**Manasa Sharma:** Yeah, I mean for every project it goes up and down 10% but ours was within the budget and the producers are happy.

**Q:** The project is said to be costly. How did you handle it as a debutant?

**Manasa Sharma:** Compared to our previous projects as a team, yes, it is a higher budget. But my gut was that me and my co-writer Mahesh have a good credibility on OTT because of our previous projects and it shall be safe on OTT. Even during the shoot our first priority was to make sure the budget shall not be crossed at any cost because there are VFX scenes too. So we were very agile and conscious throughout the shoot.

**Q:** Many recent films are mood and genre-based. How does this differ?

**Manasa Sharma:** I appreciate all those movies, but for sure ours is an entirely theatre film and the trailer releasing tomorrow proves that. The visuals and the certain stuff are meant for theatrical experience. And 90% of the story is fictional, the comedy and other things, but the core point is from our folklore. Like mixing Chandamama Katha with a stylistic technology adding comedy to it is what this film is.

**Q:** We heard that Nagababu gaaru gave a book to Niharika and she gave that to you?

**Manasa Sharma:** No, this is completely my own writing and creation. I don’t know

from where you heard that information.

**Q:** What work has gone into VFX?

**Manasa Sharma:** I was put in contact with major VFX artists by Pink Elephant Pictures right from day one and when I met a few and narrated the plot, Murali gaaru felt close to this story. His ideas and inputs were very apt for the plot. He worked for this and his entire team has done a great work. We had an on-set supervisor throughout the shoot and that helped us make everything without errors and not crossing the budget.

**Q:** Why did you choose Sangeeth for this role?

**Manasa Sharma:** We choose actors not just by past works but also on performances, mannerism and all that really suit our character. Sangeeth was the best fit.

**Q:** Who is your inspiration?

**Manasa Sharma:** B. Vittalacharya gaaru. I was grown on his films.

**Q:** VFX usually takes more time. How did you complete it quickly?

**Manasa Sharma:** The second half is high on VFX so we shot that first so that VFX work gets completed on time. We shot that and sent it to them. While they were working it, parallelly we were shooting the first half.

**Q:** Why choose fantasy for your debut?

**Manasa Sharma:** Well unfortunately that is limited to our industry but outside like in Hollywood there aren’t any such. So this idea came up and I proceeded with it.

**Q:** What was Niharika’s involvement?

**Manasa Sharma:** The huge plus of working with Pink Elephant Pictures is that they have a very strong production team. We completed Oka Chinna Family Story in nine months and even Committee Kurrollu released in one year. I wanted to release the project in a year and the Pink Elephant team were quite great with it. Niharika gaaru is a very good producer. She knows the balance right from creative involvement to director’s freedom to production care and values.

**Q:** What about Sangeeth’s creative contribution?

**Manasa Sharma:** He’s just a kid with 2-3 films old. The creative decision comes only after the whole team involvement and discussions. So as a team we exchanged ideas and discussed various aspects but he is a very conscious actor.

**Q:** Can you talk about the art work?

**Manasa Sharma:** It is done by Ramanjaneyulu. Because it’s entirely based on my imagination, from the start itself we discussed what and how we can do and with the evolved technology I was able to

give my idea more clearly to the art team. So it was quite a smooth process. Ramanjaneyulu is the production designer and Vishnu Vardhan is the art director. Both of them did great work.

**Q:** Is it going to be a new experience?

**Manasa Sharma:** I wouldn’t say it is completely new because the core point or other factors one might have heard somewhere. But the drive of the plot, characters, narrative and screenplay—that’s new.

**Q:** How did you choose the music director?

**Manasa Sharma:** I approached them with a list that had my choice of crew and that opened the discussion. Along with budget constraints there are date clashes and schedules too. But I was familiar with Anudeep Dev and his work and knew him personally. So we went ahead with him and his work reflected our confidence.

**Q:** When are you showing it to Ram Charan gaaru?

**Manasa Sharma:** That’s in Niharika gaaru’s hands.

**Q:** What are your future projects?

**Manasa Sharma:** Most of them are fantasy related. Hopefully they all pan out with Rakasa.

**Q:** What’s the runtime?

**Manasa Sharma:** Censor is yet to be done.

**Q:** Why B. Vittalacharya as inspiration?

**Manasa Sharma:** Because of my grandmother I saw all his films and they generated curiosity and excitement in me. He did all those wonders at that time without any VFX and that is the reason I got inspired by him.

**Q:** Will you explore more folklore films?

**Manasa Sharma:** To an extent Rakasa falls under that category. Hopefully I venture more into such.

The promotional campaign for Rakasa has been generating strong digital traction, with the title glimpse crossing 1.9 million views, the teaser surpassing 3 million views, and all three singles—“Rapappa,” “Padhe Padhe,” and “Snake Dance”, crossing the million mark. Headlined by Sangeeth Sobhan and Nayan Sarika, alongside Vennela Kishore, Brahmaji, Tanikella Bharani, Ashish Vidyarthi and Getup Srinu, the film brings together a vibrant ensemble, with music by Anudeep Dev, cinematography by Raju Eedurou, and editing by Anwar Ali.

Blending fantasy, folklore, stylised technology and comedy into a visually driven theatrical experience, Rakasa is set for its worldwide theatrical release on April 3, 2026



## Hrithik Roshan and Ryan Gosling Connect for Exclusive “Project Hail Mary” Conversation

In a first-of-its-kind global interaction, Hrithik Roshan and Ryan Gosling came together for an exclusive virtual conversation, delighting fans across continents. The session highlighted the shared passion of the two stars for space, science, and storytelling, offering a rare glimpse into their creative perspectives.

This conversation follows Hrithik’s recent collaboration video tied to Project Hail Mary, which has already captured global attention. The exchange marks one of the most exciting cross-cultural moments in cinema, uniting two international icons and giving fans unprecedented insight into their artistic worlds.

The discussion centered on the film itself, with both actors reflecting on what makes Project Hail Mary unique and how its story resonates with Indian audiences. The conversation also drew nostalgic parallels to Hrithik’s classic Koi... Mil Gaya, exploring how science fiction tran-

scends borders through emotional storytelling and universal wonder.

Mutual admiration defined the session, with both stars praising each other’s careers and teasing the possibility of future collaborations, much to the excitement of fans worldwide.

Directed by acclaimed duo Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, Project Hail Mary follows Ryland Grace, played by Ryan Gosling, a lone astronaut who awakens aboard a mysterious spacecraft with no memory of his identity or mission. The film also features Sandra Hüller, Lionel Boyce, Ken Leung, and Milana Vayntrub in pivotal roles.

Presented by Amazon MGM Studios and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing International, the film is set to release in India on 26 March 2026 in English, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu, including IMAX® and other premium formats, promising a cinematic experience that bridges cultures and continents.

## Samantha Launches “Idi Prema” Song from Harshith Reddy’s “Deewana”

The song “Idi Prema” from the upcoming Telugu film “Deewana” was recently released on social media by star heroine Samantha, followed by a launch event at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad attended by prominent directors Venky Atluri, Ravikiran Kola, and Nandini Reddy.

After the success of his previous film Subham, young actor Harshith Reddy stars as the hero in Deewana, while Sneha Manimegalai makes her Telugu debut as the heroine. Produced by Vasudev Koppineni and Sridevi Karyampudi under Arha Media and V Studios, the film is directed by Srikanth Sangishetty and is touted as a heartwarming love story set for a grand theatrical release this summer.

Choreographer Krishna, who has worked on several reality shows, expressed his excitement about choreographing the film, praising the team for supporting new talent and confident that all songs will become chartbusters. Music di-

rector Eshwar Chand, making his debut, said the producers and director gave him creative freedom, allowing him to compose, write lyrics, and even involve actors in dialogue writing, emphasizing the collaborative effort behind the film. Producers Sridevi Karyampudi and Vasudev Koppineni highlighted the courage and passion behind bringing Deewana to life. They spoke of the emotional resonance of the story, which they believe will connect with audiences of all ages, and praised the performances of Harshith and Sneha alongside Eshwar Chand’s music. Director Srikanth Sangishetty shared that Deewana has been a long-cherished story for him, inspired by films like Vasantha Kokila, Tholi Prema, and 7G Brindavan Colony. He described the film as a realistic love story focusing on Munna, a middle-class boy, promising an emotional climax and a lasting impression on viewers.

Directors Nandini Reddy,

Venky Atluri, and Ravikiran Kola lauded the sincerity, passion, and quality of the film, emphasizing its potential to inspire new filmmakers and revive the celebratory culture of cinema in theatres.

Lead actors shared their excitement as well. Sneha Manimegalai, who plays Ammu, said she felt honored to debut in Telugu cinema with such a heartfelt story. Harshith Reddy described Deewana as a life-changing project, recounting his journey of shooting half the film without a heroine until the right casting was found. He compared the film’s potential impact on his career to iconic Telugu films like Tholi Prema and Arjun Reddy.

With its music launch completed and endorsements from industry veterans, Deewana is positioned as a promising love story expected to captivate audiences this summer.



## “Band Melam” Set to Make a Big Impact: Sree Vishnu and Industry Stalwarts at Pre-Release Event

The much-anticipated film “Band Melam”, starring Harsh Roshan and Sridevi, is generating excitement ahead of its March 26 release. Produced under Kona Film Corporation and presented by Mango Mass Media, the movie is directed by Satish Javvaji and backed by veteran writer-producer Kona Venkat, with Kavya and Sravya as producers. A star-studded pre-release event was held, attended by Vijayendra Prasad, VV Vinayak, Bobby, Bandla Ganesh, Chandrabose, Sree Vishnu, and Suresh Babu.

Sree Vishnu, known as the King of Entertainment, praised the film and its team, saying, “All the seniors have given their blessings to Band Melam. Roshan is very talented and will become a big hero. Sridevi performed excellently in Court, and I hope she gets more opportunities. The film gives positive vibes, and I hope it becomes a big hit. Kona garu’s passion for cinema is rare, and he continues to nurture new talent.”

Director Bobby highlighted Kona Venkat’s storytelling acumen, praising the

teaser and performances of Roshan and Sridevi, while Suresh Babu complimented the cast, humor, and overall execution. Veteran writer Vijayendra Prasad wished for the film’s success, emphasizing the producer’s generosity and dedication. VV Vinayak and Bandla Ganesh also lauded the actors, director, and Kona Venkat’s commitment to introducing fresh talent.

Producer Kona Venkat expressed his pride in the project, crediting relationships and trust in talented directors. He emphasized the film’s emotional climax, compelling story, and the performances of Roshan and Sridevi. Music director Vijai Bulgani confirmed the songs and background score were crafted to resonate deeply with audiences.

Director Satish Javvaji shared his journey, recalling struggles before being discovered by Kona Venkat and praising the team’s collective effort, while Harsh Roshan said the film would connect with audiences through humor and emotion. Sridevi added that the characters Yadagiri and Rajamma would be cherished by viewers, highlighting the appeal of the story and music. Producer Sravya invited audiences to watch the film together, and previous collaborators from Court, including producer Deepthi and director Ram Jagadeesh, expressed confidence that Band Melam would make a strong impact.

With its vibrant cast, experienced crew, and heartfelt storytelling, “Band Melam” is positioned to become a major hit, offering entertainment that blends humor, emotion, and memorable music.

