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Amit Shah Says Maoists 'More or Less Wiped Out' From Bastar Ahead of Deadline

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Andhra Pradesh Wins Multiple National Panchayat Awards

Vijayawada, 31st March 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Panchayati Raj Department has been honoured with the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas National Awards for the second consecutive year, marking a significant achievement for the state's rural governance initiatives.

Bokkasam Palem Gram Panchayat in Srikalahasti Mandal, Tirupati district, secured 1st place nationally in the Women-Friendly Panchayat category. In the Good Governance category, Srungavaram Gram Panchayat, Visakhapatnam district, achieved 1st place nationally. Chemmullapalli Gram Panchayat, YSR Kadapa district, earned 2nd place for Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihoods, while Gundamala Gram Panchayat, Prakasam district, ranked 3rd nationally

in Self-Sufficient Infrastructure. Kuppam Mandal, represented by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, was recognized as the 3rd Best Mandal in the country. Last year, the department had also received four national awards across various categories, reflecting consistent excellence in local governance. The achievements were credited to the dedication of Sarpanches, Ward Members, and officials. The state expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lalan Singh for acknowledging the efforts of Andhra Pradesh. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan noted that these awards reinforce the government's commitment to holistic and inclusive village development and stand as a testament to the coalition government's sustained focus on empowering rural communities.



P 4 Initiative Kindles Ray of Hope for Tribal Families: Chandrababu Naidu

Tirupati, 31st March 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said that the state's ambitious P 4 initiative, aimed at uplifting economically vulnerable communities, is beginning to transform lives in tribal areas, bringing a renewed sense of hope for a better future. Speaking during the anniversary programme of the P 4 initiative held at Padmavati Mahila University in Tirupati, Naidu interacted with beneficiaries and heard firsthand accounts of how the programme has changed their circumstances. A tribal woman shared her emotional story of struggle and eventual upliftment, explaining how her family once lived in hardship but has now secured a decent house and stable livelihood through the support provided under P 4.

She said that initially, she and her family were hesitant and uncertain, unsure of the initiative's promise. However, after three months of sustained engagement with programme mentors, they placed their trust in the process. As a result, her family received a newly constructed home, along with livestock including sheep, a ram, and chickens, which now provide a steady source of income and sustenance.

The woman described how basic amenities like water, electricity, and road access have greatly improved their quality of life. She said that relatives who once wondered how they survived in the region now see a remarkable



change in their living conditions. Overwhelmed with gratitude, she appealed to the Chief Minister to visit her home and witness the positive impact of the programme on her family and community. Responding warmly, Naidu assured her that he would visit the village as a guest to share in their joy and observe their progress.

Officials accompanying the Chief Minister noted that more than twenty tribal families have benefited from the P 4 initiative in the region, reflecting the broader reach of the programme. The initiative, which focuses on uplifting underprivileged families through support systems that include housing, livelihood resources, and mentorship, is part of the state government's larger effort to address poverty and bring inclusive development to all sections of society. Local leaders and beneficiaries have welcomed the initiative, saying it not only provides material support but also instills dignity and hope among those who felt left behind. The success stories emerging from tribal areas such as this, they believe, highlight the potential of the P 4 programme to foster long term socioeconomic change across the state.

Mandapeta Demolition Controversy

East Godavari, 31st March 2026 | TPN Bureau

A sensational controversy has erupted in Mandapeta town following allegations by renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. Ramu. Claiming that municipal authorities demolished his house unfairly because he "refused to pay the demanded bribe," Dr. Ramu's statements have ignited widespread discussion.

According to Dr. Ramu, who runs Sri Sai Ortho and Trauma Care hospital in the rear part of Suryamahal, he undertook additional construction on his building last year to meet future needs. While applying for municipal approval in September, he alleges that officials demanded a bribe of 1.5 lakh, which he claims to have paid. Later, he says, the municipal commissioner allegedly demanded another 5 lakh, which he refused to give. This, he asserts, prompted the authorities to act against him.

Dr. Ramu further alleged



that without issuing any formal notices and in violation of building regulations, municipal authorities demolished the additional floor constructed on his hospital premises. He described the action as entirely vindictive.

Adding to the controversy, Dr. Ramu claimed that being from an ST community, officials treated him with disrespect and used caste-based derogatory remarks, fueling accusations of social discrimination. While authorities acknowledge 119 illegal constructions in Mandapeta, Dr. Ramu criticized the municipal administration for targeting only

60, questioning, "Why was I singled out?"

He confirmed that he has already approached the courts and that a case is underway against 12 officials, including town planning authorities and the municipal commissioner. Expressing dissatisfaction over the slow progress of the case, Dr. Ramu submitted a petition seeking justice to District Collector Keerthi Chekuri during Monday's P-GRS meeting.

Local residents have demanded a thorough investigation into the incident to uncover the truth. Public sentiment strongly favors strict action against any officials found guilty if the bribery claims and caste-based discrimination allegations are proven true.

Overall, the demolition incident in Mandapeta has brought issues of administrative conduct, alleged corruption, and social discrimination into sharp focus, triggering intense public debate.

Lokesh Urges Swift Filling of Nominated Posts Ahead of Local Polls

Vijayawada, 31st March 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national general secretary Nara Lokesh has called for the prompt completion of all pending nominated posts and internal party positions, stressing their importance ahead of the likely announcement of local body elections. Speaking at a meeting with zonal coordinators and party leaders in Mangalagiri, Lokesh emphasised that these positions play a critical role in recognising and empowering grassroots workers, who form the backbone of the party's organisational strength.

Lokesh highlighted that party MLAs, ministers, and coordinators share a collective responsibility to ensure that nominated posts are filled quickly and transparently. He stressed that priority should be given to committed party activists who have consistently supported the TDP during chal-



lenging times, rather than opportunists or newcomers seeking short-term advantage. The minister underscored that this exercise is not merely administrative but vital for strengthening the party's presence at the local level.

He instructed coordinators to hold constituency-wise meetings with MLAs and internal committees to finalise nominations and bolster organisational structures in preparation for the upcoming elections. Leaders were urged to activate booth-level and unit-level structures and ensure close coordination among party functionaries to implement effective strategies.

Lokesh reiterated that recognising hardworking party members and ensuring timely appointments is essential to maintaining morale and loyalty within the party. He warned that complacency or neglect in filling posts could undermine organisational efficiency and weaken the party's readiness for elections. The minister further highlighted that filling these positions is a reflection of the party's commitment to grassroots empowerment and inclusive leadership.

He also connected the discussion to ongoing political developments, noting the TDP's fo-

cus on people-centric governance and preparation for local polls. Lokesh emphasized that while governments may be temporary, the party and its organisational integrity are permanent, making it critical to invest in strong local leadership.

The minister's directives form part of a broader strategy to strengthen the TDP's organisational base ahead of elections, ensure active engagement with party workers, and maintain discipline and unity across all levels. Leaders and coordinators were urged to complete the pending nominations swiftly, ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability.

With elections likely soon, Lokesh's instructions reflect the party's emphasis on building a robust and well-prepared cadre, recognising the contributions of loyal members, and maintaining a disciplined, people-focused approach to governance and political outreach.

"Made in Amaravati" Quantum Hardware Push Gains Momentum

Vijayawada, 31st March 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh is making significant strides in establishing itself as a global centre for quantum technology innovation, with the state government intensifying efforts to build a complete quantum hardware ecosystem in Amaravati.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu outlined the ambitious vision at a roundtable meeting on developing a quantum hardware manufacturing ecosystem under the Amaravati Quantum Valley initiative. The state is aligning with India's National Quantum Mission and is actively engaging industry leaders, researchers, policymakers and technology partners to craft a roadmap for indigenous quantum hardware production and research. Addressing stakeholders, Naidu said that Andhra Pradesh is leveraging a "first mover advantage" in emerging technologies and aims to transform Amaravati into one of the world's top five quantum hubs by 2030. He emphasised the importance of building a comprehensive ecosystem that includes advanced infrastructure, hardware manufacturing capabilities, algorithm development, and support for startups and research initiatives. To accelerate progress, the state plans to launch



India's first open quantum computer in Amaravati on April 14, making it accessible to students, scientists and innovators for experimentation and research. Naidu highlighted that this move will significantly strengthen the state's technology ecosystem and help nurture local talent in cutting edge fields such as cryogenics, photonics and quantum computing algorithms.

More than 30 companies participated in the roundtable, and at least 15 have already signed agreements with the Andhra Pradesh government

to establish operations, with a number of firms already active in Vijayawada. Officials noted that partnerships with global technology players and research institutions will play a crucial role in developing a strong manufacturing base, reducing dependence on imports, and accelerating innovation.

The government's vision emphasises not only production of hardware but also the cultivation of a vibrant start-up culture, research infrastructure and skilled workforce capable of pushing the

boundaries of quantum science. Emerging applications could span fields such as artificial intelligence, advanced computing, healthcare, communications and data security, potentially placing Amaravati at the forefront of technological transformation in India. With sustained policy support and collaborative efforts between industry, academia and government, Andhra Pradesh is positioning itself as a future ready hub for deep tech innovation, signalling a bold step forward in the state's development agenda.

Jagan Assures Legal Support to Victims of Political Violence in Gurazala

Vijayawada, 31st March 2026, | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday assured victims of alleged political violence in the Gurazala constituency of Palnadu district that they would receive full legal support to pursue justice.

During a meeting at the party's central office, a delegation of local leaders briefed Jagan Mohan Reddy on a series of recent violent incidents that have shaken the political landscape in the region. The delegation included family members of victims who claimed that political tensions had led to severe harm and even death.

One complainant, Akuri Venkata Reddy of Ramapuram in Dachehalli mandal, said he survived a violent attack allegedly carried out by workers associated with the rival party, suffering serious injuries. Family members of Kakumanu Bhavana Rishi and Bhuvanagiri Srinivasa Rao of Charlagudipadu village, both of whom died in February, also appealed for help, alleging that the victims were targeted because of their political activities.

Responding to the delegation, Jagan Mohan Reddy stated that the party's legal cell will extend all necessary assistance in filing and pursuing cases related to the incidents,



ensuring that those responsible are held accountable. He emphasised that victims and their families must not be left without support and that justice must be delivered through due process.

The YSRCP chief also criticised the local law and order situation, alleging that biased or partisan policing has contributed to a breakdown in public trust and a climate of fear. He said that fair investigation and impartial enforcement of the law are essential to prevent such political violence.

Leaders and mediators present at the meeting echoed calls for peace and stressed the importance of political coexistence without fear or intimidation. Former MLA Kasu Ma-

hesh Reddy and other senior party figures accompanied the delegation, underscoring the seriousness of the matter within party ranks.

Jagan Mohan Reddy's assurance of legal support is likely to intensify public scrutiny of political rivalries in Palnadu, where tensions have periodically erupted into clashes. While the administration maintains that law and order remains a priority, the opposition and affected families continue to highlight alleged lapses in protection and fairness.

As the legal process unfolds, the focus will remain on whether justice can be delivered swiftly and transparently, and whether political violence can be checked before it escalates further.

Andhra Pradesh DGP Harish Kumar Gupta Promotes 300 AR-SIs in Rare Ceremony

Amaravathi March 31| TPN Bureau

In a landmark event, Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta presided over the promotion of 300 Special Police personnel to the rank of Armed Reserve Sub-Inspector (AR-SI) at the Mangalagiri Police Headquarters. The ceremony was held under the leadership of Battalion IGP Smt. B. Rajkumar.

The state government recently issued orders promoting 300 head constables to AR-SI, recognizing their dedication and service. Though the promotion process for Civil, AR, and APSP personnel had been initiated between 2014 and 2019, technical issues and election regulations had delayed the elevation of APSP personnel.

Following a 12-day promotion training program, the newly promoted AR-SIs met the DGP at Mangalagiri headquarters. During the meeting,



DGP Harish Kumar Gupta congratulated the officers, noting that such a large-scale promotion at once is extremely rare. He also expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for supporting the process, ensuring that deserving

personnel received timely recognition.

Addressing the newly promoted officers, the DGP emphasized that their new responsibilities must be executed with integrity, dedication, and a spirit of service. He high-

lighted that this promotion is not only a recognition of their hard work but also an opportunity to take on greater responsibilities in the future. The DGP urged the officers to perform their duties impartially and conscientiously, upholding

the reputation of the police force.

In a related development, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, along with senior police officials, inaugurated the newly constructed "Ceremonial Guard Room" at Mangalagiri Police Headquarters, designed to enhance the functioning and coordination of guards. The promotion ceremony was attended by top officials, including DGPs Ravishankar Ayyanar and Rajeev Kumar Meena, Intelligence Chief Mahesh Chandra Ladda, Additional DGP (Peace & Security) N. Madhusudan Reddy, ARSP Battalion IGP Smt. B. Rajkumar, IGPs Raviprakash and A.K. Ravikrishna, and several other senior police officers. The event marks a significant milestone in the Andhra Pradesh police department, reflecting both the state government's commitment to recognizing meritorious service and the dedication of officers in maintaining law and order across the state.



AP Electricity Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Reviews Power Sector Projects

Amaravathi March 31| TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Electricity Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar held a comprehensive review meeting with officials of APCPDCL and NEDCAP to assess ongoing power sector initiatives and address issues faced by consumers, particularly low-voltage complaints.

During the meeting, Minister Ravi Kumar discussed the implementation of PM Suryaghar and RDSS schemes, with special focus on agriculture connections and electrification in SC/ST communities. He emphasized that free PM Suryaghar connections are being provided to SC and ST households, and instructed officials to complete the sanctioned six lakh connections promptly while maintaining high quality standards. The Minister stressed the need to accelerate ongoing works under PM KUSUM and RDSS, urging officials to coordinate with district collectors for timely land allotments and ensure smooth project execution. He also highlighted the importance of raising awareness among consumers about the benefits of using solar panels and renewable energy solutions.

A key directive from the Minister was to develop one village in each constituency as a "Model Solar Village," showcasing sustainable energy

adoption. He further instructed officials to take stringent measures to prevent transformer thefts in rural areas and resolve low-voltage issues efficiently, ensuring uninterrupted power supply for residents.

Officials reported that new transformers have been installed in low-voltage affected areas and that significant progress has been made in improving infrastructure. Minister Ravi Kumar emphasized the need to increase customer satisfaction levels to at least 90 percent by prioritizing timely service and effective grievance redressal.

The meeting highlighted coordinated efforts between electricity department officials and local authorities to enhance rural electrification, promote solar energy adoption, and resolve long-standing issues affecting agricultural and household consumers.

By combining infrastructural upgrades, quality monitoring, and consumer awareness, the state aims to ensure reliable and sustainable electricity supply to all citizens, particularly in underserved and low-voltage regions. Minister Ravi Kumar's review underscores the government's commitment to modernizing Andhra Pradesh's power sector while promoting renewable energy and equitable access to electricity for marginalized communities.

AP Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra Criticizes Jagan Over "Credit Theft" in State Development

Amaravathi March 31| TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Excise and Mines Minister Kollu Ravindra strongly criticized Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for allegedly taking undue credit for the state's development while ignoring his government's alleged failings. Speaking at a media briefing at the Telugu Desam Party central office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday, the Minister asserted that no one could "steal Jagan's criminal, loot, corruption, and destruction credit," while development achievements belong to the previous government led by N. Chandrababu Naidu.

The Minister claimed that under Naidu's leadership, Andhra Pradesh achieved remarkable growth across multiple sectors, fulfilling welfare and development promises. He accused Jagan of falsely claiming credit for major industrial investments, including Arce-

lorMittal, Google, TCS, and Cognizant, and questioned why projects such as the Kadapa Steel Plant remained incomplete despite agreements reportedly made in 2021.

Kollu Ravindra highlighted Jagan's alleged failures in public welfare, citing repeated electricity tariff hikes, delays in Polavaram and river interlinking projects, and obstruction of Amaravati's development. He also accused the Chief Minister of shielding criminals and misusing public funds for personal and political gains. Ravindra specifically cited the Veligonda project, where only 500 crore was allocated over five years by Jagan, compared to the accelerated 4,500 crore efforts undertaken by the coalition government to complete the project.

Addressing Amaravati's political significance, the Minister stated that YSRCP leaders oppose having a single, centralized state capital, while the coalition government contin-

ues to focus on decentralized development. He emphasized that initiatives in irrigation, industry, and infrastructure across the state, including the establishment of manufacturing, solar, electronics, and horticulture units, have been driven by Naidu's administration. Ravindra also warned officials against illegal sand and land extraction activities, calling out a local figure allegedly involved in unlawful activities. He instructed authorities to strictly act against illegal practices and not show leniency to violators.

"The coalition government's development agenda is unstoppable," Ravindra said, adding that despite attempts to create regional conflicts or political obstruction, Andhra Pradesh's growth trajectory under Naidu remains intact. He concluded that while Chandrababu Naidu will be remembered as a historic leader, Jagan's legacy would be marked by alleged failures and self-interest.



Minister Ponguru Narayana Prioritizes Nellore City Development, Focuses on Public Welfare

Amaravathi March 31| TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana conducted an extensive review of ongoing development projects in Nellore city, emphasizing the government's commitment to the welfare of economically weaker sections. The Minister carried out a whirlwind tour across the city on Tuesday, personally inspecting major works and interacting with residents to understand and address their long-standing issues.

During the visit, Narayana oversaw the progress of a 1.2 crore CC road project in the Porlukatta area, assuring locals that a 40-year-old problem would be resolved within a month. He instructed officials to maintain strict quality standards and ensure timely completion of all ongoing works. A foundation stone was also laid at Atmakur Bus Stand for a 28 lakh CC road project, with a commitment to complete the road within the stipulated timeline. The Minister inaugurated the 30th NTR Sujala Water Plant at James Garden, announcing plans to set up 120 such plants across the city, providing six lakh liters of mineral water daily at an affordable rate of 2 per 20 liters. He also inspected government schools in divisions 53 and 54, along with a high-tech school constructed under the YSRCP initiative in the TIDCO com-

plex, highlighting the government's focus on providing international standard education for underprivileged students. At Venkateswarapuram Secretariat, Narayana held a review meeting with officials to monitor the implementation of welfare schemes and redressal of public grievances. He instructed officials to ensure transparent service delivery and to resolve citizen applications promptly, emphasizing that field staff should remain accessible and work with dedication to meet government objectives. Speaking to the media, Minister Narayana stated that the current government is fully committed to supporting the poor and ensuring equitable access to basic amenities. He highlighted efforts to renovate 5,000 TIDCO houses constructed by the previous government and promised to complete all development works underway in Nellore by June 12, transforming the city into a model urban center. The program was attended by City Commissioner Nandan, Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav, former municipal chairperson Tallapaka Anuradha, TDP women's parliamentary president KapirRevathi, and party leaders including Dharmavaram Subbarao, PenchalBabu, Pokala Ravi, Madhav, Sujjan, Zaheer, Zameer, Jamshid, Sudhakar Reddy, along with officials from the municipal and education departments.

AkshayaPatra Foundation Distributes Fruits to School Children

Amaravathi March 31| TPN Bureau

The AkshayaPatra Foundation, a leading NGO dedicated to child nutrition and education, has recently launched a special initiative to provide fruits to school children alongside their Mid Day Meals in Andhra Pradesh. This program is part of the Foundation's ongoing efforts to improve the health and well-being of students, complementing the government's existing meal scheme. Over the past years, the Foundation has also been distributing millet chikkis to students on additional days to ensure better nutritional balance. The new fruit distribution initiative aims to further enhance the dietary intake of children, promoting overall health and growth.

The initiative holds special significance as it follows the Foundation's milestone

achievement of serving 5 billion (500 crore) meals nationwide. The milestone, reached on March 17, 2026, was recognized by the President of India, who appreciated the Foundation's dedication to supporting child welfare and education. To mark this achievement, the Foundation has decided to distribute fruits to students for four consecutive days, from March 26 to March 31, 2026.

Andhra Pradesh Regional President Shri Vamsidhara Das stated that the Foundation's efforts are designed to complement the government-provided menu, ensuring that children receive a variety of nutritious foods. Approximately 1.35 lakh fruits will be distributed across the state during this period. The program will benefit 304 schools in Mangalagiri, Tenali, Thullur, Tadepalli, and Duggiralamandals, covering around 27,000 students, as well as 72 schools in Gudivada, reaching approximately 5,000 students.

This initiative not only addresses nutritional gaps but also reinforces the Foundation's commitment to supporting the overall development of children. By providing additional nourishment through fruits, the program seeks to improve students' energy levels, concentration, and immunity, contributing to better academic performance and healthy growth.

The AkshayaPatra Foundation continues to prioritize child welfare through impactful programs like this, combining nutrition, education, and awareness. The organization remains committed to implementing initiatives that ensure children have access to balanced meals, healthier lifestyles, and better educational opportunities. Through such programs, the Foundation strives to create a positive and lasting impact on the lives of school children across Andhra Pradesh and the nation.



State Agriculture Department Approves 9 New Crop Varieties for Kharif Season

Amaravathi March 31| TPN Bureau

The 42nd meeting of the State Seed Sub-Committee (SSSC) was held today at the Office of the Director of Agriculture, Mangalagiri, under the chairmanship of Shri BudithiRajasekhara IAS, Special Chief Secretary for Agriculture and Chairman of SSSC. The meeting focused on the approval of new crop varieties for the upcoming Kharif season.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including Dr. K. Srinivasulu IAS, Director of Agriculture; Dr. P. V. Sathyanarayana, Director of Agricultural Research, ANGRAU; Dr. Satish, Director of the Seed Certification Agency; Additional Director of Agriculture Vinay Chand; Joint Director of Seeds Krupadas, and other distinguished members.

A total of nine new varieties were approved for release: six rice varieties, and one each of blackgram, sugarcane, and tobacco. Scientists presented detailed technical profiles of these varieties, including information on cultivation methods, yield potential, environmental suitability, resilience to pests and climatic challenges, and adaptability to water management schedules.

Shri BudithiRajasekhara emphasized that technical recommendations must be supported by comprehensive field research data. He highlighted the importance of providing farmers with complete information prior to release, enabling them to select varieties suited to cluster-level conditions, early canal water availability, and potential weather risks. He also encouraged further research into cyclone-resistant and non-lodging paddy varieties, particularly for October and November cultivation, noting that naturally farmed varieties have shown high resilience and consistent yields.

Director of Agriculture Dr. K. Srinivasulu noted that the new varieties were developed in response to market demand, export suitability, and climate resilience, with specific attention to pest resistance, including against Brown Planthopper (BPH). Coordination between the Agriculture Department and agricultural universities ensures that recommendations are tailored to regional conditions for optimal productivity. The meeting also discussed measures to improve dissemination of crop variety information to farmers to enhance productivity and climate-adaptive farming.

Coalition Government Launches Free Electricity and Welfare Schemes for Weaver Families

Amaravathi March 31| TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh coalition government has rolled out a major welfare initiative aimed at supporting the state's handloom sector and providing direct benefits to weaver families. State Minister for Handlooms and Textiles, S. Savitha, announced the launch of a free electricity scheme for 1,04,000 handloom families across the state, beginning April 1. Under the scheme, weavers with small looms (maggam) will receive 200 units of free electric-

ity, while those with larger looms will get 500 units annually, resulting in savings of 8,640 and 21,600 per family, respectively. The annual expenditure for this program is estimated at 150 crore.

Minister Savitha highlighted that the coalition government is committed to both the welfare of individual weavers and the overall development of the handloom industry. Efforts include establishing mega clusters and textile parks, subsidizing raw materials, and providing technical training to improve production quality. Key projects include a 38.31

crore mega handloom cluster in Dharmavaram. 12 crore projects in Pithapuram, and 22.35 crore projects in Mangalagiri, along with ten small clusters supported under the Small Cluster Development Program.

The government has also enhanced existing welfare schemes. Under the NTR Bhariosa pension, 92,724 weavers now receive increased pensions of 3,000 to 4,000. The state has raised its share under the thrift scheme from 8% to 16% and provided 24.43 crore to 2,640 weavers under the Mudra scheme. Financial aid

of 25,000 is planned under the upcoming NetranthaBharosa program.

To boost handloom sales, the government has introduced digital solutions, transparent billing, and doorstep delivery of handloom products through the AP Handloom and Powerloom Corporation (APCO). The initiative has already won the prestigious SCOCH award for digitalization. Subsidies of up to 90% are being provided for loom purchases, raw materials, and modern designs.

Minister Savitha emphasized that the coalition government's sole goal is to ensure a

dignified and financially secure life for weaver families. The government is committed to sustaining the industry while providing direct benefits that improve livelihoods, health coverage through a universal health policy, and access to international-standard opportunities.

The minister called on citizens to support handloom artisans by purchasing handloom products during festivals and weekly markets, reinforcing the government's vision of a thriving and self-reliant handloom sector in Andhra Pradesh.

64 Yogini Art Exhibition Draws Praise from Minister KandulaDurgesh in Vijayawada

AMARAVATHI March 31| TPN Bureau

A unique and spiritually enriching art exhibition titled "Eka - The One", featuring 64 Yogini paintings, has garnered widespread appreciation in Vijayawada. The exhibition, held at the MakineniBasava-punnaiahVignanaKendram on MG Road, was visited by Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister KandulaDurgesh on Tuesday.

The minister explored the artworks created by renowned artist Dr.BeenaUnnikrishnan and expressed admiration for their depth,

symbolism, and artistic brilliance. He took particular interest in the painting of Varahi Yogini, which has emerged as a central attraction of the exhibition. Referring to the name "Varahi," which is also associated with Jana Sena Party chief PawanKalyan's campaign vehicle, the minister noted the natural curiosity it evokes among visitors.

Speaking on the occasion, Durgesh highlighted that Varahi represents courage, clarity, and the power to overcome fear and negativity. He appreciated the way the artist has depicted unwavering focus and resilience through the Yogini forms. He further re-

marked that the entire collection beautifully captures the essence of Indian spiritual traditions and the profound philosophy of Tantra, making it accessible to the modern generation.

The minister lauded Dr. Unnikrishnan for her extraordinary achievement of creating all 64 Yogini forms as contemporary artworks, calling it a first-of-its-kind effort globally. He emphasized that each Yogini symbolizes a unique dimension of feminine energy and conveys a powerful message of cleansing societal evils and empowering marginalized voices.

TejaswiPodapati, Chairperson of the Cultural Cre-

ative Committee, also explained the significance of the artworks and was appreciated by the minister for her efforts in promoting cultural awareness. The exhibition, which runs for three days, aims to inspire social transformation and spiritual reflection. Dr.Unnikrishnan revealed that the traveling exhibition spans 16 states, covering over 10,000 kilometers in 81 days, with Andhra Pradesh being the 15th state on its journey.

The minister urged the public to visit the exhibition and experience this remarkable blend of tradition and contemporary artistic expression.



Hearing in Illegal Mining Case Adjourned to April 15; Former Minister Devineni Uma Appears in Court

AMARAVATHI March 31| TPN Bureau

The hearing of cases registered during the YSRCP regime in connection with alleged illegal mining activities was held on Tuesday at the X Additional District and Sessions Court in Machilipatnam. Former minister Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao, along with several leaders and activists of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), appeared before the court in connection with the case.

The cases date back to 2021, when police registered charges against TDP leaders and party workers over incidents linked to protests and alleged violations during the YSRCP government's tenure. The charges include multiple sections under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), such as Sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant), 147 and 148 (rioting), 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 and 324 (causing hurt), 307 (attempt to murder), 427 (mischief causing damage), 506 (criminal intimidation), 353 and 332 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant), along with



Sections 109 and 120(B) read with 149 IPC. In addition, cases were also registered under Section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act, as well as under provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2015, specifically Sections 3(1) (r) and 3(2)(v). During the hearing, arguments from both sides were presented before the

court. After considering the submissions, the honorable judge adjourned the matter to April 15, 2026, for further proceedings.

The case continues to draw political attention, given the involvement of prominent opposition leaders and its connection to alleged actions taken during the previous government's tenure.

Former Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy Appears Before ACB Court; Petition Dismissed in Inner Ring Road Case

AMARAVATHI March 31| TPN Bureau

Former Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy appeared before the ACB Court in connection with the Inner Ring Road case, where his petition was dismissed by the court on Tuesday. Expressing strong dissatisfaction over the verdict, he termed the day as a "dark day in judicial history."

Speaking to the media after the hearing, Ramakrishna Reddy stated that he had originally filed a complaint in 2022 alleging corruption worth 2,500 crore in the Inner Ring Road project. He claimed that a CID charge sheet had been filed against several individuals, including N. Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh, and P. Narayana, along with nearly 20 others. He further alleged that the CID charge sheet clearly outlined the beneficiaries of the project and included statements under Section 164 CrPC from several IAS officers. However, he expressed concern that despite the existence of what he described as substantial evidence, the court dismissed the case citing "mistake of facts" and accepted the



CID's referred charge sheet. Ramakrishna Reddy criticized the developments following the change in government, alleging that key accused individuals were now being portrayed as "honest." He accused Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of exerting pressure on the police and influencing the

system, claiming that institutional independence was being compromised. He also pointed out that the High Court had recently dismissed three petitions filed by him related to the same issue. Questioning the fairness of the process, he asserted that as the complainant, he had the right to seek

accountability. Concluding his remarks, Ramakrishna Reddy stated that he would approach the Supreme Court of India to challenge the verdicts. He expressed confidence that justice would ultimately prevail and said that no individual is above the law.



APCC Chief Y.S. Sharmila Criticizes Supreme Court Verdict on Dalit Christians at Vijayawada Meet

AMARAVATHI March 31| TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Chief Y. S. Sharmila Reddy on Tuesday strongly criticized the recent Supreme Court verdict concerning Dalit Christians, terming it "unfortunate" and alleging it to be part of a larger political conspiracy. She was speaking at a round table meeting organized by the Communist Party of India (CPI) in Vijayawada, which focused on the demand to recognize Dalit Christians as Scheduled Castes (SCs).

Expressing serious concern, Sharmila questioned the intent behind the judgment, stating that it appeared to prioritize technical provisions like Paragraph 3 of the Presidential Order of 1950 over the spirit of justice. She alleged that constitutional values had not been upheld and raised doubts about institutional independence, drawing parallels with central investigative agencies.

Sharmila emphasized that caste is determined by birth and does not change with religion. She argued that Dalits who convert to Christianity continue to face social discrimination, economic hardships, and caste-based violence. Denying them SC status, she said, would deprive them of crucial

reservations in education, employment, and political representation, thereby threatening their identity and security.

Highlighting historical context, she recalled that former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy had passed a resolution in the Assembly in 2009 supporting SC status for Dalit Christians. She also referred to the RanganathMishra Commission, which recommended de-linking caste from religion and extending SC benefits to Dalit Christians. The APCC Chief criticized both the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) for remaining silent on the issue, despite the significant population of Dalit Christians in the state. She alleged that political parties had failed to stand up for their rights.

Reaffirming the Congress party's stance, Sharmila demanded the repeal of Paragraph 3 of the 1950 Presidential Order and called on the Centre to re-examine the Supreme Court verdict. She urged the government to initiate discussions in Parliament and ensure justice for Dalit Christians.

She concluded by asserting that the Congress party would continue its fight to secure SC status for Dalit Christians and protect their constitutional rights.

Centre's 70% Additional Gas Quota Brings Relief to Traders; No Shortage of Fuel in State, Says Minister Nadendla Manohar

AMARAVATHI March 31| TPN Bureau

In a major relief to the business community, the Centre has increased the commercial LPG gas quota by 70%, effective from April 1, amid concerns over supply disruptions triggered by global developments. State Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar announced the development after a high-level review meeting with oil companies, gas agencies, and state coordinators.

Addressing the media, the minister clarified that there is no shortage of LPG, petrol, or diesel in the state and urged the public not to believe in social media rumours. He explained that panic buying, es-



pecially following misinformation related to international conflicts, led to a sudden surge in gas bookings. While the state usually records around 1.8 lakh bookings per day, recent figures spiked to nearly 5 lakh bookings in a sin-

gle day, resulting in temporary supply delays.

Manohar stated that the backlog is gradually being cleared and supply systems are returning to normal. He also highlighted that the Centre has introduced new booking regu-

lations, allowing LPG bookings only after 25 days in urban areas and 45 days in rural areas, which is helping stabilize demand.

The minister emphasized that traders can now communicate their commercial LPG requirements through their respective associations to district Joint Collectors, who will allocate cylinders based on priority. He noted that the enhanced quota will significantly benefit hotels, hospitals, and other commercial establishments, ensuring uninterrupted operations. On enforcement measures, the minister revealed that the government has identified issues in 16 gas agencies handling over 40,000 connections, where delays were reported. Corrective steps are be-

ing taken to address these concerns. Additionally, strict action is being taken against black marketing, with 146 cases registered and over 4,285 illegally supplied gas cylinders seized so far.

Reassuring the public, Manohar said the state currently has petrol and diesel reserves sufficient for 17 days. Out of 4,510 fuel outlets, only four are non-operational due to credit issues, not supply shortages. He urged citizens to remain calm and report any issues through the state helpline number 1967.

The minister affirmed that both the state and central governments are closely monitoring the situation to ensure uninterrupted supply and prevent any inconvenience to the public.

High Court Issues Notice to KakaniGovardhan Reddy in Bail Cancellation Petition

AMARAVATHI March 31| TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has issued notices to former minister and YSRCP leader KakaniGovardhan Reddy in connection with a petition seeking cancellation of his bail. The development has added a new dimension to the ongoing legal proceedings involving the senior leader, drawing political and legal attention across the state.

The petition was reportedly filed by TDP leader and Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy-Chandramohan Reddy, who alleged that KakaniGovardhan Reddy violated the conditions imposed by the court while granting him bail. The plea urged the court to take serious

note of these alleged violations and revoke the bail granted earlier in connection with cases registered against him.

Hearing the petition, the Andhra Pradesh High Court issued notices to KakaniGovardhan Reddy, directing him to respond to the allegations. The court has sought his explanation regarding the claims made in the petition and is expected to examine whether there has indeed been any breach of bail conditions.

KakaniGovardhan Reddy had previously secured bail in cases reportedly linked to allegations such as illegal activities and misuse of authority. However, the fresh petition has raised questions about his compliance with judicial directives during the bail period. Le-



gal experts note that bail cancellation petitions are treated seriously by courts, especially when there are claims of non-compliance or interference with the investigation process.

The case has also triggered political reactions, as both leaders involved belong to rival parties in Andhra Pradesh's political landscape. While the YSRCP is yet to officially respond in detail, TDP leaders

have maintained that the rule of law must prevail and that no individual is above legal accountability.

The High Court's next hearing in the matter is expected to be crucial in determining the course of action. If the court finds merit in the allegations, it may consider cancelling the bail, which could lead to further legal complications for KakaniGovardhan Reddy. On the other hand, if the allegations are not substantiated, the court may allow the bail to continue with or without additional conditions.

As the case unfolds, all eyes remain on the High Court's proceedings, which will play a decisive role in shaping the legal and political narrative surrounding the issue.

Heartfelt Farewell to Retiring Police Personnel in NTR District

Vijayawada March 31 | TPN Bureau

The NTR District Police Commissioner's Office organized a warm and respectful farewell ceremony for four police personnel who retired from active service on March 31, 2026. The event recognized their long-standing dedication, discipline, and commitment to public service.

Speaking on the occasion, Administrative Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) K.G.V. Saritha, IPS, appreciated the retiring officers for their sincere and responsible service throughout their careers. She emphasized that serving in the police department is not just a profession but a lifelong commitment to society. She noted that the officers had utilized their time and energy entirely for public welfare and maintaining law and order, which is highly commendable.

Under the directions of Police Commissioner S.V. RajashekarBabu, IPS, the ceremony



was conducted with dignity and respect. The retired personnel were felicitated with shawls and honored with traditional police courtesy as a to-

ken of appreciation for their invaluable contributions.

The officers who retired include K. Surya Prakasha Rao, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Po-

lice from S.R. Peta Police Station; P. Rayappa, Home Guard; B. Venkanna, Home Guard; and M. DurgaBhavani, Woman Home Guard. Each of them

served the department with integrity, dedication, and a strong sense of duty, earning the respect of both colleagues and the public. During the event, DCP Saritha also interacted with the family members of the retirees, expressing gratitude for their support and sacrifices. She highlighted the demanding nature of police service, which often requires personnel to remain on duty round the clock, leaving little personal time. She advised the retirees to prioritize their health and well-being in the years ahead, reminding them that good health is the greatest asset. The program was attended by several senior officials, including A.A.O. M.D. Ilyas Ahmed, A.R. A.C.P. Prem Kumar, S.R. Peta Inspector Ahmed Ali, Reserve Inspectors Srinivasa Rao and Sudhakar Reddy, along with members of the Police Association, staff, and families. The ceremony concluded on an emotional note, celebrating the legacy and service of the retiring officers.



Phased Agitation Planned Until Salary Hike for Anganwadi Workers

Vijayawada March 31 | TPN Bureau

Anganwadi teachers and helpers have announced that they will intensify their agitation in phases until the government fulfills their long-pending demands, including salary hikes and better working conditions. A protest was held on Tuesday at Singh Nagar Krishna Hotel Center under the leadership of the Andhra Pradesh Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Union (CITU), organized by the Vijayawada Urban Project Committee.

The demonstration was presided over by NTR District Union President T. Gajalakshmi, with participation from several union leaders and members. The protesters demanded an increase in salaries for Anganwadi teachers and helpers, summer holidays during May, enhancement of menu charges, recognition as government employees, and provision of gratuity.

Speaking at the event, NTR District CITU General Secretary N.C.H. Srinivas and Central City CITU General Secretary K. Durgarao criticized the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led coalition government for failing to fulfill its promises. They alleged that the

government had assured wage hikes and employee recognition before coming to power but has since neglected these commitments.

The leaders reminded that during the previous YSRCP government, Anganwadi workers had carried out a statewide agitation for 42 days demanding similar benefits. At that time, opposition leaders had expressed solidarity and promised to address their issues upon coming to power. However, the union leaders accused the current government of going back on its word.

They warned that if the government does not respond positively and implement the promised measures, the union would be left with no option but to launch a phased agitation across the state. The protest highlighted growing dissatisfaction among Anganwadi workers, who play a crucial role in delivering essential services related to child care and nutrition.

Several leaders, including E. Manikyam, B. Kashiratnam, K. Poornima, K. Nagadurga, and Subhashini, participated in the protest along with a large number of Anganwadi workers, expressing unity and determination to continue their fight until justice is achieved.



Staff Caught Smuggling Gold at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada March 31 | TPN Bureau

A serious security incident was averted at the famous Indrakeeladri temple in Vijayawada when temple staff were caught attempting to divert gold donations during routine hundi accounting. The matter came to light during an inspection by the Trust Board, which noticed suspicious activity involving temple valuables. Officials later confirmed that the staff had attempted to replace genuine gold with rolled gold in a bid to cover up the misappropriation.

The incident occurred while temple donations, primarily in gold, were being counted and verified. Trust Board members, acting on suspicion, carried out a detailed scrutiny of the process. During the checks, the staff involved were caught red-handed attempting to manipulate the accounting records and substitute genuine gold items. A total of gold items valued at 1.25 lakh were recovered from the staff, preventing a significant loss to temple assets.

Executive Officer Sheena Naik promptly intervened following the discovery of the irregularities. She ordered immediate disciplinary measures and issued memorandums to the personnel involved. Additionally, she directed a comprehensive investigation to determine the extent of the malpractice and identify any other lapses in security protocols. The Trust Board emphasized that strict action would

be taken against anyone found misusing temple resources.

This incident has raised concerns about the oversight mechanisms in place at religious institutions that manage substantial donations and valuables. While the prompt actions of the Trust Board helped prevent a major financial loss, the event underscores the need for enhanced vigilance and accountability. Experts suggest that routine audits, digital monitoring of donations, and a transparent accounting process are essential to maintain public trust in temple administration. Temple authorities have assured devotees that all measures are being taken to ensure the security of donations and prevent any recurrence of such incidents. They have also appealed to the public to continue their contributions without worry, as the management is committed to safeguarding temple assets with utmost diligence. The Indrakeeladri case serves as a reminder that strict monitoring and prompt response mechanisms are critical in managing religious institutions. Officials are expected to submit a detailed report following the ongoing investigation, which will guide further reforms in the temple's accounting and security procedures.

This incident, while alarming, ended without any financial loss to the temple and highlights the importance of accountability and proactive governance in managing donations and valuables.

No Shortage of Cooking Gas in NTR District, Says Joint Collector

Vijayawada March 31 | TPN Bureau

Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya has clarified that there is no shortage of cooking gas (LPG) in the district and urged the public not to panic. Addressing a media conference held at the PingaliVenkayya meeting hall in the Collectorate on Tuesday, she assured that the administration has taken all necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted supply. The Joint Collector stated that a special officer has been appointed for each gas agency to closely monitor supply and demand. She highlighted that the district currently has 8,63,778 LPG connections across three major oil companies, with a total of 56 gas agencies, including 18 HPCL, 12 BPCL, and 26 IOCL outlets.

Providing recent data, she explained that on March 30 alone, as many as 15,186 bookings were recorded, while 19,440 cylinders were successfully delivered, indicating that supply is exceeding demand. Officials are continuously monitoring the situation, and wherever there is a backlog, supply managers are instructed



to take immediate corrective measures.

She further clarified that not only domestic LPG but also commercial gas cylinder supply has been functioning smoothly since Monday. Citizens were requested to book cylinders only when necessary and avoid unnecessary visits to gas agencies, as doorstep delivery is being ensured through OTP-based verification.

Highlighting transparency measures, Ilakkiya noted that nearly 90 percent of cylinder deliveries are being carried out through OTP authentication to prevent black marketing. A show-cause notice has been issued to Bhaskar Gas Agency in Kanchikacherla for lagging be-

hind in implementing OTP-based delivery. She warned that strict action will be taken against anyone involved in black marketing or creating artificial shortages. For public grievances, a Command Control Center has been set up at the Collectorate, and citizens can call 91549 70454 to register complaints or requests. The Joint Collector also encouraged people to gradually shift towards Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections, citing their safety, affordability, and uninterrupted supply. Currently, around 10,000 PNG connections exist in the district, and efforts are being made to increase this number in the future.

Major Fire Mishap Averted in Vijayawada as Private Bus Catches Fire

Vijayawada March 31 | TPN Bureau

A major accident was narrowly averted in Vijayawada on Tuesday when a private travels bus caught fire near the Pandit Nehru Bus Stand. The bus, which was traveling from Ravulapalem to Hyderabad, had around 35 passengers on board at the time of the incident, causing panic among them.

According to reports, the bus was passing in front of the Vijayawada bus stand when thick smoke suddenly started emanating from the engine section. Preliminary findings suggest

that the fire was triggered due to a short circuit near the battery terminals. The situation quickly escalated as flames began to spread, raising concerns of a potential disaster.

However, the alertness of the driver and staff played a crucial role in preventing a tragedy. They immediately stopped the vehicle and ensured that all passengers safely disembarked the bus. Their timely action helped avoid injuries and ensured everyone's safety.

On receiving the information, fire department personnel from Vijayawada rushed to the spot and brought the fire

under control promptly. Their swift response prevented the flames from spreading further and causing greater damage.

Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported in the incident, bringing relief to both the passengers and authorities. The incident highlights the importance of regular vehicle maintenance and quick response during emergencies. Authorities are likely to conduct further investigation into the exact cause of the fire and assess safety measures to prevent such incidents in the future.



P.B. Siddhartha College

Students Excel in IIT JAM 2026

Vijayawada March 31 | TPN Bureau

Students from P.B. Siddhartha Arts & Science College, Vijayawada, have achieved outstanding results in the prestigious IIT Joint Admission Test for Masters (JAM) 2026, Principal Dr. Meka Ramesh announced. The remarkable performance highlights the college's strength in mathematics and statistics education. Mandalaparathi VenkataShivanag Ganesha, a Statistics student, secured an impressive All India Rank (AIR) 52 in the IIT JAM Mathematical Statistics examination. Additionally, he demonstrated his versatility by achieving AIR 962 in the IIT JAM Mathematics paper. Another top performer, Reshma Sayyad, a final-year Statistics student, earned AIR 514 in the Mathematical Statistics category, showcasing consistent excellence in the field.

The college faculty congratulated the achievers for their exceptional performance. Director VemuriBaburao, Statistics Head G. Chakravarthi, and teaching staff including I. Murali Krishna, Dr. K. Shivanagaru, K. Neelima, M. Shivapavati, Gayatri, Divya, and Rakesh personally extended their best wishes to the students for their success.

In the Mathematics stream, K. Jayasundar, a third-year B.

Sc. Maths student, secured AIR 2424 in the IIT JAM examination. Maths Department Head I.V. Venkateswara Rao, along with faculty members Anupama and VenkataRamana, congratulated him for his achievement.

In a formal statement, the college management lauded not only the students for their exceptional talent but also the faculty members of the Statistics and Mathematics departments, whose dedicated guidance helped prepare the students for this national-level competitive examination. The achievements reflect the institution's commitment to nurturing academic excellence and preparing students for higher education and research opportunities at premier institutes.

These results have brought pride to P.B. Siddhartha College, reinforcing its reputation as a center of academic excellence in Vijayawada. The college plans to continue supporting its students with enhanced training and mentoring to ensure even greater success in future national and international competitive examinations. The exceptional performance of these students demonstrates the potential of dedicated guidance combined with hard work, motivating other aspirants to aim for top ranks in national-level exams.

SGS College Takes Major Step Towards ITI Setup with 25 Lakh Donation

Vijayawada March 31 | TPN Bureau

Sri GantaShakuntalamma (SGS) College in Jaggayyapeta has made a significant move towards establishing a full-fledged ITI training facility with the first installment of a 25 lakh donation. This contribution is part of a larger pledge announced by Paramount Group Chairman, Mr. Venigalla Suresh, aimed at enhancing the college's infrastructure and educational capabilities.

The cheque was formally handed over to the college management committee by President and NTR District JanaSena Party leader, Mr.

SamineniUdayabhanu. The funds are intended to procure advanced ITI training equipment and carry out essential building repairs, ensuring that students have access to improved facilities and a modern learning environment.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SamineniUdayabhanu emphasized the commitment to restoring the former glory of Shakuntalamma College while providing students with the best possible amenities for technical education. He highlighted that this initiative is a step forward in creating skill development opportunities and enhancing employability for the youth of the region.

The donation reflects a

strong dedication to educational development from Mr. Venigalla Suresh and the Paramount Group. College Management Secretary Mr. GanteelaChakravarthi, Mr. KolapalliVenkateswara Rao (Bulli Babu), retired lecturer K. Satyanarayana (KSR), retired principal GuttaDurga Prasad, former MPP Gudipati Srinivas Rao, and advocate SamineniRamu expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the donor for his generous contribution.

The college plans to utilize the funds strategically to modernize classrooms, update training modules, and ensure that the new ITI facility meets industry standards. This devel-



opment is expected to attract more students to vocational and technical courses, preparing them for competitive career opportunities in various trades and industries.

The successful handover of this first installment marks a strong beginning for the college's ITI project, signaling a

renewed focus on education, skill development, and holistic student growth in Jaggayyapeta. SGS College management reaffirmed its commitment to continuing efforts for the overall advancement of the institution, ensuring long-term benefits for students and the community.

CM Reviews Rajanagaram Development Issues

Amaravati, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram MLA Battula Balaramakrishna met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the state secretariat in Amaravati on Tuesday to present a detailed memorandum concerning key developmental issues in his constituency. The MLA highlighted the difficulties faced by residents and farmers and sought immediate interventions to resolve them. One of the primary issues raised was the inclusion of farmer lands in the Section 22-A of the Endowment Department in Korukonda, which has stalled property registrations and caused significant hardship for local farmers. The MLA requested that remaining lands be removed from the prohibited list and urged focused attention on revenue and land consolidation matters.

In Seethanagaram mandal, the MLA flagged delays in compensation for 94 small and marginal farmers who provided



land for the Purushottapatnam lift irrigation project. He requested compensation with 6% interest and removal of these lands from Section 22-A. Similarly, he urged expedited land

acquisition for rural road projects sanctioned by Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan in Madhurapudi village.

To address drinking water shortages during summer in

Korukonda, Rajanagaram, and Seethanagaram mandals, the MLA requested the release of Rs. 2.09 crore for borewells, RO plants, and pipeline repairs. For the Sri Satyasai water sup-

ply scheme in Purushottapatnam serving 3.5 lakh people, he suggested immediate repairs with an allocation of Rs. 1 crore.

Infrastructure needs were also highlighted, including road widening to Korukonda Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple (Rs. 3.6 crore) and double-lane development of Srirampuram-Police Quarters road (Rs. 6.5 crore), along with funding for PHC strengthening (Rs. 27.5 lakh). The MLA urged the TTD to adopt the historic Korukonda temple and renovate it ahead of the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu.

Funds for NDB road projects including Kapavaram-Mugalla, Chinnakondepudi-Cheepurupalli, and Rajanagaram-Gadarada roads were also requested.

The Chief Minister responded positively, assuring that appropriate measures would be taken to address these issues. MLA Battula Balaramakrishna's proactive approach is seen as a significant step toward Rajanagaram's development and has raised hopes among local residents.



T.D. Janardhan: The Party's Silent Strength

Mangalagiri, 31st March 2026 | TPN Bureau

T.D. Janardhan, senior Politburo member and political secretary of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), has long been regarded as an invisible force behind three generations of party leadership. From the ideals of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao to the footsteps of N. Chandrababu Naidu and under the guidance of Nara Lokesh, Janardhan has played a crucial role in carrying TDP's vision to the public while strengthening party cadres and coordinating with various social, labor, and community organizations.

Born on April 2, 1957, in Lingala village, Jaggayyapeta mandal of Krishna district, Janardhan completed his M.A. and showed early admiration for N.T. Rama Rao. From the party's inception on March 29, 1982, he has been actively involved, demonstrating dedication by painting TDP symbols across his village and participating in countless meetings and public gatherings.

Throughout his political journey, Janardhan remained accessible to party workers

and leaders, addressing local issues and reinforcing party strength. Even during challenging periods, including the time when he voluntarily stepped down as APCOB chairman to maintain party integrity, his commitment to selfless service earned him widespread respect.

In the 2024 Assembly elections, he played a key role in raising awareness among Dalit and minority communities, highlighting the necessity of Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, and uniting diverse organizations under a common platform. Through initiatives like the Jayapradha Foundation, Janardhan has facilitated medical camps, eye operations, and distribution of spectacles, benefiting over 60,000 people.

T.D. Janardhan's 69th birthday celebrations on April 2 at the TDP National Office were attended by party leaders and workers who conveyed heartfelt wishes and praised his lifelong dedication to public service. Admired for his simplicity and unwavering commitment, he remains a guiding light for both party leadership and grassroots cadres alike.

KVPS Slams House Arrests in Pedapeta Dispute, Bhimavaram

Bhimavaram, March 31 | TPN Bureau

KVPS district secretary K. Krantibabu has strongly criticized the recent house arrests of party leaders in Akiveedu Pedapeta, calling them undemocratic and counterproductive to communal harmony. Leaders including former MLA Digupati Rajagopal and district president Battula Vijaykumar were also subjected to notices and police surveillance.

Krantibabu stated that KVPS seeks a peaceful resolution to the ongoing controversy and opposes any actions by elected representatives that incite religious tensions. He highlighted concerns over the conduct of the local MLA, alleging that the leader's actions have unnecessarily fueled caste and religious conflicts in the constituency.

The KVPS team had planned to visit Akiveedu Pedapeta to assess the situation and ensure



reconciliation between communities. However, Krantibabu condemned the government's decision to impose house arrests, describing it as an infringement on democratic rights. He emphasized that the arrests appear aimed at diverting attention from issues such as personal financial allegations against the MLA and local grievances faced by

residents. Krantibabu urged authorities to halt illegal detentions of Dalit individuals and facilitate a peaceful resolution. He called for balanced police coordination between both groups to restore calm and stressed that the MLA must change his approach to prevent the dispute from escalating into a state-wide controversy.

VIPR Foundation Launches 'Amrut Dhara' Water Plant in Parlappalli

Nellore District, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Kovuru MLA Vemireddy Prasanthi Reddy inaugurated the 'Amrut Dhara' RO Water Plant in Parlappalli village under the VIPR Foundation, providing safe drinking water to residents. Highlighting the foundation's ongoing efforts, she noted that this is the 26th water plant in the Kovuru constituency and part of a network of around 200 plants across the district addressing local water needs.

Speaking at the event, the MLA said the initiative was inspired by MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy's 2016 vision at Udayagiri and has since expanded district-wide. She assured that VIPR Foundation would continue to manage the plant efficiently. Responding to local concerns, Prasanthi Red-



dy also coordinated with the district medical officer to ensure night-shift doctors at Vidanuru PHC.

The MLA detailed recent development works in Parlappalli over the past 20 months, totaling 1.2 crore:

- Overhead tank constructed under Jal Jeevan Mission (36 lakh)
- Drainage system (11 lakh)
- Public toilets (3 lakh)
- Road construction using MP LADs, employment guarantee, and panchayat funds (total 9 CC roads)

- Culvert on Aragani canal (10 lakh) and crematorium shelters via CSR funds
- Personal financial support of 2.5 lakh to resolve pending crematorium land issues
- Financial aid of 2.76 lakh to three patients via CMRF

She further proposed a connecting road and culvert from Parlappalli to Chavatapalem with a budget of 1.7 crore, promising quick approval and execution. The inauguration was attended by coalition leaders, party workers, and a large number of villagers.

Nellore Collector Prepares for Smooth CM Visit to Vinjamuru

Nellore, March 31 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Himanshu Shukla has directed officials to ensure the successful execution of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's Vinjamuru visit scheduled for April 1. As part of advanced preparations, the ASL (Advance Security Liaison) team conducted a detailed inspection of all arrangements in the region.

The inspection convoy began at Vinjamuru helipad and covered key locations including Paaturu Cheruvu bund, North SC Colony houses receiving NTR Bharosa pension, public gathering venues, and cadre meeting points, before returning to the helipad. District of-

officials, including SP Ajit Vemjendla and JC Mogili Venkateswarlu, participated in the ASL review along with the Collector.

Collector Shukla emphasized that all officers involved in the CM visit must perform their duties responsibly. He instructed officials to ensure cleanliness, uninterrupted drinking water supply, and strict security measures in accordance with protocol.

The inspection team included RDOs from Atmakuru and Kavali, engineers from PWD, Electricity, R&B, PR departments, district officers from various departments, and police officials, all coordinating to ensure a smooth and safe visit.



AP Governor S. Abdul Nazeer Offers Prayers at Tirumala Temple

Tirumala, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh, S. Abdul Nazeer, visited Tirumala on Tuesday, accompanied by his family members, to offer prayers and have darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy. This visit underscores the Governor's devotion and the longstanding cultural and spiritual importance of Tirumala in the state.

On arrival at the temple Mahadwaram, Governor Nazeer was received by the TTD Exec-

utive Officer Sri Muddada Ravichandra, Additional EO Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, and CVSO Sri Murali Krishna, who formally welcomed him. The temple priests accorded him a traditional reception with Istikapal temple honours, reflecting the temple's customary protocol for distinguished guests.

Following the darshan, a special Vedasirvachanam was conducted at Ranganayakula Mandapam by eminent Vedic scholars, offering blessings and chanting Vedic hymns in

the Governor's honour. During the programme, the Executive Officer and Additional EOs presented him with Theertha Prasadam and a portrait of Sri Venkateswara, symbolizing the deep reverence for the deity and the Governor's visit.

The ceremony was attended by Temple Deputy EO Sri Lokanatham, VGO Sri Ram Kumar, and several other senior officials, ensuring the event was conducted with precision and spiritual sanctity. The visit also provided an opportunity for discussions regarding tem-

ple administration, rituals, and ongoing spiritual programs at Tirumala, reflecting the close collaboration between the TTD and the state administration.

Governor Nazeer's visit was marked by simplicity, devotion, and adherence to tradition. It highlighted the importance of Tirumala not just as a religious landmark, but also as a cultural hub that unites devotees across communities. The Governor's participation in the rituals and interactions with temple officials reaffirmed his commitment to preserving the spiritual heritage of Andhra Pradesh while supporting the temple's ongoing religious and community activities.



Grand Celebration of Jith Mohan Mitra's 84th Birthday in Rajamahendravaram

Rajamahendravaram, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Renowned actor and singer, Sri Pada Jith Mohan Mitra, was honored in a grand celebration of his 84th birthday on Monday night at the Annam Rotary Hall, Rajamahendravaram. The event brought together artists, dignitaries, and fans, showcasing the cultural richness of the city.

The program, presided over by Kunda Master and inaugurated by Mudragada A. Subbu Jyoti, featured prominent guests including Nimmalapudi Govindu, P.V.S. Krishna Rao, and Ravindranath Giri, who praised Jith Mohan Mitra for his contributions to cinema, politics, society, and the orchestra field. They wished him long life and continued health, acknowledging his role in putting Rajamahendravaram on the cultural map of Andhra Pradesh.

Musical performances captivated the audience, with singers Gunturi Srinivas, M. Krishna, Dr. Vanka Balakrishna, Mangalampalli Suryakumari, and Postal Prasad performing hit songs from classic and contemporary films, creating an enchanting atmosphere.

The Godavari Movie Artists Association President D.S. Srinivas, along with members of Jith Mohan Mitra's team, felicitated him with shawls and floral garlands. The celebration also saw participation from prominent figures such as Picchu Mahesh, Pothuraju (TV9) Satya, C.H. Vishwanath, Aditya Parabrahmamurthy, and a large number of art enthusiasts. The event was narrated by Nujilla Suribabu, and Dr. Girajala Somaraju Naidu presented a special tribute during the proceedings.



Palle Sindhoora Applauded for Supporting RDT Services in Anantapur

Anantapur, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Palle Sindhoora, MLA of Puttaparthi, along with former minister Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy and PVKE Engineering College Chairman Palle Venkata Krishna Kishore Reddy, welcomed the RDT organization team to their Anantapur office to celebrate a major milestone for the NGO. The meeting recognized the approval of FCRA for RDT, enabling the organization to expand its social welfare activities in the joint Anantapur district.

RDT Founder Anne Ferrer, Program Director Manchu Ferrer, and Women Empowerment Director Vishal Ferrer were specially felicitated by the Palle family with floral tributes and shawls, expressing gratitude for the support

extended by the MLA and his family. The RDT representatives highlighted that MLA Palle Sindhoora had raised RDT's issues for the first time in the Assembly, drawing the attention of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh, and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, which ultimately led to the FCRA approval.

The MLA and the Palle family were lauded for facilitating vital services for the poor, including rural education, healthcare, sports initiatives, and groundwater development programs. RDT officials emphasized that the assistance from elected representatives and the community of Anantapur has been instrumental in taking their services to new heights, benefiting thousands of underprivileged families in the district.

Pulivarthi Nani Slams Karunakar Reddy's Allegations

Tirupati, 31 March 2026 | TPN Bureau

Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani strongly criticized the claims made by Karunakar Reddy regarding government land near Tiruchanuru temple being allotted to private companies. Addressing a press meet at Tirupati Press Club on Tuesday, Nani said that Reddy's allegations are baseless and politically motivated.

Nani emphasized that neither Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu nor Minister Nara Lokesh had any involvement in the land allotment, which was carried out strictly according to government rules and pricing

regulations for a private hotel. "Karunakar Reddy lacks the stature to criticize our leaders," Nani remarked. He questioned why Reddy remained silent when the previous YSRCP government allegedly encroached on government land in Tirupati, causing economic and administrative damage. Nani highlighted that the coalition government aims to provide employment and growth opportunities for the youth and that development initiatives include legal allotment of land for tourism and wellness centers. He clarified that wellness centers are meant for health services, not marijuana outlets, and that proper home-stay facilities are being



encouraged for pilgrims visiting Tirupati. Speaking on the same occasion, TUDA Chairman Dollar Divakar Reddy stated that Karunakar Reddy seems uninterested in Tirupati's development and is spreading false propagan-

da. He urged Reddy to focus on constructive criticism rather than spreading misleading statements about the government and its leaders. The press meet was attended by TDP Rural Party President Eshwar Reddy, Madhu-

babu, and other local party leaders. Both Nani and Divakar Reddy reaffirmed their commitment to Tirupati's development and the welfare of its residents while warning against baseless political allegations.



MLA Battula Honoured as "Uttama Margadarshi"

East Godavari, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram MLA Battula Balamakrishna has been conferred the prestigious "Uttama Margadarshi" (Best Guide) award in recognition of his dedicated public service across various social segments. The award was presented by District In-Charge Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu and Collector Keerthi Chekuri, acknowledging the MLA's continuous efforts to uplift marginalized communities.

Key Role in P-4 Programme

MLA Battula has been instrumental in the state government's P-4 programme, launched during Ugadi, which aims to support economically strong individuals in extending help to underprivileged sections of society. Under this initiative, the MLA has expanded his ongoing welfare efforts that began even before his election, reinforcing his commitment to community service.

Leadership in Public Welfare

To provide urgent medical services, MLA Battula deployed three ambulances funded from his own resources, benefiting residents of Seethanagaram, Korukonda, and Rajanagaram mandals. Additionally, he has offered financial aid for education, healthcare, and other essential needs to

underprivileged citizens. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he personally distributed medicines and daily essentials to support the public.

Relief During Natural Disasters

Battula Balamakrishna has consistently stood by communities during natural calamities. Notably, during Cyclone Monda, he and his wife, Battula Venkata Lakshmi, provided essential supplies and drinking water to affected families in East Godavari and Vijayawada areas. In recognition, the Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu awarded him the "Monda Fighter" award.

Promoting Education and Employment

The MLA has organized job fairs benefiting over 900 unemployed youth and has extended financial assistance to several students, helping them pursue education and build a secure future.

Call for Collective Participation

Receiving the Uttama Margadarshi award, MLA Battula Balamakrishna urged everyone to participate in social service and join hands in creating "Golden Families" by reducing poverty through the P-4 initiative. His selfless service continues to set a benchmark for leadership and community development.

Tirupati Police Honour Retiring Officers

Tirupati District, 31 March 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Tirupati Police Department organized a ceremonial farewell for officers retiring from service, recognizing their dedication and long-standing contributions. District SP Sri L. Subbarayudu, IPS, congratulated the retiring personnel, praising their commitment and highlighting that their work would remain an inspiration for future police officers. He emphasized the significance of serving with integrity, discipline, and dedication.

Sri Subbarayudu noted that the police uniform symbolizes responsibility, honour, and public trust, providing officers with a unique identity in society. He highlighted that fulfilling duties honestly ensures justice for the innocent and accountability for wrongdoers, reinforcing public safety and confidence.

Special recognition was given to DSP Sri Ramakrishna Chari and ASIs Sri Kodandarama and Sri Prabhakar Rao, who completed their service with distinction. The SP extended



best wishes for their post-retirement life, urging them to spend quality time with family, prioritize health, and remain connected to the police community.

The retiring officers' dedication and experience were described as a guiding example for young police personnel, demonstrating professionalism, discipline, and commitment to public service. Sri Subbarayudu reiterated that their service would continue to in-

spire and shape departmental practices even after retirement.

The farewell was attended by Additional SPs Venkataravu (Administration), Ravi Manohar Achari, Srinivasulu (Law & Order), AO Suresh Kumar (Crime), Somu Association President, Shankar Reddy, Shekhar, and other senior officials, making it a memorable tribute to the retiring officers' careers.



Snapana Tirumanjanam Held at Tirumala; Pournami Garudaseva Canceled

Tirumala, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

As part of the ongoing annual Vasanthotsavams at Tirumala, the sacred Snapana Tirumanjanam ritual was performed for Sri Malayappa Swamy along with His consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi on Tuesday evening between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. This ritual, considered highly auspicious, involves ceremonial cleansing and anointment of the deities with holy substances such as milk, curd, sandal paste, and sacred waters. Devotees believe that witnessing the ritual brings divine blessings and spiritual rejuvenation.

The Snapana Tirumanjanam was graced by spiritual dignitaries HH Sri Sri Pedda Jeeyar Swamy and Sri Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, who participated in the prayers and guided the ceremonial proceedings. Temple officials including TTD Executive Officer Sri Muddada Ravichandra, Additional EO Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, Temple Deputy EO Sri Lokanatham, and other senior officers were present to oversee the smooth conduct of the ritual. Devotees thronged the

temple premises, witnessing the elaborate rituals and offering prayers with devotion and reverence.

The TTD also announced that the Pournami Garudaseva, originally scheduled for April 1, has been canceled in connection with the annual Vasanthotsavams. The cancellation is part of TTD's plan to streamline festival events and ensure proper arrangements for the concluding ceremonies of the Vasanthotsavams. Devotees have been requested to take note of this change and adjust their temple visits accordingly.

The Vasanthotsavams celebrations, including the Snapana Tirumanjanam, reflect the deep-rooted spiritual traditions and cultural heritage of Tirumala. These rituals attract devotees from across the country, providing them an opportunity to experience divine grace and participate in centuries-old temple customs. The TTD continues to maintain strict protocols to ensure that all festivities are conducted safely and smoothly, preserving the sanctity and devotion associated with the temple rituals.

Swarna Ratham Procession Held at Tirumala

Tirumala, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

On the second day of the annual Vasanthotsavam festival in Tirumala, the utsava deities Sri Malayappa Swamy along with Sridevi and Bhudevi took a ceremonial ride on the Swarna Ratham (Golden Chariot) on Tuesday morning.

The divine procession proceeded along the Mada streets from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., drawing thousands of devotees who gathered to receive the blessings of the deities. The grand procession was marked by traditional music, chants, and the vibrant display of temple rituals, reflecting the spiritual fervour and rich heritage of Tirumala.

The event was closely supervised by TTD Executive Officer Sri Muddada Ravichandra, Additional EO Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, and other senior temple officials, ensuring smooth conduct of the procession and the safety of the devotees. The Swarna Ratham procession is a highlight of the Vasanthotsavam festival and is



celebrated with great devotion every year, symbolizing the divine grace of Sri Malayappa Swamy and his consorts.

April Festivals Announced at Tirumala

Tirumala, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced the schedule of important festivals to be observed in Tirumala during April 2026, providing devotees an opportunity to participate in the month's religious and cultural celebrations.

- April 1: The conclusion of Srivari Vasanthotsavams will be celebrated along with Tumburu Theertha Mukoti, marking the end of the annual spring festivities dedicated to Lord Venkateswara.

- April 13: The Sribhashyakara Utsavams will commence, a festival highlighting sacred rituals and Vedic discourses for devotees.

- April 20: Multiple auspicious occasions will be observed, including Akshaya

Tritiya, Parashurama Jayanti, Bhrgu Maharshi Varsha Thiru Nakshatram, and Srinivasa Dikshitulu Varsha Thiru Nakshatram, attracting large gatherings of devotees for prayers and offerings.

- April 21: The Ananthalar Utsavams will begin alongside Shankara Jayanti, celebrating the contributions of the revered saints and emphasizing the spiritual traditions of Tirumala.

TTD officials have advised devotees to plan their visits in advance and participate in these festivals with devotion while adhering to temple protocols and guidelines. These celebrations in Tirumala not only uphold the spiritual traditions of Andhra Pradesh but also provide an opportunity for devotees from across the country to experience the divine atmosphere and sacred rituals.



DBS Treatment at Yashoda Hospitals Offers Hope for Parkinson's Patients

Eluru, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Parkinson's disease, a progressively debilitating neurodegenerative disorder, is emerging as a major health concern worldwide. Highlighting the urgent need for awareness and advanced treatment, Dr. Rajesh Alugolu, Senior Consultant Neurologist at Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad Hi-Tech City, addressed a press meet in Eluru, explaining the severity of the disease and innovative interventions available.

Dr. Alugolu noted that in India, approximately 42 to 60 people per 100,000 are affected by Parkinson's disease. "Similar to chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes, Parkinson's persists for life, with symptoms worsening gradually and impacting the patient's quality of life," he explained.



The tremors, stiffness, and movement difficulties associated with Parkinson's often leave patients heavily dependent on caregivers, underscoring the importance of effective

treatment strategies. For patients facing advanced or medication-resistant Parkinson's, Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) has emerged as a transformative therapy. Recognized by the

US FDA and DCGI, DBS involves precise neurosurgical implantation of electrodes in specific brain regions to modulate abnormal neuronal activity, significantly improving

mobility and overall quality of life. Dr. Alugolu emphasized that this procedure has been internationally available for over three decades, yielding remarkable outcomes for patients. At Yashoda Hospitals, numerous Parkinson's patients have successfully undergone DBS under expert supervision, now leading healthier, more independent lives. Dr. Alugolu reiterated the hospital's commitment to combining cutting-edge medical technology with affordable care, aiming to extend world-class treatment to patients with rare and complex neurological disorders. The press meet was attended by hospital representatives including Santosh Kumar, Ramakrishna, and Kasim Wali, who highlighted Yashoda Hospitals' ongoing efforts to enhance public awareness and provide advanced neurological care across the region.

Chittoor MP Highlights Massive Funds for AP Schools

New Delhi, 31 March 2026 | TPN Bureau

Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao has emphasized that strengthening government schools is a key priority of the coalition government. Speaking in New Delhi, he said the central government has allocated significant funds to Andhra Pradesh under the Samagra Shiksha and PM-SRLM (PM Sri) schemes, especially to support SC students and ensure inclusive education.

Participating in the Lok Sabha sessions, Prasad Rao sought detailed information on funds received by Andhra Pradesh under these schemes over the past five years. The Union Minister for Education, Jayant Chaudhary, responded positively and provided a written reply, confirming the allocations.

Under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, the central government approved 1,732.93 crore for Andhra Pradesh in 2024-25, of which 1,240.11 crore has al-

ready been released. For 2025-26 (up to 30 January), 1,407.72 crore was approved, with 698.72 crore released so far. On average, the state has been receiving between 1,300 crore and 1,700 crore annually over the last three years. The PM-SRLM scheme, aimed at transforming selected schools into model institutions, has positioned Andhra Pradesh at the forefront nationally. For 2024-25, 469.43 crore was approved under this scheme, with 294.12 crore released. For 2025-26, 386.1 crore was sanctioned, with 44.39 crore disbursed so far. According to the central government data, a total of 39.43 lakh students are enrolled in government schools across Andhra Pradesh, of which 9.93 lakh (25%) are SC students. During 2024-25, 4,91,452 students enrolled in special model schools, including 1,52,133 SC students, highlighting the state's commitment to inclusive education. Prasad Rao reaffirmed that the coalition government, led by CM Nara



Chandrababu Naidu, is dedicated to improving educational infrastructure and ensuring equitable learning opportunities for all students in Andhra Pradesh.



TDU Approves 2026-27 Budget, Greenlights Key Urban Development Projects

Tirupati, 31 March 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TDU) held its board meeting on Tuesday evening at the TDU office, chaired by District Collector Dr. S. Venkateshwar through a virtual setup. TDU Chairman Divakar Reddy, Vice Chairman, District Joint Collector R. Govinda Rao, and Trainee Collector Sandeep Raghu Vansi attended in person.

Additional participants included Content Town Planning Additional Director Varaprasad, MAUD Secretary OSD Venkat Subbiah, and Finance Department Assistant Secretary Shivayya, who joined virtually.

The board thoroughly reviewed the 2026-27 TDU budget and approved multiple urban development initiatives, prioritizing infrastructure strengthening and improved civic amenities.

- Key Approvals**
- Shettipalli Township Development: Provision of modern infrastructure, roads, drainage, and water supply to transform Shettipalli into a contemporary residential hub.
 - Outsourced Staff Extension: Contracts of out-

sourced personnel working under TDU extended for one more year.

- Avilala Cheruvu Tank Bund: Upgradation of the tank bund into a modern facility and tourist attraction.

- Urban Infrastructure Projects: Expansion of roads, sanitation improvements, park development, greenery initiatives, and enhanced drainage systems across Tirupati city.

Dr. Venkateshwar emphasized that all development works must enhance citizens' quality of life and be completed on schedule with strict quality standards. Chairman Divakar Reddy highlighted transparency and accountability in urban projects, assuring improved facilities for residents. Vice Chairman and Joint Collector R. Govinda Rao assured systematic monitoring and timely execution of all approved projects.

Other participants included RDO Rammohan, District Registrar Sriram, TDU Secretary Srikant Babu, SE K. Ravindra, Chief Planning Officer Devi Kumari, Land Acquisition Officer Sujana, Horticulture Officer Malathi, AAO Suguna, planning officials, and other TDU staff.



Chittoor SP Honors Retiring Police Officer for 22 Years of Dedicated Service

Chittoor, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Chittoor District Police held a heartfelt farewell for a retiring officer in March, with District SP Tushar Doodi, IPS and senior officials honoring his long-standing service. The SP praised the officer's 22 years of disciplined and committed duty, noting that his contributions to law enforcement and public service will remain an inspiration for the entire police force.

Addressing the gathering, SP Doodi highlighted that policing is a challenging career requiring sacrifice, dedication, and adherence to law and duty. He emphasized that the retiring officer's commitment, often balancing family life and professional responsibilities, reflects exceptional integrity and service. The SP encouraged the officer to now focus on health, family, and happiness, assuring him that he will always remain part of the police family and can seek support whenever needed.

The Additional SPs echoed these sentiments, noting that such dedicated service is rare and sets a standard for younger officers. The officer's experience and conduct are expected to serve as a guiding example for future police personnel.

The farewell ceremony was held at the Police Guest House Conference Hall, where SP Doodi presented mementos and awards to the retiring officer, Sri Vema Reddy - ARHC, Armed Reserve. Sri Vema Reddy joined the force in 2004 as an APSP Constable, converted to AR Constable in 2014, and was promoted to ARHC in 2021. During his 22-year career, he served in CID, TTD, Railway, and Chittoor Armed Divisions, receiving 10 GSEs, 30 cash rewards, and 12 commendations for his exemplary service.

The ceremony was attended by the officer's family, senior police officials including Addl. SP Operations S.R. Rajashekar Raju, Addl. SP Devadas, AR DSP Mahboob Bash, RI Sudhakar, and other members of the police association.

Kuppam PHCs to Get Upgraded Facilities and Staff

Chittoor, 31 May 2026 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Sumit Kumar has instructed that all Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Kuppam constituency be equipped with adequate infrastructure and medical staff to provide quality healthcare to residents. The directive came during a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Tuesday, focusing on the facilities at Kuppam PHCs and ongoing projects like Tata DINC and Sanjeevani initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Deputy DMHO Gangadevi, doctors, and healthcare staff from all PHCs in the constituency. The Collector emphasized the need to ensure free medicines for all patients and provide 24x7 medical services. Each PHC should have a Patient Care Coordinator and ANM Medical Officer available at all times.



As part of continuous health monitoring, every citizen will be issued a health card to track preventive care, alerts, and services required at different life stages. The initiative currently being implemented in Kuppam is planned to be expanded across the entire district in a systematic manner. Additionally, staff nurses will be trained to record patient data for OP services, and blood bank facilities will be set up. Malaria of-

ice staff and MPHAs will support PHC operations. Posts for ANMs and male assistants will be filled at Ellanuru PHC, while FNO posts will be filled at Shantipuram PHC. Laboratory equipment will also be installed after coordination with DPMU officials. The meeting concluded with a firm commitment from authorities to strengthen Kuppam's PHCs and ensure accessible, high-quality healthcare for all residents.

Ontimitta Sri Kodanda Ramaluri Kalyanam Arrangements Completed

Ontimitta, 31st March 2026 | TPN Bureau

The grand celebration of Ontimitta Sri Kodanda Ramaluri Kalyanam is all set, with the TTD and district administration completing extensive preparations to ensure a smooth and memorable experience for devotees, said District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri. A press briefing was held at the Ontimitta TTD and Guest House, attended by Dr. Cherukuri, TTD JEO V. Veer Brahmam, CVO Murali Krishna, SP N. Nachiketh Vishwanath, JC Dr. Nidhi Meena, and Rajampet Sub-Collector Bhavana. Officials outlined arrangements to accommodate

an estimated 70,000-80,000 devotees.

Transport & Parking: Special bus services have been arranged from Tirupati, Anantapur, Nellore, and Kurnool, with buses every ten minutes. General parking is located 2 km away, with shuttle services to the venue. Only VIP vehicles will be allowed inside. **Safety & Security:** Heavy police deployment has been arranged, including 4 ASPs, 15 DSPs, and 3,000 personnel. CCTV monitoring, crowd management, and traffic control measures are in place. **Medical & Amenities:** Twelve medical camps, eight ambulances, and drinking water facilities have been set up. Revenue and medical

staff will continuously monitor devotees.

Devotional Arrangements: Devotees will receive Shreevari Laddu, Ramaluri Talambaram, biscuits, banana juice packs, and prasadam including Kesari and Pulihora. Galleries have LCD screens for better visibility, and CM trial runs ensured smooth operations.

SP Nachiketh Vishwanath emphasized crowd and traffic management, while TTD JEO Veer Brahmam assured no inconvenience to devotees in galleries. The Kalyanam promises to be a well-organized celebration, combining devotion, safety, and convenience for all attending pilgrims.



Kambala Srinivasarao Extends Immediate Aid to Fire-Affected Families

East Godavari, TPN Bureau

In a rare display of selfless public service, Kambala Srinivasarao promptly extended financial and material support to families affected by a recent fire near Gokavaram, in Rampayaram Palem village, Kakinada district. The fire destroyed two homes entirely, leaving the families without shelter and basic necessities.

Though Srinivasarao was in Hyderabad at the time, he quickly mobilized his team to the affected area. Immediate relief included 15,000 in cash, clothes, essential supplies, and two bags of rice, ensuring the families had both immediate shelter and food security. His swift intervention contrasted sharply with the usual scenario, where government officials arrive later to document damages and provide delayed aid.

Local residents lauded Srinivasarao for choosing service over political gain. Unlike many representatives who are visible during elections but distant afterward, he acted without seeking recognition or reward. His hands-on approach provided not just material assistance but also emotional support, reflecting his genuine commitment to the community.

By responding promptly and effectively, Kambala Srinivasarao reinforced public trust and set a benchmark for citizen-oriented leadership. His actions exemplify how true public service transcends promises, delivering immediate help to those in distress. Residents acknowledged that his initiative and empathy during the crisis left a lasting impression, demonstrating that service, not publicity, drives his leadership.

Nimmala Ramanayudu Highlights Coalition Government's Development Initiatives for Kurnool

Kurnool, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

District In-Charge Minister Nimmala Ramanayudu emphasized that the coalition government has stabilized Andhra Pradesh's finances after the previous administration left the state economy "on ventilator support." Speaking at the 'Budget Outreach' meeting held at the Kurnool Collectorate, Minister Ramanayudu highlighted the government's fiscal reforms, regular payment of salaries and pensions, and ongoing development programs. On education, he noted the Mega DSP initiative, which filled 15,941 teacher posts, and the "Talliki Vandana" scheme, which provides 15,000 to each

student studying at home. Regarding infrastructure, he stated that the Polavaram project aims for completion by 2027, the Tungbhadra dam gate modernization will finish by May, and funds have been allocated for Srisailem plunge pool repairs. A special master plan is also being prepared for Kurnool's western region development under CM directives.

District Collector Dr. A. Siri presented the 2026-27 budget, detailing 2,833 crore allocated across 52 key departments. Highlights include Rural Development - 349 crore, Medical Education - 333 crore, School Education - 260 crore, and Panchayati Raj - 204 crore. The district will see 38 projects

with total investments of 98,979 crore, expected to generate 28,903 new jobs. Minister T.G. Bharat added that capital expenditure is being increased for development and welfare, with 142 crore spent within Kurnool Corporation limits and projects like the Pattikonda tomato processing unit underway. Local MLAs raised development priorities: road improvements, water body restoration, and P-4 poverty alleviation initiatives. Key approvals under CM review include funding for Abdul Hak University - 2.50 crore, GGH Block - 27.60 crore, Kosigi Indoor Stadium - 5 crore, and construction of multiple BT roads.



S. Jaishankar Meets Russian Minister, Discusses West Asia War and Energy Security

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held talks with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko in New Delhi, focusing on the ongoing West Asia conflict and strengthening bilateral cooperation. The meeting comes amid heightened geopolitical tensions and growing concerns over global energy supply disruptions.

During the discussions, both sides reviewed the full spectrum of the India-Russia "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" and exchanged views on major regional and global developments. The West Asia crisis remained a key focus,

as the conflict continues to create uncertainty in oil markets and global trade routes.

The situation in West Asia has raised concerns for countries heavily dependent on energy imports, including India. Disruptions in critical shipping lanes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, have intensified worries over crude oil availability and price volatility. This route is one of the world's most important oil transit corridors, and any disruption there can significantly impact global energy markets.

India imports a large portion of its crude oil requirements, making stable supply chains crucial for economic

stability. With uncertainties in West Asia, India has been exploring alternative supply arrangements to ensure uninterrupted energy flow. In this context, Russia has emerged as a key supplier, with energy cooperation becoming a major pillar of bilateral ties.

The meeting also highlighted efforts to strengthen economic relations between the two countries. India and Russia have been working to expand trade and investment across sectors, including energy, defence, and technology. Both sides reiterated their commitment to deepening cooperation and maintaining regular diplomatic engagement.

Apart from energy security, the leaders discussed broader geopolitical developments and ways to enhance coordination on international platforms. The discussions reflect India's diplomatic balancing act as it navigates evolving global tensions while protecting its strategic and economic interests.

The engagement underscores India's proactive approach in dealing with global uncertainties. As tensions in West Asia continue, India's outreach to Russia signals its focus on securing energy supplies and maintaining stability in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment.



Amit Shah Says Maoists 'More or Less Wiped Out' From Bastar Ahead of Deadline

Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed the Lok Sabha that Maoist influence in Bastar has been "more or less wiped out," just a day before the government's deadline to eliminate Left-Wing Extremism across the country. The statement marks a significant development in India's long-running battle against Maoist insurgency.

Shah said the government had set a target to make India free from Maoist violence by March 31, 2026, and claimed that the country is now close to achieving that goal. He highlighted that Bastar, once considered one of the strongest Maoist hubs in Chhattisgarh, is now witnessing improved governance and development after decades of violence.

According to Shah, Maoist organisational structures across several states have weakened significantly. He noted that key members of Maoist committees in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh have either sur-



rendered or been neutralised. He also said that remaining leadership networks in Odisha and Telangana have been largely dismantled. The Home Minister added that the Maoist central leadership and politburo structures have weakened considerably.

Shah also linked the decline of Maoist activity to increased development in tribal areas. He stated that villages in Bastar

that previously lacked basic infrastructure now have schools, ration shops, roads, and access to welfare schemes. According to him, development initiatives have helped reduce the influence of extremist groups and improved the lives of local communities. He further credited security forces, including central armed police forces and state police units, for the progress made in tackling

Maoist violence. Shah also acknowledged the role played by local tribal communities in supporting government efforts to restore peace and stability in the region.

However, Opposition leaders urged caution, warning against declaring victory too early. They argued that Left-Wing Extremism is rooted in socio-economic challenges and stressed the importance of sustained development, better governance, and continued engagement with affected communities. Shah reiterated that the government remains open to dialogue with Maoists willing to surrender and join the mainstream, but maintained a firm stance against armed insurgency. He emphasized that security operations and development initiatives will continue until Maoist violence is completely eliminated. The Home Minister's remarks signal a turning point in India's fight against Maoist insurgency, with the government expressing confidence that the decades-long conflict is nearing its end.

Rahul Gandhi Questions PM's Silence on Sabarimala Temple Gold Theft, Alleges CPM-BJP Nexus

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi launched a sharp political attack during his visit to Kerala, questioning why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remained silent on the alleged gold theft at the Sabarimala Temple. He also hinted at a possible political understanding between the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Speaking at a public gathering, Gandhi accused both Prime Minister Modi and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of maintaining a political alignment. He alleged that despite raising religious issues frequently, the Prime Minister has not addressed the alleged theft involving gold and silver plating from idols and temple artefacts at Sabarimala, one of India's most prominent pilgrimage sites. Gandhi further claimed that the silence from national leadership raises questions, particularly when religious matters often become part of political discourse. He argued that the issue deserves attention and accountability,



given the significance of the temple for millions of devotees.

Escalating his criticism, Gandhi suggested a broader political understanding between the BJP and CPI(M), claiming that both parties benefit from targeting the Congress in Kerala. According to him, such an arrangement has influenced political narratives in the state and shaped electoral strategies. The remarks come ahead of key political developments in Kerala, where the Congress-led United Democratic Front is trying to strengthen its position against the ruling Left Democratic Front. Gandhi focused on gov-

ernance issues, corruption allegations, and accountability, with the Sabarimala controversy emerging as a major talking point. The alleged gold theft at Sabarimala has triggered political debate across Kerala, with opposition parties demanding transparency and action. Gandhi's comments have further intensified political tensions, as parties exchange allegations ahead of upcoming electoral battles.

The controversy highlights how religious, political, and governance issues continue to intersect in Kerala's political landscape, with the Sabarimala issue becoming a fresh flashpoint.



M. K. Stalin, Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Vijay: Tamil Nadu's CM Faces and Their Battleground Seats

Ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections 2026, key chief ministerial contenders — M. K. Stalin, Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS), and actor-turned-politician Vijay — have chosen constituencies that are set to become major political battlegrounds. The election, scheduled for April 23, is shaping into a multi-cornered contest across the state.

Stalin Sticks With Kolathur
Chief Minister M. K. Stalin will contest again from Kolathur in Chennai, a constituency he has represented since 2011. The seat is considered a stronghold for Stalin and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). Local issues such as infrastructure, urban development, and welfare delivery are expected to dominate campaigning in the area.

EPS Returns to Edappadi
Opposition leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami is contesting from Edappadi in Salem district, a seat closely associated with his political career. The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) leader will rely on regional support and local development issues as he aims to challenge the ruling DMK.

Vijay's High-Risk Debut
Actor-politician Vijay, leading the Tamilaga VettriKazhagam (TVK), is making his electoral debut by contesting from two constituencies — Perambur in Chennai and Tiruchi East. His entry has added a new dimension to the electoral contest, with analysts closely watching how his popularity translates into votes.



Key Battlegrounds in Focus
Five constituencies involving top leaders and emerging players have drawn significant attention ahead of the polls. These seats are expected to reflect voter sentiment on governance, development, and the growing influence of new political entrants. With a four-cornered contest shaping up, the 2026 Tamil Nadu elections are expected to be one of the most closely watched political battles in the state. The performance of Stalin, Palaniswami, and Vijay in their respective constituencies could play a decisive role in determining who forms the next government.

Bharatiya Janata Party Promises Uniform Civil Code, Law Against 'Love Jihad' in Assam Manifesto

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has released its manifesto for the Assam Assembly Elections 2026, promising to introduce a Uniform Civil Code in the state and enact strict legislation against what it termed "love jihad." The announcements form a key part of the party's strategy as it seeks another term in power.

The manifesto, unveiled in Guwahati, stated that the proposed Uniform Civil Code would safeguard the rights and customs of tribal and indigenous communities. The party clarified that protections under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India would



remain intact, ensuring traditional practices are not affected.

Alongside legal reforms, the BJP also focused on employment and economic growth.

The party promised to create around two lakh government jobs and expand opportunities for youth through entrepreneurship schemes and financial support initiatives. Infrastructure development, including roads, railways, and airports, also featured prominently in the manifesto.

The party further pledged stricter measures to address illegal immigration and land encroachment, issues it described as major concerns for the state. The manifesto also outlined plans to improve healthcare, strengthen flood management systems, and expand welfare schemes across Assam.

Industrial growth and trade development were also highlighted, with the BJP aiming to position Assam as a gateway to Southeast Asia. The party emphasized investments in logistics, connectivity, and manufacturing to boost economic activity in the region.

Senior leaders, including Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, said the manifesto builds on the government's performance and aims to accelerate development. The announcement comes amid intensifying political competition as parties gear up for a closely watched election battle in Assam.

Leander Paes Joins Bharatiya Janata Party; All India Trinamool Congress Calls Him "Another Outsider"

Indian tennis legend Leander Paes has joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the West Bengal Assembly Elections 2026, prompting a sharp reaction from the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC), which described him as "another outsider" entering the state's political landscape.

Paes formally joined the BJP in New Delhi as political activity intensifies ahead of the crucial elections in West Bengal. His entry is seen as part of the BJP's strategy to bring prominent personalities into the party to strengthen its campaign and broaden voter outreach.

Reacting to the development, the Trinamool Congress criticised the BJP for relying on non-local figures instead of promoting regional leadership. The party's "outsider" remark reflects the ongoing political

rivalry between the BJP and TMC, a theme that has dominated West Bengal politics in recent elections.

Interestingly, Paes had previously joined the Trinamool Congress in 2021 and even campaigned for the party during the Goa Assembly Elections 2022. However, he did not contest any election and remained largely inactive in politics before switching to the BJP.

Born in Kolkata, Paes comes from a distinguished sporting family. His father, Vece Paes, was part of India's bronze medal-winning hockey team at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Leander Paes himself is widely regarded as one of India's greatest tennis players, having won multiple Grand Slam titles in doubles and mixed doubles, along with an Olympic bronze medal.



Paes' entry into the BJP adds a new dimension to the West Bengal political battle. With

elections approaching, his popularity and public recognition could help the BJP strengthen

its campaign as competition between major parties intensifies.

"Go Get Your Own Oil": Trump's Message To UK, Allies Over Strait of Hormuz Crisis

US President Donald Trump delivered a sharp message to the United Kingdom and other countries amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, telling them to "go get your own oil" if they were unwilling to support American military action against Iran. His remarks come as Iran continues to maintain pressure on the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, disrupting global energy supplies.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump criticized nations that refused to participate in US-led strikes against Iran. He said countries facing fuel shortages due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz should either buy oil from the United States or secure it themselves. He specifically mentioned the United Kingdom as one of the nations affected by jet fuel shortages.

Trump stated that these countries should "build up some delayed courage" and go to the Strait of Hormuz to "just take it." He also warned that the United States may not con-



tinue supporting allies who did not back its military actions, adding that they would need to learn how to "fight" for themselves.

The remarks come more than a month after the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran. Despite the attacks, Iran has continued to

maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes. The waterway is vital for global energy supplies, and

any disruption has a direct impact on fuel prices and international markets.

Trump also claimed that Iran had been "essentially decimated" and suggested that the hardest part of the conflict was already over. However, the ongoing tensions and continued disruption in oil shipments indicate that the situation remains uncertain and volatile.

The comments highlight growing frustration within the US administration over the lack of international support in dealing with Iran. They also signal a potential shift in US foreign policy, with Trump suggesting that allied nations should take greater responsibility for securing their own energy supplies and maritime routes.

The Strait of Hormuz remains at the center of the global energy crisis, with countries around the world closely monitoring developments. Any escalation in the region could further affect oil prices, inflation, and global markets in the coming weeks.



Yemen's Houthis Attack Israel, Threaten Second Global Oil Chokepoint Amid Iran War

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels have entered the escalating Middle East conflict by launching missile attacks on Israeli military targets, raising fears of a broader regional war and fresh disruptions to global oil supply. The move opens a second front in the conflict, threatening the Bab-al-Mandab Strait, a crucial maritime route for global trade and energy shipments.

The Houthis, who control large portions of Yemen's western coastline including areas near the Red Sea, warned Israel earlier that their "fingers are on the trigger" before firing missiles at Israeli military sites. Analysts described the development as a serious escalation, as it adds another battlefield to an already volatile region.

The biggest concern for global markets is the Bab-al-Mandab Strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean and serves as a major shipping route for oil and goods between Asia and Europe. About 10-12 percent of global seaborne crude oil typically passes through this route, making it one of the world's most important energy corridors.

This development comes at a time when the Strait of Hormuz is already under pressure due to the ongoing Iran conflict. With both routes facing risks, analysts warn that Iran and its allies could effectively squeeze global oil supply from two sides. This dual-chokepoint scenario could significantly disrupt global energy markets and push oil prices

higher. Although the Houthis have not yet announced a formal blockade, experts warn that even limited attacks on ships could disrupt commercial traffic. Shipping companies may be forced to reroute vessels around Africa, which would lengthen travel times and increase freight costs. These higher costs would likely translate into rising fuel prices and inflation worldwide.

For India, the immediate impact may be limited because a large portion of crude imports comes through the Strait of Hormuz rather than Bab-al-Mandab. However, rerouting of cargo, higher freight costs, and rising crude prices could still affect India's fuel costs and inflation in the longer term. The strait also handles 15-20 percent of global container traffic, including food, machinery, and manufactured goods, which could further disrupt supply chains.

Experts warn that pressure on both the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-al-Mandab could push oil prices sharply higher in the coming months. Even minor disruptions in these critical shipping lanes could trigger volatility in global markets and increase economic risks worldwide.

The entry of Yemen's Houthis into the conflict signals a widening war in the Middle East, with potential consequences for global trade, energy supply, and inflation. Markets worldwide are now closely watching developments in both chokepoints as tensions continue to rise.



Italy Denies US Use of Sicily Air Base for West Asia Operations

Italy has refused permission for the United States to use the Sigonella air base in Sicily for military aircraft heading to West Asia, highlighting growing caution among European allies amid escalating regional tensions. The decision reportedly involved US bombers that were expected to land at the base before continuing toward the conflict zone.

According to sources familiar with the matter, the authorization was withheld because the United States had not formally sought approval from Italian authorities. Existing agreements governing US military use of Italian bases require prior permission and consultation with Italy's military leadership, which reportedly did not occur in this case.

The Sigonella base, located in eastern Sicily, is a key NATO facility frequently used for logistics and operations in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Denying access to such a strategic base could complicate US military planning and logistics for operations linked to the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Italy's defence ministry did not immediately comment on the report, but political reactions within the country have been swift. Opposition parties have urged the government to

block the use of Italian bases entirely, arguing that allowing US military operations could draw Italy into a broader conflict.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government has indicated that any future requests would require parliamentary approval. This reflects a cautious approach, balancing Italy's alliance commitments with domestic political pressure to avoid direct involvement in the conflict.

The decision also comes amid broader reluctance among some European allies to support expanded military operations in the region. Reports suggest that procedural issues, including lack of prior notification, also played a role in Italy's refusal.

The development highlights growing diplomatic tensions as the conflict in West Asia intensifies. While Italy remains a key NATO ally of the United States, the refusal signals that European countries are increasingly wary of becoming directly involved in escalating military operations.

As the situation evolves, the US may need to rely on alternative bases or adjust its operational routes, while allies continue to weigh the risks of deeper involvement in the conflict.

Trump May End Iran War Even If Strait of Hormuz Stays Closed: Report

US President Donald Trump is reportedly willing to end the ongoing conflict with Iran even if the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz remains closed, signaling a potential shift in Washington's war strategy. The development comes amid growing concerns over global oil supply disruptions and rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

According to reports citing officials familiar with the matter, Trump told aides that reopening the Strait of Hormuz is no longer essential before ending the military campaign. The president reportedly believes that forcing open the critical oil chokepoint would require a complex and prolonged operation that could extend the conflict beyond his preferred timeline of four to six weeks.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important oil transit routes, carrying

roughly one-fifth of global oil supply. Its closure has already disrupted shipping and triggered volatility in global energy markets. Despite this, the administration appears willing to focus on weakening Iran's military capabilities instead of prioritizing immediate reopening of the waterway.

Reports suggest that Trump's strategy centers on damaging Iran's navy, missile infrastructure, and defense industrial base. Once these objectives are achieved, the United States may look to wind down the conflict even if shipping disruptions continue. This reflects a shift from earlier demands that Iran must reopen the strait as a condition for ending hostilities. The conflict has now entered its fifth week, with escalating military action across the region. Iran has maintained pressure on shipping routes, while the United

States and its allies have conducted strikes targeting Iranian military assets. The ongoing standoff has increased uncertainty in global markets and pushed oil prices higher.

Analysts warn that ending the war without reopening the Strait of Hormuz could still leave global oil markets vulnerable. Even if hostilities decrease, continued disruption in shipping routes may keep energy prices elevated and contribute to inflationary pressures worldwide.

While there has been no official confirmation of a final decision, the reported shift suggests Washington may prioritize ending the conflict quickly rather than securing immediate control over the critical maritime route. Markets and governments around the world are closely monitoring developments as tensions in the Middle East continue to evolve.



US Uses Bunker-Buster Bombs On Iran's Isfahan; Reports Suggest Possible Uranium Link

The United States carried out a major airstrike on Iran's central city of Isfahan using powerful bunker-buster bombs, raising concerns about a possible link to Iran's uranium stockpiles and nuclear infrastructure. The attack marks a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran.

According to reports, US forces targeted a large ammunition depot in Isfahan using 2,000-pound (around 900-kg) bunker-buster bombs designed to penetrate deep underground facilities before exploding. US President Donald Trump shared footage of a massive explosion, which was widely reported to be from the strike near the Iranian city. Isfahan is considered one of Iran's most sensitive strategic locations, hosting key military installations and nuclear-related facilities.

The city had previously been targeted during earlier strikes, and satellite images reportedly showed the transfer of highly enriched uranium to facilities in the area, raising speculation about the purpose behind the latest attack. Experts believe the use of bunker-buster bombs suggests the US was targeting underground infrastructure. These bombs are specifically designed to destroy hardened bunkers, tunnels,

and buried facilities, which Iran has increasingly used to protect its military and nuclear assets from air attacks. The strike comes amid rising tensions in the Middle East, with both sides escalating military operations. Isfahan's strategic importance stems not only from its military installations but also from its suspected links to Iran's uranium enrichment and storage network. This has fueled speculation that the strike may have aimed to disrupt Iran's nuclear capabilities. Reports also indicate that Isfahan had been targeted in previous operations involving nuclear-related infrastructure, further strengthening the belief that uranium-linked facilities could have been among the intended targets.

The attack highlights the growing intensity of the conflict and raises concerns about further escalation. Analysts warn that strikes on nuclear-linked sites increase geopolitical risks and could widen the conflict across the region.

While neither the United States nor Iran has released full details of the damage, the use of bunker-buster bombs and the suspected uranium connection has made the Isfahan strike one of the most closely watched developments in the ongoing Middle East crisis.



What Is At 13 Clifton Road In Karachi? The 'White House' Featured In Dhurandhar 2

The address "13 Clifton Road" in Karachi has gained attention after being featured in Dhurandhar 2 as the alleged residence of underworld fugitive Dawood Ibrahim. Director Aditya Dhar recreates this location in the film as a heavily guarded mansion, often referred to as the "White House 13, Clifton," symbolising the crime boss's secretive lifestyle.

In Dhurandhar 2, the property is portrayed as a luxurious, high-security compound with elaborate décor and tight surveillance. The film depicts the residence with grand features, including symbolic elements like golden eagle statues,



controlled entry points, and multiple security layers. The cinematic representation aims to highlight the power and influence associated with the character inspired by Dawood Ibrahim.

However, reports suggest



that the real-life details surrounding Dawood Ibrahim's residence remain unclear and often disputed. Over the years, multiple addresses in Karachi have been linked to him, including properties in the Clifton area. Earlier reports and

intelligence inputs had mentioned a "White House" near a mosque in Clifton as one of the suspected locations associated with the fugitive don. Interestingly, some reports indicate that Dawood Ibrahim may not necessarily reside at a single address. Former officials and analysts have suggested that he has multiple properties in Karachi and frequently changes locations for security reasons. This has added to the mystery surrounding his actual whereabouts. The film's depiction therefore blends fact with fiction, using the widely discussed Clifton address as a dramatic backdrop. Director Aditya Dhar's recreation is designed to enhance storytelling

rather than serve as a confirmed representation of reality. Dhurandhar 2 has generated significant buzz not only for its storyline but also for its attempt to recreate controversial real-world locations tied to one of India's most wanted fugitives. The reference to "13 Clifton Road" has further fueled public curiosity about the alleged Karachi residence and the mystery surrounding Dawood Ibrahim's life. While the exact truth behind address remains uncertain, the film's portrayal has once again brought the infamous "White House" in Karachi into the spotlight, blending cinema with one of South Asia's most enduring controversies.

Bank Nifty After Worst Month Since Covid: Analysts See 49,500 as Key Support for Potential Recovery

The Bank Nifty index recorded its steepest monthly decline since the COVID-19 market crash, raising concerns among investors about the near-term outlook for banking stocks. Despite the sharp correction, market experts believe the index has strong technical support around the 49,500 level, which could play a crucial role in determining its next move.

In the latest session, Bank Nifty slipped sharply, reflecting sustained selling pressure across major banking stocks. The decline came amid broader market weakness, cautious investor sentiment, and global uncertainties. Analysts noted that profit booking after the recent rally, along with macroeconomic concerns, contributed to the fall in financial stocks during the month.

March turned out to be particularly challenging for the banking sector, with Bank Nifty posting its worst monthly performance since March 2020. Most banking stocks witnessed significant declines, highlighting broad-based weakness across the sector. Factors such as foreign institutional investors



tor outflows, global volatility, and interest rate concerns weighed heavily on the index.

Technical analysts indicate that the 49,500 level is a key support zone. If the index manages to hold above this level,

buying interest may emerge, leading to a potential short-term recovery. However, a decisive break below this support could trigger further downside pressure and extend the correction.

On the upside, analysts believe any rebound may face resistance near the 51,000 to 51,500 zone. This range is expected to act as a hurdle, where traders may again look to book profits. Therefore, market participants

are advised to remain cautious and avoid aggressive positions until clear directional signals emerge.

Experts also suggest keeping an eye on global cues, bond yields, currency movements, and domestic economic developments. These factors are expected to influence market sentiment and determine the direction of banking stocks in the near term. Volatility is likely to remain elevated, and traders are advised to focus on stock-specific opportunities rather than broad index-level trades. Despite the recent correction, analysts remain optimistic about the medium-term outlook for banking stocks. Strong credit growth, improving asset quality, and stable earnings outlook continue to support the sector's fundamentals. However, sustained recovery in Bank Nifty will depend on the index holding above crucial support levels and improvement in overall market sentiment.

For now, the 49,500 level remains the key mark to watch, as it could determine whether Bank Nifty stabilizes or extends its recent decline.



Middle East War Triggers Record Foreign Investor Exodus; 1.1 Lakh Crore Pulled From Indian Markets in March

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) pulled out a record 1.1 lakh crore from Indian equity markets in March, marking one of the largest monthly outflows in history. The sharp withdrawal was largely driven by escalating tensions in the Middle East, which triggered global uncertainty and pushed investors toward safer assets.

Throughout March, foreign investors remained consistent sellers across most trading sessions. The sustained selling pressure reflected a cautious "risk-off" approach among global investors, as geopolitical tensions heightened fears about inflation, oil prices, and economic growth. The cumulative sell-off of more than 1.1 lakh crore surpassed previous records, highlighting the scale of the retreat from Indian equities.

The heavy outflows significantly impacted benchmark indices. The Nifty 50 declined more than 13 percent during March, as banking, financial, and large-cap stocks witnessed intense selling pressure. The broad-based decline indicated that foreign investors reduced exposure across sectors rather than targeting specific stocks.

Rising crude oil prices due to the Middle East conflict added to investor concerns. Since India is a major oil importer, higher crude prices increase inflation risks, widen the current account deficit, and pressure the rupee. These macroeconomic worries further discouraged foreign investors from holding Indian assets.

Despite the aggressive sell-

ing by foreign investors, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) stepped in to provide support to the markets. DIIs purchased equities worth around 1.28 lakh crore during the same period, partially offsetting the outflows and preventing a deeper market decline. Retail investors and systematic investment plan (SIP) inflows also contributed to market stability.

Market experts believe that the near-term outlook will largely depend on geopolitical developments and crude oil price movements. If tensions in the Middle East ease, foreign investors may gradually return to emerging markets, including India. However, continued uncertainty could keep volatility elevated in the coming weeks.

Analysts also noted that India's long-term fundamentals remain strong, supported by economic growth, improving corporate earnings, and domestic liquidity. Nevertheless, global factors such as interest rate movements, currency fluctuations, and geopolitical risks are likely to dominate short-term market direction.

For now, investors are advised to remain cautious, focus on fundamentally strong stocks, and avoid aggressive trading during volatile conditions. The record FII outflow in March highlights how global events can quickly influence Indian markets and underscores the importance of monitoring geopolitical developments closely.

Abu Dhabi's IHC to Acquire 41.5% Stake in Sammaan Capital for 8,850 Crore



Abu Dhabi-based International Holding Company (IHC) is set to acquire a 41.5 percent stake in Sammaan Capital through its subsidiary Avenir Investment, in a deal valued at 8,850 crore. The transaction marks a significant cross-border investment in India's financial services sector and will position IHC as a key promoter in the company.

The investment will be made through a preferential allotment of shares, allowing Avenir Investment to initially hold around 41 percent of Sammaan Capital's equity. Following this, the company plans to launch an open offer to public shareholders at 139 per share. If the open offer receives full participation, IHC's total stake could increase to approximately 63.3 percent, giving it majority control.

This acquisition is expected to strengthen Sammaan Capital's capital base and support its strategic expansion plans. The company, formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance, aims to diversify beyond its traditional mortgage lending business into new loan segments. The fresh capital infusion will also help enhance lending capabilities and improve financial stability.

The deal has received key regulatory approvals, including clearance from the Reserve Bank of India, paving the way for completion of the transaction.

Market participants view the investment as a major vote of confidence in India's financial services sector from global investors.

Following the announcement, Sammaan Capital shares attracted investor attention, reflecting optimism around the strategic partnership and future growth prospects. Analysts believe that the backing of a global investment firm like IHC could help the company expand its footprint, reduce funding costs, and strengthen governance standards.

IHC, one of the largest investment firms in the Middle East, has been actively exploring opportunities in India across sectors. The proposed acquisition aligns with its strategy to expand globally and tap into India's growing financial services market.

For Sammaan Capital, the deal represents a transformative step, providing capital support and strategic direction for long-term growth. The partnership is expected to accelerate the company's diversification efforts and enhance its position in India's competitive non-banking financial sector.

Once completed, the transaction will mark one of the largest foreign investments in an Indian non-banking financial company, highlighting increasing global interest in India's financial sector.

Blackstone Plans \$500 Million IPO for AGS Health in India



Global private equity firm Blackstone is reportedly planning to launch a \$500 million initial public offering (IPO) for its healthcare services company, AGS Health, in India. The firm has begun preliminary discussions with investment banks and is expected to appoint advisors in the coming weeks as it explores listing the company in Mumbai. According to people familiar with the development, the proposed IPO could include a combination of fresh share issuance and an offer for sale by existing investors. The discussions are currently at an early stage, and the final size and structure of the offering may change depending on market conditions and investor demand.

Blackstone is reportedly seeking a valuation of up to \$3 billion for AGS Health. The company is expected to file draft IPO papers in the coming months if the plan progresses as expected. However, no official timeline has been confirmed.

AGS Health provides revenue cycle management services, including billing, coding, and analytics, primarily for large healthcare organizations in the United States. Over the years, the company has expanded its global footprint and strengthened its client base.

AGS Health later shifted its headquarters to Washington, DC, and expanded operations internationally, including entry into the Philippines in 2023. The company currently employs more than 12,000 professionals and serves over 150 clients globally, according to its website. If the IPO moves forward, it could become one of the notable healthcare listings in India this year. Market participants will closely watch the development, especially amid ongoing volatility in global markets and shifting investor sentiment.

The final decision on the IPO will depend on market conditions, investor appetite, and strategic considerations. For now, Blackstone's move signals continued interest from global investors in India's healthcare services sector, despite short-term market challenges.

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RBI Defers MTF Rules, Offers Relief to Traders; Angel One and Capital Market Stocks in Focus

Margin Trading Facility (MTF) traders received relief after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deferred the implementation of its new capital market funding rules to July 1, 2026. The move provides brokers and traders additional time to adjust to the stricter regulations that were initially scheduled to take effect from April 1.

The RBI's revised norms had raised concerns among brokers and traders, as they were expected to increase funding costs and potentially make margin trading more expensive. With the postponement, brokers can continue using bank guarantees backed by 50 percent margin for the next three months, easing immediate pressure on trading costs.

The delay is seen as a temporary breather for market participants amid ongoing volatility. The central bank also relaxed certain conditions along with the deferment. It allowed funding for proprietary trading against full cash collateral, removed restrictions on financing market makers, and broadened acquisition finance rules to include mergers and amalgamations. These changes are expected to improve liquidity and support capital market intermediaries in the near term. The original rules, announced earlier this year, aimed to tighten bank lending norms for capital market intermediaries such as brokers, clearing members, and market makers. These included stricter collateral requirements and limits on funding activities, which could have increased operational costs for brokerages. Higher funding costs often translate into increased margin requirements or brokerage charges for traders, particularly those using MTF.

Following the RBI's decision, capital market-related stocks such as Angel One, BSE, and



other brokerage firms are expected to remain in focus. Investors are likely to track these companies closely, as the temporary relief may improve sentiment and reduce near-term earnings pressure.

Market participants also note that the deferment comes at a time of heightened global volatility, partly due to geopolitical tensions. The RBI's decision is therefore seen as a step to maintain stability and avoid additional pressure on financial markets. Despite the relief, analysts believe the long-term impact of stricter rules remains intact. Once implemented, the regulations may reduce leverage, improve risk management, and strengthen the financial system. However, in the short term, the deferment provides breathing room for brokers and traders to prepare for the transition. Overall, the RBI's move offers immediate relief to MTF traders while keeping the broader objective of improving market stability unchanged. Investors will now watch capital market stocks closely as sentiment improves following the regulatory pause.

Up to 150% STT Hike From April 1: F&O Trading Set to Become Costlier

Futures and Options (F&O) trading will become significantly more expensive from April 1, 2026, as the government's revised Securities Transaction Tax (STT) rates come into effect. Announced in Budget 2026, the move aims to curb excessive speculation in the derivatives segment and promote more disciplined trading.

Under the new structure, STT on futures trades has been increased to 0.05 percent from 0.02 percent, marking a steep 150 percent hike. For options, STT on premium will rise to 0.15 percent from 0.10 percent, while tax on exercised options will also increase to 0.15 percent. These changes apply only



to the derivatives segment, with no impact on equity delivery or intraday cash market trading.

The higher tax is expected to directly affect traders' profitability. Since STT is charged on transaction value rather than

profits, even loss-making trades will attract the higher tax. As a result, futures traders may see their breakeven levels nearly double, making short-term trading strategies less viable. Small scalping strategies in options may also lose their

edge due to the increase in transaction costs. Market experts believe the move could particularly impact high-frequency traders, intraday participants, and retail investors who execute multiple trades daily. Higher costs may lead traders to reduce activity, shift toward positional trades, or focus on high-conviction strategies instead of frequent trades. The government's decision follows concerns over rising retail participation in derivatives trading and mounting losses among individual traders. Studies have shown that a majority of retail participants in F&O markets incur losses, prompting regulators to introduce measures aimed at reducing

excessive speculation.

Analysts expect trading volumes in the derivatives segment to moderate in the short term as traders adjust to the new cost structure. Brokerage firms may also revise pricing models and trading strategies to adapt to the changes. However, long-term investors are unlikely to be affected significantly, as the tax hike targets only short-term derivative trading. Overall, the STT hike signals a shift toward a more regulated derivatives market. While the move may reduce speculative trading, it is also expected to encourage more disciplined participation and better risk management among traders going forward.

Connolly's Brilliant Debut Leads Punjab Kings to Thrilling Win Over Gujarat Titans

In an exciting start to the IPL 2026 season, Punjab Kings secured a thrilling three-wicket victory over the Gujarat Titans at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur. Chasing a target of 163, Punjab completed the innings with five balls to spare, thanks to a composed and match-winning performance by debutant Cooper Connolly.

Connolly, making his IPL debut, remained unbeaten on 72 off 44 balls, playing a mix of aggressive strokes and calm, calculated shots under pressure. His innings anchored Punjab's chase, rescuing the team from early setbacks and ensuring momentum remained with the Kings throughout the run chase.

The Gujarat Titans had set a competitive total of 162 for 6 in their innings. Openers Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler provided a solid start, scoring 39



and 38 runs respectively. However, Punjab's bowlers struck crucial blows at key moments, with Vyshak Vijaykumar and Yuzvendra Chahal taking timely wickets to prevent Gujarat from posting a higher total.

During Punjab's chase,

Prabhsimran Singh contributed valuable support with a 37-run knock, forming a crucial partnership with Connolly that steadied the innings. Gujarat's Prasidh Krishna troubled the batting line-up with three wickets, but Connolly's calm

approach under pressure ultimately guided Punjab to victory. The match was marked by competitive cricket and tight moments that kept fans on the edge of their seats. Punjab's bowlers maintained discipline throughout, striking at key

junctures, while their batsmen demonstrated composure in the final overs. Connolly's debut performance not only earned him the man-of-the-match award but also highlighted him as one of the young talents to watch in the tournament.

With this win, Punjab Kings open their IPL 2026 campaign on a high, gaining confidence and momentum for the upcoming matches. Gujarat Titans, meanwhile, will look to regroup and strengthen their strategies in the league's early stages. The match demonstrated the excitement and unpredictability of the IPL, with new players stepping up and key performances under pressure shaping the outcome. Connolly's innings will be remembered as a standout debut, and Punjab Kings will aim to build on this thrilling victory in the remaining fixtures of the season.



R Ashwin Urges Patience, Opposes Early India Debut For Teen Sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

Veteran Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has advised against rushing teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi into the senior India team, even as calls grow louder following his explosive performance in IPL 2026.

Sooryavanshi grabbed headlines after smashing a stunning 15-ball half-century for Rajasthan Royals against Chennai Super Kings, a knock that triggered widespread praise from cricket experts and former players. Following the innings, several voices backed the 15-year-old prodigy for an immediate India call-up, citing his fearless batting and ability to dominate bowlers at the highest level.

However, Ashwin took a contrasting stand, urging patience and long-term planning. The veteran spinner stressed that Sooryavanshi is still extremely young and has a long career ahead, warning that rushing him into international cricket could put unnecessary pressure on the teenager. He emphasized that young players should be allowed to develop gradually rather than being fast-tracked based on early success.

Ashwin's comments came amid a growing debate within the cricketing community. While some experts believe Sooryavanshi's talent is too special to ignore, others, in-

cluding Ashwin, feel that careful nurturing is crucial to ensure sustained success at the highest level.

The teenage batter's rise has been nothing short of sensational. Sooryavanshi recently produced a remarkable performance, scoring a rapid fifty and helping Rajasthan Royals register a comfortable win. His fearless approach and clean hitting have drawn comparisons with some of the game's most aggressive batters and sparked excitement about India's next generation of stars.

Despite the hype, Ashwin reiterated that managing expectations is important, especially for a player still in his mid-teens. He suggested that consistent performances across seasons and formats should be the priority before considering a senior India debut. The debate around Sooryavanshi highlights a familiar dilemma in Indian cricket — whether to fast-track exceptional young talent or allow gradual progression. While fans and experts remain divided, Ashwin's message was clear: talent alone is not enough, and patience will be key to ensuring Sooryavanshi's long-term success. For now, the young prodigy continues to impress in IPL 2026, while discussions over his India debut are likely to intensify with every standout performance.

PCB Warns Players Of 1 Crore Fine After Naseem Shah's Controversial Political Post

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), led by chairman Mohsin Naqvi, has issued a strong warning to centrally contracted players following pacer Naseem Shah's controversial social media post targeting a political leader. The board has cautioned players that they could face fines of up to 1 crore for posting political content without prior approval.

The controversy erupted after Naseem Shah posted a remark criticising Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz during the opening ceremony of the Pakistan Super League (PSL). The post, which was later deleted, questioned the special treatment given to the political leader at the event and quickly triggered widespread debate on social media.

Following the incident, the PCB fined Naseem Shah around 20 million Pakistani rupees (approximately 1 crore), one of the largest financial penalties in Pakistan cricket history. The board ruled that his post violated clauses in his central contract as well as social media guidelines.

After the controversy, the PCB reportedly warned all centrally contracted players against sharing political views online without approval from the board's media department. The move aims to prevent players from becoming involved in political debates and to maintain neutrality.

Naseem Shah later issued an unconditional apology during disciplinary proceedings. Reports also suggested that he parted ways with his social media adviser, who was subsequently blacklisted from working with PCB-contracted players.



The controversy sparked wider discussions about the relationship between sports and politics in Pakistan. Critics argued that players should avoid political commentary, while others debated the severity of the punishment imposed on the young fast bowler.

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi has reportedly taken a strict stance to ensure discipline and protect the image of Pakistan cricket. The warning to players reflects the board's intent to prevent similar incidents during the ongoing PSL and future international assignments.

The development adds to a series of controversies surrounding Pakistan cricket in recent weeks, prompting the board to tighten rules on player conduct. With the 1 crore fine serving as a deterrent, the PCB has made it clear that players must avoid political statements and follow strict communication guidelines moving forward.

Fakhar Zaman Banned For Two PSL Matches Over Ball-Tampering Controversy

Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman has been handed a two-match suspension in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2026 after being found guilty of ball tampering during a recent match, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed.

The incident took place during Lahore Qalandars' clash against Karachi Kings on March 29 at the Gaddafi Stadium. Umpires noticed a change in the condition of the ball during a crucial phase of the match and subsequently penalised Lahore Qalandars with five runs. The ball was also replaced following the incident, which drew immediate attention and sparked controversy.

After reviewing the matter, the PCB ruled that Fakhar Zaman had committed a Level 3 breach of the PSL Code of Conduct, specifically related to altering the condition of the

ball. As a result, he was banned for two matches in the ongoing tournament.

The controversial moment occurred during the final over of the match when Karachi Kings were chasing a target. Reports indicated that Fakhar Zaman briefly handled the ball before passing it to a teammate following a discussion with captain Shaheen Shah Afridi. Umpires then intervened after noticing irregularities with the ball's condition, which ultimately influenced the match's outcome. Karachi Kings went on to secure a four-wicket victory with three balls to spare.

Initially, Fakhar Zaman denied the allegations during a disciplinary hearing conducted by match referee Roshan Mahanama. However, following further review and investigation, the PCB concluded that the player had breached the rules, leading to the

suspension.

The incident has added to the controversies surrounding the PSL 2026 season, with the league already facing criticism over multiple disciplinary issues. Fakhar's suspension is seen as a significant move by the PCB to uphold the integrity of the competition and send a strong message regarding player conduct.

Ball tampering remains one of cricket's most serious offences, as altering the ball's condition can provide an unfair advantage to bowlers. The PCB's decision to impose a two-match ban reflects the governing body's effort to maintain fair play and discipline within the tournament.

Fakhar Zaman, a senior Pakistan international and key player for Lahore Qalandars, will now miss two important matches, which could impact his team's campaign in PSL 2026.



Ravindra Jadeja Explains Aggressive Send-Off To Former Teammate Shivam Dube In IPL 2026

Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja explained his aggressive send-off to former Chennai Super Kings teammate Shivam Dube during their IPL 2026 clash in Guwahati, saying the celebration was purely competitive and not personal.

Jadeja, who recently moved to Rajasthan Royals after spending 13 years with Chennai Super Kings, delivered an impressive bowling performance against his former side. The veteran all-rounder conceded just 18 runs in three overs and picked up crucial wickets, including Sarfaraz Khan and Shivam Dube in the same over, which helped Rajasthan Royals gain control of the match.

The moment that grabbed attention came after Jadeja dismissed Dube. As the Chennai Super Kings batter walked



back to the pavilion, Jadeja celebrated with an animated "gun-shot" gesture, sparking reactions from fans and commentators, especially given their long association as teammates.

Speaking after the match,

Jadeja clarified that the celebration was not directed personally at Dube. He said he knows Dube well from their time together and has bowled to him extensively in the nets. Jadeja added that he anticipated Dube would try to play big

shots against spin, so he focused on bowling outside off-stump and letting the pitch do the work. Jadeja also noted that the surface was slightly sticky and offering turn, which helped his bowling strategy. He said his goal was to maintain

the right line and length and take advantage of the conditions. The dismissal proved crucial as Rajasthan Royals tightened their grip on the match. Jadeja's double strike shifted momentum and played a key role in restricting Chennai Super Kings to a modest total.

The encounter was particularly emotional for Jadeja, who was facing his former franchise for the first time after leaving CSK. His aggressive celebration highlighted the competitive intensity of the IPL, where former teammates quickly become rivals once they represent different franchises. Rajasthan Royals went on to dominate the contest, with Jadeja's impactful spell setting the tone for a strong performance. His all-round display and animated celebration became one of the talking points of the IPL 2026 clash.

From Tennis Dreams to IPL Impact: Nandre Burger's Unconventional Rise as a New-Ball Weapon

Nandre Burger's journey to becoming a dangerous new-ball bowler in the IPL is far from typical. Before making a name in cricket, the South African pacer dreamed of a tennis career, idolising Roger Federer and spending countless hours trying to emulate the Swiss legend. However, a back injury ended his tennis ambitions at a young age, pushing him toward cricket — a decision that ultimately shaped his professional future.

Burger's early cricketing days were informal and experimental. He often bowled in his backyard, sometimes drawing stumps on a wall and mimicking fast-bowling great Dale Steyn. His serious journey began when he enrolled at University of the Witwatersrand, commonly known as Wits University, to study sports psychology. There, he met coach Neil Levenson, who played a key role in transforming his career.

At the time, Burger bowled in the high-120 kmph range, but Levenson believed he had the potential to become a genuine fast bowler. The coach worked extensively on his action, using unconventional training techniques, including blindfolded drills to improve rhythm and balance. Gradually, Burger's pace increased, and he made his first-class debut in 2018, consistently clocking speeds above 135 kmph.

Despite steady domestic performances, Burger's international debut for South Africa came relatively late in 2023, when he was 27. However, his ability to generate bounce and seam movement quickly made him valuable in franchise cricket. Rajasthan Royals recognised his potential and backed him despite injury concerns surrounding their pace attack, particularly with Jofra Archer managing fitness



issues.

Burger repaid that faith in IPL 2026 with a standout performance against Chennai Super Kings in Guwahati. Opening the bowling, he used his left-arm angle and natural movement to dismiss Sanju Samson with a delivery that deviated late. He also troubled young batter Ayush Mhatre with sharp bounce and pace. Burger finished with impressive figures and played a key role in restricting the opposition.

With aggressive powerplay batting becoming increasingly common in T20 cricket, bowlers capable of striking early are in high demand. Burger's raw pace, bounce, and ability to swing the new ball make him a valuable asset. If he continues to develop and build partnerships within the Royals' pace attack, the left-arm quick could emerge as one of the most impactful fast bowlers of IPL 2026.

From tennis dreams to fast-bowling success, Burger's unconventional path highlights how setbacks can often lead to unexpected opportunities — and, in his case, a growing reputation as a match-winning weapon.

Raakaasaa Will Be a Complete Entertainer, Says NiharikaKonidela at Grand Pre-Release Event

The makers of Raakaasaa hosted a grand pre-release event ahead of the film's theatrical release on April 3. Produced by NiharikaKonidela under the Pink Elephant Pictures banner in association with Umesh Kumar Bansal and presented by Zee Studios, the film is directed by Manasa Sharma. SangeethShobhan and NayanSarika play the lead roles.

Speaking at the event, NiharikaKonidela expressed her excitement about the film and praised the team's dedication. She shared that her collaboration with director Manasa Sharma began when she discovered her writing during the YouTube series Mad House. Niharika highlighted Manasa's passion for storytelling and expressed confidence that she would achieve greater heights in her career.

Niharika also spoke about her commitment to encouraging fresh talent through Pink Elephant Pictures. She reflected on previous projects like Committee Kurrollu, where

she introduced several newcomers despite initial skepticism. She emphasized that she would continue taking creative risks and supporting new voices in cinema.

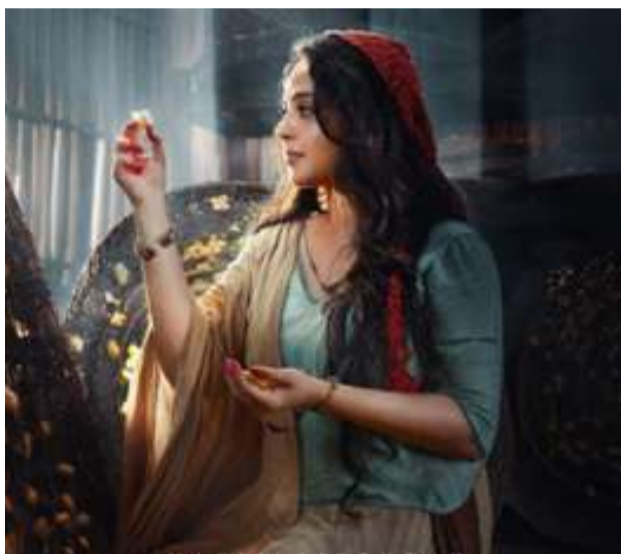
Lead actor SangeethShobhan said the team had worked with the goal of delivering a memorable film. He praised the contributions of the technical crew, including music composer Anudeep Dev and cinematographer Raju Edurolu, adding that audiences would particularly appreciate their work. Sangeeth also highlighted his strong working relationship with director Manasa Sharma and expressed confidence that the film would connect with viewers.

Actress NayanSarika shared her happiness about collaborating again with Pink Elephant Pictures after projects like Hello World. She praised the team environment and expressed confidence that audiences would enjoy the film's entertainment value.

Director Manasa Sharma credited NiharikaKonidela for supporting her

journey and giving her the opportunity to direct the film after her earlier work Bench Life. She also appreciated the performances of SangeethShobhan, NayanSarika, and comedians like Getup Srinu, along with senior actors Brahmaji and Tanikella Bharani.

Several members of the technical team, including music director Anudeep Dev, fight master Vijay Master, and VFX supervisor Murali Manohar, shared their experiences and praised the collaborative effort behind the film. They described Raakaasaa as a visually rich and entertaining project made with honesty and dedication. Distributors also expressed confidence in the film's box-office potential, noting strong promotional efforts and wide release plans. The team concluded the event by urging audiences to watch Raakaasaa in theatres on April 3, promising a complete entertainer packed with humor, emotions, and engaging storytelling.



Kathanar: The Wild Sorcerer Trailer Promises Grand Mythical Spectacle

The trailer of Kathanar: The Wild Sorcerer has unveiled an ambitious period fantasy that aims to elevate Malayalam cinema to a global scale. Directed by Rojin Thomas, known for the critically acclaimed #Home, the film stars Jayasurya as KadamattathuKathanar, a legendary priest from Kerala whose tales are rooted in folklore, mysticism, and supernatural powers.

The three-minute trailer introduces viewers to the historic setting of KanthalloorSaala before transitioning into the darker and mystical world of ancient Venad. As an ominous supernatural force threatens the land, Kathanar emerges as a spiritual protector, setting the stage for a narrative that blends mythology with high-end visual spectacle.

Adding to the film's appeal is Anushka Shetty, who makes her Malayalam debut in the movie. She portrays KalliyankattuNeeli, a Yakshi whose mysterious and haunting presence adds tension and intrigue to the storyline. Her character appears to serve as a powerful counterpoint to Kathanar's spiritual strength.

Produced by Gokulam-

Gopalan under the banner of SreeGokulam Movies, the film is mounted on a scale rarely seen in Malayalam cinema. The ensemble cast also includes Prabhudev, Sanoop Santhosh, Sandy, Devika Sanjay, Harish Uthaman, Vineeth, NitishBharadwaj, SrikanthMurali, and Kulprit Yadav.

The screenplay is co-written by Rojin Thomas and R. Ramanand, with cinematography handled by Neil D'Cunha and music composed by Rahul Subrahmanian. The film heavily relies on virtual production and advanced VFX, aiming to deliver visuals comparable to international fantasy films. Production design by Rajeevan further enhances the authenticity of the film's mythical world.

In keeping with its grand scale, Kathanar: The Wild Sorcerer is planned for a wide monsoon release and will be dubbed in 15 languages, including Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, English, and several international languages. With its blend of folklore, cutting-edge technology, and large-scale storytelling, the film is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious projects from Malayalam cinema in recent years.

Pallichattambi Is Our Dream Project, Says Tovino Thomas at Grand Release Press Meet

Malayalam star Tovino Thomas is gearing up for the release of his big-budget film Pallichattambi, which is set for a grand theatrical release on April 10 across five languages — Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, and Kannada. Directed by Dijo Jose Antony, the film stars KayaduLohar as the female lead and is produced by Noufal, Brijeeesh, Chanukya, Chaitanya, and Charan under the banners of World Wide Films and C Cube Bros Entertainments. A grand release press meet was held in Hyderabad ahead of its release.

Speaking at the event, Tovino Thomas described Pallichattambi as a dream project that had been in planning for several years. He revealed that the film is set in the 1950s and involved extensive research to recreate the era authentically. He added that while the story is rooted in the past, the narrative is designed to connect with modern audiences. "From April 10, Pallichattambi will become everyone's movie," he said, expressing confidence in the film's appeal.

Director Dijo Jose Antony said the film carries a universal theme and revolves around the idea that all humans are equal. He noted that the story,



though set in 1950s Kerala, reflects timeless human struggles. He also mentioned that the title Pallichattambi represents a key character in the film, which is why it has been retained across all languages.

Actress KayaduLohar described her role of Rebecca as a dream character and one that holds special significance in her career. She praised Tovino Thomas as an inspiring co-star and expressed confidence that audiences would connect emotionally with the film. Producers Chanukya, Chaitanya, and Charan expressed excitement about their first major production and said the film is designed to appeal to all sections of audiences. They highlighted the team's journey from Telugu cinema to producing a large-scale Malayalam film,

calling it a proud moment. Producer and distributor Bunny Vas praised the film's scale and technical quality, stating that Pallichattambi offers a fresh commercial experience for Telugu audiences. He also compared Tovino Thomas's screen presence to Mohanlal and expressed confidence that the film would perform strongly at the box office. Music by Jakes Bejoy, along with the film's action sequences and emotional narrative, are expected to be major highlights. The film also features Shatru in a key role.

With strong expectations, a grand scale, and a pan-India release, Pallichattambi is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of April, with the team confident that audiences across languages will embrace the film.

Nayanthara to Romance Salman Khan in VamsiPaidipally's Next

In a major casting update, Nayanthara has officially been roped in as the female lead opposite Salman Khan in director VamsiPaidipally's upcoming film. The makers confirmed the development, welcoming the actress on board for the big-budget entertainer.

The project has already generated significant buzz as it marks the first collaboration between Salman Khan and VamsiPaidipally.

With Nayanthara joining the cast, expectations surrounding the film have increased further.

The film is being produced by Dil Raju under the banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations and is expected to be mounted on a grand scale. The movie is likely to go on floors soon, with more details about the cast and storyline expected to be announced in the coming weeks. This project also marks the first on-screen pairing of Salman Khan and Nayanthara, bringing together two major stars from different film industries.

The film is expected to be a pan-India entertainer aimed at audiences across multiple languages.

With the combination of Salman Khan, Nayanthara, VamsiPaidipally, and Dil Raju, the film is already shaping up to be one of the most anticipated upcoming projects in Indian cinema.

Allu Arjun Birthday: No Visual Content From Atlee Film, Title Poster Likely

Fans waiting for a major update from Allu Arjun's upcoming film with director Atlee on the actor's birthday may have to temper their expectations. The makers have reportedly decided not to release any visual content such as a teaser or glimpse on April 8.

Instead, the team is expected to unveil only the official title poster. The decision has reportedly been taken to maintain secrecy around the film's concept and scale, which is said to be highly ambitious and mounted on a massive budget. The project, currently referred to as AA22xA6, is expected to be one of the biggest films in Allu Arjun's career. The makers are said to be carefully planning the promotional campaign and want to release visual content only when it is fully ready to create maximum impact. Earlier, there were strong expectations that a special glimpse or announcement video would be released on Allu Arjun's birthday. However, the latest update suggests that fans will only get the title



reveal, which may come as a surprise to those expecting a larger celebration.

The film marks the first collaboration between Allu Arjun and Atlee, making it one of the most anticipated projects in Indian cinema. The movie is being produced by Sun Pictures and is expected to be a large-scale entertainer with high production values.

Despite the absence of visual content, the title announcement is expected to generate significant buzz, given the excitement surrounding the Allu Arjun and Atlee combination.

Tovino Thomas Opts Out of Jr NTR – Prashanth Neel Film; Makes Remark About Telugu Films

Malayalam star Tovino Thomas has officially opted out of the highly anticipated film starring Jr NTR and directed by Prashanth Neel. The actor confirmed that he is no longer part of the project, citing scheduling challenges and differences in working styles.

Speaking at a recent event, Tovino explained that he prefers completing one film at a time, which made it difficult for him to commit to the large-scale Telugu project. He pointed out that Malayalam films are usually completed in a single schedule, whereas Telugu films often require multiple schedules spread across a longer period.

Tovino further added that working



on a Telugu film could take almost a year, which would affect his ability to complete multiple Malayalam projects. He emphasized that he does not like working on several films simultaneously and prefers finishing one project before moving to the next.

The actor also mentioned that committing to a long-term Telugu film

might impact four to five Malayalam films, and he did not want to delay or compromise his existing commitments. His decision has come as a surprise, especially since he was earlier expected to play a key role in the ambitious pan-India project. The Jr NTR and Prashanth Neel collaboration is one of the most awaited projects in Indian cinema, known for its massive scale and extended shooting schedules. With Tovino Thomas stepping away, fans are now waiting to see who will replace him in the film.