



# TRUE POINT

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## BUZZ POINTS



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## Congress Leaders to Campaign in Kerala, Assam: CM Revanth Reddy

New Delhi, March 31:

Senior Congress leader and Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi strongly criticized Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his remarks in Parliament, stating that the Congress party has always believed in democracy and the power of the ballot, not violence.

Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, Mallu Ravi said that Amit Shah failed to differentiate between constitutional political parties and extremist movements like Maoists. He asserted that the Congress party has always functioned within the framework of the Constitution and never supported armed struggle.

Referring to the ongoing Parliament session, he said discussions were held on Maoist surrender and internal security. While the government presented data on Maoist activities, Mallu Ravi objected to Amit Shah's repeated references to former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, accusing them of aligning with



extremist forces.

He clarified that historical alliances with parties like CPI and CPM were within democratic norms, as these parties participated in elections and respected the Constitution. He also addressed comments regarding Rahul Gandhi sharing

a with folk singer Gaddar during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, stating that Gaddar had already renounced extremist ideology and embraced democratic principles.

Mallu Ravi emphasized that Congress has always stood for non-violence and democratic

governance, both before and after independence. He noted that even in states like Kerala and West Bengal, communist parties came to power through elections, not armed struggle.

Meanwhile, political activity is intensifying ahead of upcoming elections, with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and several state ministers set to campaign for the Congress party in Kerala and Assam. The move reflects the party's strategy to strengthen its presence in key states.

Mallu Ravi also responded to comments made by central leaders on the Kaleshwaram project, stating that previous allegations made by national leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have not resulted in concrete action. He asserted that the current Telangana government is taking lawful steps to address the issue.

Reiterating Congress's commitment, he said the party firmly believes in achieving power through democratic means and will continue to oppose any attempt to distort historical facts for political gain.



## CM Revanth Reddy Extends Aid to Tank Bund Hero Shiva

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy extended financial and employment support to Shiva, a local hero who has saved several lives at Hussain Sagar on Tank Bund.

Recognizing his service, the Chief Minister handed over financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to Shiva on behalf of the government. In addition, an appointment letter was issued to Shiva's son, Venumadhav, offering him a job as a Home Guard.

Shiva is known for rescuing many people who accidentally fell into the Hussain Sagar Lake near Tank Bund. Despite his lifesaving efforts over the years, he has been facing financial difficulties in supporting his family. Upon learning about his situation, the Chief Minister responded promptly and directed officials to provide necessary assistance.

Following the Chief Minister's instructions, officials initiated steps to support Shiva and his family. As part of these efforts, Shiva and his family

met the Chief Minister, who assured them of continued support.

During the interaction, Shiva requested the government to help him secure a livelihood by constructing a swimming pool near Tank Bund. Responding positively, the Chief Minister directed officials to examine the proposal and take appropriate steps in that direction.

He also instructed authorities to allot a double-bedroom house to Shiva's family under the government housing scheme, further strengthening their financial and social security.

Family members of Shiva expressed happiness and gratitude for the support extended by the Chief Minister. They said receiving assistance directly from the Chief Minister was a proud and emotional moment for them.

The gesture has been widely appreciated as a recognition of unsung heroes who risk their lives to save others, highlighting the government's commitment to supporting individuals who serve society selflessly.

## Harish Rao Slams Govt Over Assembly, Irrigation Issues

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Tuesday criticized the Congress government, alleging that the recent Assembly sessions concluded without direction and failed to address key public issues.

Speaking at the Assembly Media Hall, he said the sessions ended in a superficial manner without clarity on the implementation of the six guarantees promised to the people. He accused the government of avoiding discussions on public issues and abruptly concluding the Assembly for political priorities, including election campaigning in Kerala.

Harish Rao alleged that BRS

legislators were suspended as part of diversionary politics after the party exposed corruption allegations against Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. He said this move enabled the government to pass important bills without proper debate or opposition presence.

He further criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Congress MLAs for using inappropriate language in the Assembly and demanded that such remarks be referred to the Ethics Committee.

On irrigation, Harish Rao strongly defended the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, calling criticism by Union Minister C. R. Patil unacceptable. He alleged that both the BJP and Congress were attempting to malign the project despite evidence of its success.

Citing data from the Union government's Economic Survey and statements by Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, he said irrigation coverage in Telangana has significantly increased due to projects like Kaleshwaram. He questioned how water continues to flow into reservoirs like Mallanna Sagar if the project had failed, as claimed by critics.

Harish Rao challenged BJP and Congress leaders to visit Telangana and witness the benefits of the project firsthand, including flowing Godavari waters and irrigated farmlands in districts such as Siddipet and Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri. He also accused the government of neglecting irrigation infrastructure by delaying repairs and failing to release funds. He claimed that



with minimal financial support, lakhs of acres could receive irrigation water, but the government was deliberately withholding funds. The BRS leader further alleged that the Congress government had failed multiple sections of society, including farmers, women, unemployed youth, and marginalized communities, by not

fulfilling its promises. He reiterated that the opposition would continue to raise public issues both inside and outside the Assembly.

Harish Rao asserted that under the guidance of K. Chandrashekar Rao, the BRS would continue its fight against what he termed as anti-people policies of the government.



## Sajjanar Urges Peaceful Conduct of Hanuman Vijay Yatra

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau:

V.C. Sajjanar, Managing Director of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation and senior police officer, appealed to the public to celebrate the upcoming Hanuman Vijay Yatra in a peaceful and responsible manner.

He emphasized that maintaining law and order is a collective responsibility and urged organizers, participants, and citizens to cooperate fully with the police and administration during the procession. Sajjanar warned that any attempts to create disturbances or provoke tensions would be dealt with strictly as per the law.

Highlighting the importance of communal harmony, he requested people from

all communities to respect each other's sentiments and ensure that the celebrations are conducted without causing inconvenience to the public. He also advised organizers to follow all guidelines issued by the authorities, including route permissions and safety measures.

Sajjanar further stated that adequate security arrangements would be put in place across Hyderabad to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra. Police personnel will be deployed at sensitive locations, and surveillance will be intensified to prevent any untoward incidents. He concluded by urging citizens to celebrate the festival with devotion, discipline, and mutual respect, setting an example of unity and peace.

## Bhatti Vikramarka to Lead Democratic Musi Rejuvenation Process

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Tuesday said that the Musi River rejuvenation project will be implemented in a democratic and transparent manner with active public participation.

Chairing a detailed review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat, Bhatti Vikramarka, who is also the Chairman of the Musi Cabinet Sub-committee, reviewed the progress of the project along with Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar and senior officials.

The Deputy Chief Minister announced that public opinions and suggestions on the Musi River rejuvenation will be invited online for a period



of 15 days, from March 31 to April 15, through the official email ID. He said that every suggestion received from the public will be carefully examined in consultation with officials. He also stated that Sub-committee members will personally meet individuals

who provide valuable inputs and hold discussions in a phased manner.

He informed that the foundation stone for the Omkareshwara Temple on the banks of the Musi River was laid on March 28. He directed officials to prepare a comprehensive

and time-bound roadmap for the works to be carried out under Phase-1 and Phase-2 of the project. Bhatti Vikramarka instructed officials to clearly divide responsibilities and ensure effective coordination among departments. He emphasized the need to address key issues such as coordination with defence authorities over land matters, consultations with displaced families, finalization of construction designs, and discussions with financial institutions for funding arrangements. He urged officials to work with commitment and dedication, stating that the project reflects the vision of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the state Cabinet. He described the Musi rejuvenation project as a landmark initiative that would play

a crucial role in improving urban infrastructure, environmental conditions, and public spaces in Hyderabad.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured that members of the Musi Sub-committee will be available to officials at all times to provide guidance, support, and timely decisions required for smooth execution of the project. Senior officials, including Special Chief Secretary Ranjan, Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Managing Director E.V. Narasimha Reddy, Joint Managing Director Gauthami, officials Vinay Krishna Reddy and Ashok Reddy, district collectors Harichandana, Narayana Reddy, and Manu Chowdary, GHMC Commissioner Karnan, and others attended the meeting.

## Uttam Kumar Reddy Seeks Increased Auto LPG Supply

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has urged the Central government to ensure adequate supply of Auto LPG across the state, citing growing demand and shortages affecting auto drivers and commuters.

The minister raised concerns over the limited availability of Auto LPG, which has been creating hardships for thousands of auto-rickshaw

drivers who depend on it as a cost-effective and eco-friendly fuel. He emphasized that insufficient supply is disrupting livelihoods and increasing operational costs for drivers, ultimately impacting the public transport system.

Uttam Kumar Reddy pointed out that Auto LPG plays a crucial role in reducing pollution levels in urban areas. He stressed that promoting cleaner fuels like LPG is essential for environmental sustainability and improving air quality

in cities like Hyderabad. However, inconsistent supply is discouraging drivers from continuing its use. The minister requested the Centre to enhance LPG allocation to Telangana and streamline distribution channels to avoid shortages. He also called for the establishment of more Auto LPG dispensing stations to meet the increasing demand. Highlighting the importance of public transport, Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that auto-rickshaws form a vital part of

last-mile connectivity, especially for middle- and lower-income groups. Ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply is necessary to maintain affordability and accessibility for daily commuters. He further urged oil marketing companies to coordinate closely with the state government to address logistical challenges and ensure timely deliveries. The minister assured that the Telangana government is committed to supporting initiatives that benefit auto drivers and promote

sustainable fuel usage.

Auto drivers' unions have welcomed the minister's intervention and expressed hope that the Centre will respond positively. They stated that resolving the LPG supply issue would significantly ease their financial burden and improve their working conditions.

The Telangana government reiterated its commitment to protecting the interests of auto drivers while promoting environmentally friendly fuel alternatives.



# Vakiti Srihari Highlights Women Welfare Initiatives

Makthal, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telegana Minister for Sports, Dairy Development, and Animal Husbandry Vakiti Srihari on Tuesday said the Congress government is giving top priority to women's welfare through various initiatives, including free bus travel.

He was speaking at a programme organized by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) at the Makthal bus stand, marking the success of the Mahalakshmi scheme. The minister stated that women across the state have benefited significantly from free bus travel, with nearly 290 crore trips completed and savings of around 10,000

crore. Addressing the gathering, Srihari said the government has ensured free bus travel for women to any destination within the state, making mobility easier and more affordable. He noted that TGSRTC played a crucial role during the Telangana movement and added that the government has supported the corporation by reimbursing the cost of free travel.

He revealed that the government has so far paid 123 crore to TGSRTC in Narayanpet district alone, resulting in daily savings of around 12 lakh for women in the district. He emphasized that such financial support has helped sustain the transport corporation.

The minister criticized opposition parties for making

negative remarks about the free bus scheme, stating that such criticism is not justified as the scheme has clearly benefited women. "Before the truth reaches people, false claims are being spread," he remarked.

Srihari expressed confidence in the capabilities of women, stating that those who manage households can achieve anything. He said the government aims to make one crore women financially strong by supporting self-help groups with initiatives such as rental buses, petrol pump management, and interest-free loans. He added that respecting women is essential for the overall prosperity of the state.

Highlighting agricultural initiatives, the minister said that unlike the previous gov-

ernment, which discouraged paddy cultivation, the current administration has made it profitable. He noted that farmers cultivating fine rice are being given minimum support price along with a bonus, and the government is procuring the produce directly.

He further stated that the procured rice is being distributed through ration shops, providing six kilograms per person to poor beneficiaries.

The programme was attended by Makthal Municipal Chairperson Manasa Hanmanthu, Narayanpet District Collector Prateek Jain, Revenue Collector Srinu, Local Bodies Collector Phanindra, Narayanpet Depot Manager Lavanya, Market Committee Chairman Radha Lakshma Reddy, and other officials.



# Bhatti Vikramarka Highlights Mahalakshmi Scheme, Women Empowerment Push

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Tuesday said the state government is prioritizing women's welfare through large-scale initiatives, including the flagship Mahalakshmi scheme.

He stated that soon after the formation of the government, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Cabinet fulfilled their election promise by launching the Mahalakshmi scheme, which provides free bus travel for women in Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) buses. He noted that the scheme was formally launched immediately after the oath-taking ceremony by bringing RTC buses to the Assembly premises.

Bhatti Vikramarka said the government ensured financial support to RTC while implementing the scheme. Acting on the suggestion of Transport Minister Ponnampallabharathi, the Finance Department has been releasing funds regularly based on monthly travel data

submitted by RTC authorities. He revealed that women have undertaken nearly 300 crore free bus journeys under the scheme, resulting in savings of around Rs 10,000 crore. He emphasized that the initiative has significantly benefited poor and middle-class families, reducing their financial burden.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured that the government will continue to reimburse RTC for future travel expenses incurred under the scheme. He also highlighted the government's broader efforts to empower women economically through financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

He stated that interest-free loans worth Rs 20,000 crore are being facilitated annually through bank linkages for women self-help groups. So far, about Rs 57,000 crore has been extended, and the government aims to cross Rs 1 lakh crore in the next three years, eventually reaching Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

The government is also bearing interest payments on these loans, with Rs 1,000 crore already released out of Rs 3,800

crore, while Rs 2,800 crore has been allocated in the budget. Over the next five years, the state plans to spend Rs 10,000 crore towards interest support for women.

Bhatti Vikramarka said that strengthening women financially would lead to overall economic growth of families and society. He added that women are being encouraged to establish micro, small, and medium enterprises with financial assistance.

He further stated that large-scale enrollment of women into self-help groups is underway in Hyderabad, along with support for setting up businesses such as solar power plants and petrol bunkers.

Highlighting the role of Minister Seethakka, he said several new schemes are being introduced under her leadership to further enhance women's welfare.

He concluded that the government is committed to making women financially independent and even turning them into millionaires, stating that with determination, any goal can be achieved.



# Tummala Nageswara Rao Guides Farmers at 'Rythu Nestham' 88th Episode

Hyderabad, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The 88th episode of the state-wide farmer outreach programme "Rythu Nestham" was conducted successfully, aiming to promote modern agricultural practices and natural farming among farmers. The programme witnessed large participation from across Telangana, with farmers and agriculture officials joining through video conference from nearly 1,600 Rythu Vedita centres.

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao attended the programme as the chief guest. Agriculture Department Secretary K. Surendramohan was also present and provided guidance to farmers and officials on natural farming methods and the use of nano urea.

During the interactive session, several farmers shared their experiences. Sandeep from Yadadri district explained his success with natural farming and self-marketing techniques. Mahendra Reddy from Khammam district highlighted the benefits of using nano urea in paddy cultivation. Naveen, a former serviceman from Nizamabad district, shared his journey in adopting natural farming practices and inspired fellow farmers. Baburao from Mahabubnagar district also spoke about his experiences in natural farming.

Farmers from Gudur in Jagtial district and Nelakondapalli in Khammam district raised queries, which were addressed by agricul-

tural scientists with detailed suggestions and solutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao appreciated the efforts of progressive farmers like Sandeep and Mahendra Reddy for adopting innovative practices. He directed officials to create widespread awareness at the village level on natural farming and the use of nano fertilizers.

The minister explained the harmful effects of excessive use of conventional urea and encouraged farmers to adopt sustainable alternatives. He informed that the government has introduced a Urea App, through which farmers can easily determine the required quantity of urea based on their cultivated area.

He advised farmers to gradually reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and shift towards eco-friendly practices such as nano urea, nano DAP, and natural farming. He also emphasized the importance of integrating modern technology and knowledge through allied agricultural departments.

As part of the 99-day governance initiative, the minister called upon farmers to actively participate in the upcoming Rythu Utsavams scheduled from May 4 to May 9 and make the programme a success.

The "Rythu Nestham" initiative continues to serve as an important platform for knowledge sharing, innovation, and strengthening the farming community across the state.



# Congress Believes in Ballot, Not Bullet: Mallu Ravi Slams Amit Shah

New Delhi, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Nagar Kurnool MP Mallu Ravi on Tuesday strongly criticized Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing him of misrepresenting the Congress party's stance and drawing incorrect comparisons between communist parties and Maoist movements.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, Mallu Ravi said the Congress has always believed in democratic processes and never in violence. "The Congress party has never believed in the bullet; it has always believed in the ballot," he asserted.

Referring to the ongoing Parliament session, he said discussions were held on Maoist surrenders and operations against Left Wing Extremism. He noted that while the Centre presented data on Maoist activities, there was no objection from Congress regarding those figures. However, he took strong exception to Amit Shah linking Congress leaders like Indira Gandhi, Manmohan Singh, and Rahul Gandhi with Maoist groups.

Mallu Ravi clarified that any alliances made by Congress in the past were strictly within the framework of the Constitution. He pointed out that parties like CPI and CPM, which supported Congress at various times, are constitutionally recognized political parties and not banned organizations.

He also addressed references

made by Amit Shah regarding Rahul Gandhi sharing a stage with folk artist Gaddar during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Ravi explained that Gaddar had already distanced himself from extremist movements and was participating in democratic processes at the time. Accusing Amit Shah of attempting to malign Congress leaders for political gain, Mallu Ravi said such statements were misleading and aimed at tarnishing reputations. He reiterated that Congress has always respected the Constitution and worked within democratic principles, both before and after Independence. Highlighting historical context, he said communist parties have come to power in states like West Bengal and Kerala through elections, not violence. He also questioned the BJP's stance, pointing out that alliances with such parties have existed in the past, including during the Janata Party era. Reacting to comments on the Kaleshwaram project, Mallu Ravi said previous statements by national leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, had raised concerns over alleged irregularities. He added that after coming to power in Telangana, the Congress government is taking lawful action on the issue. He concluded by stating that the Congress party will continue to uphold democratic values and oppose any attempt to distort facts for political purposes.

# Jayalalithaa Building Seized Over Property Tax Arrears

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

In a notable enforcement action, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has seized and sealed a residential property linked to former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa in Hyderabad due to long-pending property tax arrears.

The building, located in the upscale Srinagar Colony area, was sealed after authorities found that property tax dues had not been cleared for several years. Despite issuing multiple notices to the concerned parties, including le-

gal heirs, there was no response or effort to settle the outstanding dues. According to civic officials, the pending amount has accumulated over time, making it a significant liability. As part of standard procedure, GHMC took action under municipal regulations, which empower authorities to seal properties in cases of non-payment of taxes. Officials stated that the action is part of an ongoing drive to recover pending property taxes across the city, especially ahead of the financial year closing. Several high-value properties have come under scrutiny, and strict measures

are being implemented against defaulters who fail to comply despite repeated warnings.

Sources indicated that the property had been under use for several years, and the dues continued to accumulate during that period. However, authorities clarified that the responsibility for clearing property tax lies with the current owners or legal successors, regardless of occupancy or usage arrangements.

GHMC officials emphasized that no individual or entity is exempt from tax obligations and that enforcement actions are being carried out uniform-

ly. They also urged property owners across Hyderabad to clear their dues promptly to avoid similar penalties, including sealing or legal proceedings.

The incident has drawn public attention due to the high-profile nature of the property, underlining the civic body's firm stance on revenue recovery and financial discipline. This move reflects the administration's commitment to ensuring compliance with municipal laws while strengthening revenue collection to support urban infrastructure and public services in the city.



# Paadi Koushik Reddy Alleges Harassment Over CID Notices.

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

BRS MLA Paadi Koushik Reddy on Tuesday alleged harassment after CID notices were reportedly issued to him, his family members, and party associates. In a press statement, he expressed concern over what he described as attempts to target him despite not committing any wrongdoing.

Reddy said the notices appeared to be issued with the intention of causing inconvenience and distress to him and his close associates. He questioned whether it was appropriate to involve his family members and party colleagues merely because he has been raising questions against the government.

Addressing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the MLA stated that political actions should be directed at him personally



rather than extending to his family or party members. He urged that any legal or political

action be confined to him instead of what he termed as intimidation against those

around him. "Target me, file cases against me, and issue notices to me.

But troubling my family and party members is unfair," he said, expressing disappointment over the developments.

Despite the situation, Reddy asserted that he would not step back from his political stance. He maintained that no amount of pressure or notices would deter him from continuing his efforts to question the government on behalf of the people.

He further stated that his actions are not driven by personal motives but by a sense of responsibility towards the public. "This is not a personal fight. It is my duty to stand up for the people," he said.

The BRS leader emphasized that he would continue to hold the government accountable until the promises made to the public are fulfilled. He added that voices that question governance cannot be suppressed and reaffirmed his commitment to continue his political fight.



# Jupally Krishna Rao Slams AP Over Srisaillam Power Generation

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Tuesday criticized the Andhra Pradesh government for allegedly generating power at the Srisaillam Reservoir in violation of established norms. Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, he accused the neighbouring state of ignoring Telangana's irrigation and drinking water requirements.

The minister stated that according to regulations, power generation at Srisaillam should not be undertaken when the water level reaches the minimum drawdown level of 834 feet (254.2 meters). Despite this, he alleged that the Andhra Pradesh government continued power generation, leading to depletion of water resources meant for Telangana.

Krishna Rao said that repeated requests and appeals to the Andhra Pradesh government were ignored. In response, public representatives from the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district, along with farmers and residents of the Krishna river basin region, called for a "Vanta-Varpu" protest program at Srisaillam to draw attention to the issue.

He stated that following

these warnings and the protest call, the Andhra Pradesh government stopped power generation at the reservoir. The minister emphasized that protecting Telangana's water rights remains a top priority for the state government and the Congress party.

He asserted that there would be no compromise on Telangana's rightful share of water allocations and warned that any damage to the Palamuru region would be strongly opposed. "The government will stand firmly with farmers and protect their interests," he said. Krishna Rao cautioned the Andhra Pradesh government against repeating such actions in the future. He warned that Telangana would not remain silent if similar incidents occur again and would take all necessary steps to safeguard its interests.

He further added that in the past, similar disputes had led to protests and legal action, including approaching the High Court. He reiterated that the state's interests remain paramount and will continue to guide its actions.

The remarks come amid ongoing tensions between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh over the sharing and utilization of Krishna river waters.



# Gajjela Kantham Slams Kaushik Reddy Over Remarks, Seeks Action

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

TPCC General Secretary Gajjela Kantham on Tuesday strongly criticized Huzurabad MLA Paadi Koushik Reddy over his alleged remarks against MLA Kadiyam Srihari, questioning the appropriateness of such statements in public life.

Addressing the media, Kantham condemned the alleged threat remarks and said it was unacceptable to speak in such a manner against a senior leader. He alleged that Kadiyam Srihari was being targeted because he belongs to a Scheduled Caste community and termed it as an act of discrimination.

Kantham also accused Koushik Reddy of having a history of controversial actions, alleging that he was involved in attacks on protestors during political movements in the past alongside Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He further alleged that derogatory comments were made against marginalized communities during internal party meetings. The TPCC leader also claimed that Koushik Reddy had made objectionable remarks against the Governor and disrespected the Assembly Speaker in the past, calling it a violation of democratic values and legislative decorum.

He extended his criticism to BRS leadership, accusing K. T. Rama Rao of encouraging un-

ruly elements within the party. Kantham demanded that K. Chandrashekar Rao take strict action and expel such individuals from the party.

Kantham alleged that leaders like Koushik Reddy were promoting intimidation politics and suppressing voices from weaker sections, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and minorities. He accused the previous BRS government of indulging in "blackmail politics" to sideline Dalit leaders in the opposition. He also expressed anger over the alleged disrespect shown towards Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu during discussions on the state budget, stating that the budget was designed to ensure social justice for all sections. Kantham further alleged that certain leaders were trying to revive a feudal mindset and obstruct equal justice for all communities. He said the people of Telangana are waiting to end what he described as "family rule" in state politics.

Demanding accountability, Kantham urged the Assembly Speaker and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to take immediate action against Koushik Reddy. He also called for the cancellation of the MLA's membership if such behavior continues. He concluded by warning that leaders must exercise restraint in their language and uphold democratic values in public discourse.

# BRS Leaders Allege Injustice in Krishna Water Sharing

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Former minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy on Tuesday alleged that Telangana is facing serious injustice in the utilization of Krishna river waters, accusing both the Congress-led state government and the Centre of failing to protect the state's interests.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, he said regions such as Palamuru, Nalgonda, and Rangareddy are heavily dependent on Krishna waters for irrigation and drinking purposes. He alleged that the Congress party historically neglected Telangana in the irrigation sector and that the state was achieved under the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao after a prolonged struggle against such injustices.

Niranjan Reddy accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of allowing Andhra Pradesh to utilize Telangana's share of water. He claimed that water was being diverted to Andhra Pradesh without proper indent

approvals while the Telangana government remained inactive. He further alleged that in the last two years, Andhra Pradesh has utilized a larger share of Krishna waters while Telangana has used significantly less. He questioned why the state government has not demanded an Apex Council meeting to address the issue.

Highlighting the impact on farmers, he said crops in Nalgonda and Palamuru districts are at a crucial stage and any shortage of irrigation water could lead to severe losses. He accused the government of failing to act despite prior warnings and criticized recent protests at Srisaillam Dam as delayed and ineffective.

The BRS leader also raised concerns over inter-basin water transfers by Andhra Pradesh to projects like Handri-Neeva and Galeru-Nagari, alleging violation of norms. He claimed that Telangana failed to utilize available floodwaters and did not effectively operate lift irrigation schemes such as the Kaleshwaram project.

He alleged that key irrigation infrastructure, including pumps under repair, were neglected due to lack of funds, affecting water supply to lakhs of acres. He further criticized the delay in completing the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project, stating that timely completion could have helped fill reservoirs in the region.

Niranjan Reddy also questioned Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar for not raising the issue of injustice to Telangana at the national level.

He demanded that the state government immediately complete pending irrigation works and take a firm stand to protect Telangana's water rights. He also called for stronger action, including protests in Delhi and Amaravati, instead of what he termed as "symbolic demonstrations" within the state.

The press meet was attended by BRS General Secretary R. S. Praveen Kumar, MLA Vijayaudu, and former MLAs Beeram Harshavardhan Reddy, Marri Janardhan Reddy, and Ala Venkateshwar Reddy.



# Kavitha Alleges Financial Mismanagement by Congress Government

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Jagruthi President K. Kavitha on Tuesday alleged that the Congress government has pushed the state into a deep financial crisis and burdened it with mounting debt.

In a statement, Kavitha expressed concern that the government has brought the state to a situation where it is forced to depend on the Reserve Bank of India even for day-to-day expenses. She said the findings in the CAG report for 2024-25 have exposed what she termed as financial mismanagement by the government.

She criticized the Congress for failing to deliver on its pre-election promise of increasing wealth and distributing it among the poor. Instead, she alleged that the government has been running the state entirely on borrowings. According to her, except for two days in the financial year 2024-25, the state depended on funds borrowed from the RBI to meet its daily expenditure.

Kavitha further claimed that the government raised loans amounting to Rs 1.30 lakh crore in a single year and still failed to repay nearly Rs 6,000 crore even after the financial year ended. She termed this as a sign of inefficiency and poor

financial planning. Despite having a monthly revenue of around Rs 12,000 crore, the government is unable to maintain even minimum balance levels for daily operations, she alleged.

She also stated that the total debt of the state has reached approximately Rs 8.65 lakh crore, placing an estimated burden of nearly Rs 9 lakh on every family. In such a situation, claiming a "surplus budget" is misleading and amounts to deceiving the public, she said. Kavitha demanded that the government stop focusing on publicity and instead take concrete steps to stabilize the state's economy.

On the issue of unseasonal rains, Kavitha expressed concern over heavy crop losses in several districts, including Jagtial, Karimnagar, Siddipet, and Nirmal. She said standing crops ready for harvest, such as maize, paddy, turmeric, sesame, and mango, were severely damaged due to sudden rains and strong winds.

She urged the government to immediately support affected farmers and ensure compensation reaches every farmer who suffered losses. Calling the situation distressing, she said farmers' hard work had been destroyed and timely intervention was necessary to provide relief.

# Rohith Mudiraj Burns Effigy of Amit Shah Over Remarks on Gaddar

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Khairatabad DCC President Motha Rohith Mudiraj on Tuesday led a protest against alleged remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah about noted Telangana folk singer and activist Gaddar in Parliament. As part of the protest, Congress leaders burned an effigy of Amit Shah at the Fever Hospital junction in Nallakunta. The protest was organized under the leadership of Rohith Mudiraj, who demanded an immediate apology from the Union Minister for what he described as inappropriate and disrespectful comments.

Speaking on the occasion, Mudiraj said that the remarks made in Parliament hurt the sentiments of people in Telangana, where Gaddar is widely respected as a cultural icon and voice of the people. He insisted that Amit Shah should withdraw his comments and issue a public apology.

He also criticized Telangana BJP leaders, especially Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, alleging that they remained silent during the remarks and failed to defend the dignity of a respected personality from the state. He demanded that BJP Members of Parliament from Telangana resign if they are unable to speak for the interests and pride of the state.

Issuing a warning, Mudiraj said that if their demands are not fulfilled, the Congress party would intensify protests across Telangana. He stated that BJP leaders would face strong opposition and would not be allowed to move freely in the state if they continue to remain silent on such issues.

He further urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to honor Gaddar by naming a main road leading to the BJP office as "Gaddar Marg," as a tribute to the legendary artist. Several Congress leaders and party workers participated in the protest, highlighting rising political tensions over the issue in the state.



# Ponnam Prabhakar Reviews Phule Statue Works Ahead of April 11 Unveiling

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar inspected the ongoing construction works of the statues of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule at Lake View Park near Tank Bund in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The statues are scheduled to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on April 11.

Several public representatives and officials participated in the inspection, including MLC Basavaraju Saraiyah, government whips Adi Srinivas and Birla Ilaiah, and MLAs Danam Nagender, Kavvampalli Satyanarayana,

Naveen Yadav, Kaleru Venkatesh, and Mutha Gopal. Senior officials from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, and the Hyderabad district administration were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and the Telangana government for installing the statues at Tank Bund. He stated that the government was formed with the support of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, and minority communities, and is committed to inclusive governance. He also mentioned that Pragathi

Bhavan has been renamed as Praja Bhavan to reflect a people-oriented administration.

The minister said that approximately 4 crore is being spent on the installation of the statues. He added that the statues are being designed to inspire the public by showcasing the life, reforms, and contributions of these great social reformers.

Highlighting their legacy, he said that Mahatma Jyotirao Phule dedicated his life to achieving social justice and uplifting marginalized communities, while Savitribai Phule worked tirelessly for women's education and empowerment.

He urged officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, and the Hyderabad district administration to coordinate effectively to ensure the successful organization of the inauguration event. Public representatives were also advised to conduct awareness programs in their respective constituencies on the morning of April 11 and attend the public meeting in the evening. The minister further noted that the statues will be installed alongside those of Indira Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar, and P. V. Narasimha Rao, creating an important landmark that reflects the contributions of great leaders and inspires future generations. Meanwhile,

MLA Danam Nagender proposed naming the stretch as "Phule Marg," and the proposal will be brought to the attention of the Chief Minister for consideration.



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# SOT Raid Exposes Toxic Colours in Bahadurpally Bakery

Quthbullapur, March 31 | TPN Bureau

A Special Operations Team (SOT) raid in Bahadurpally has uncovered alarming food safety violations at a local bakery, raising serious concerns over public health. What is usually seen as a symbol of celebration—cakes—has now turned into a potential health hazard, following revelations of hazardous practices behind their preparation.

Acting on specific inputs, SOT officials from Quthbullapur conducted a surprise inspection at a bakery located opposite a temple in Bahadurpally, under the jurisdiction of Dundigal Police Station. The raid exposed the widespread use of unauthorized synthetic food colours in the preparation of cakes, buns, and biscuits. Officials stated that these artificial colours were being used excessively to enhance visual appeal and attract customers, despite posing potential health risks.



Authorities warned that prolonged consumption of such chemical-laden food products could lead to severe health complications. The use of non-permitted food additives is a clear violation of food safety standards and reflects a blatant disregard for consumer well-being.

In addition to toxic colours, officials found that expired food ingredients were being used in the baking process. Raw materials that were no longer fit for consumption were reportedly reused, further endangering public health. Such practices, officials noted, could result in food poisoning and long-term health issues.

The inspection also revealed unhygienic conditions throughout the bakery. From the preparation area to storage sections, the premises lacked basic cleanliness and failed to adhere to standard safety protocols. The absence of hygiene raised further concerns about the quality and safety of food being sold to customers.

The incident has sparked wider questions about the monitoring of local bakeries. Residents are now questioning whether regular inspections



are being conducted by food safety authorities and how such establishments continue to operate without strict oversight.

Following the raid, SOT officials registered a case and handed it over to Dundigal police for further investigation. Sources indicate that more inspections may be carried out in the coming days to identify similar violations in other bakeries across the region.

# Hydra Demolishes Roadside Shops in Bowrampet

Bowrampet, March 31 | TPN Bureau

In a major enforcement drive, Hydra authorities carried out demolition of roadside shops in Bowrampet under Dundigal Circle on Tuesday, citing safety and traffic concerns. The operation was conducted near the Bangaru Maisamma Temple and proceeded under heavy police bandobast to avoid any untoward incidents.

According to officials, the demolished shops were allegedly set up illegally along the roadside, creating traffic congestion and posing risks during emergencies. Authorities expressed concern that such encroachments could obstruct rescue operations, especially in case of fire accidents or other disasters.

Sources suggest that the recent fire accident reported on March 3 in Pragathi Nagar may have influenced the decision behind the drive. As part of precautionary measures, officials appear to be focusing on clearing vulnerable and congested zones to prevent similar incidents in the future.



However, there is no official clarity on whether any formal complaints were filed prior to the demolitions. This has sparked local discussions, with some residents questioning the sudden action, while others have welcomed it as a necessary step for public safety.

During the operation, a large number of police personnel were deployed to maintain law and order. The demolition pro-

cess was carried out smoothly, with no reports of clashes or resistance from shopkeepers.

The incident once again brings attention to the issue of unauthorized roadside constructions and their impact on urban safety and traffic management. Authorities are likely to continue similar drives in other areas to ensure compliance with regulations and safeguard public interest.



# Forest Staff Complete Training at Dulapally Academy

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Forest Beat Officers and Forest Section Officers successfully completed their training programs at the Telangana State Forest Academy in Dulapally, with a valedictory ceremony held on Tuesday. The programs aimed at strengthening field-level forest administration and preparing officers for on-ground responsibilities.

The six-month training program for Forest Beat Officers, which began on October 1, 2025, concluded with 85 out of 86 trainees successfully completing the course. Meanwhile, 44 Forest Section Officers, who underwent a three-month promotional training program starting January 1, 2026, also completed their training. The ceremony was attended by senior officials, including Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Dr. C. Suvarna, IFS, and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden Vinay Kumar, IFS. They encouraged the trainees to perform their

duties with dedication and uphold the responsibility of protecting forest resources.

Speaking at the event, Academy Director Dr. Priyanka Varghese, IFS, stressed the importance of applying the knowledge and skills gained during training in field conditions. She also highlighted the role of forest officers in creating public awareness about forest conservation and environmental protection.

Officials stated that Forest Beat Officers and Section Officers play a key role in safeguarding forests, preventing illegal activities, and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. They advised the trainees to carry out their responsibilities with commitment and integrity.

Additional Director S. Ramesh, IFS, Joint Director B. Praveen, IFS, and other officials and staff also attended the program.

With the completion of training, the officers are now ready to take up field duties and contribute effectively to forest protection efforts across Telangana.

# Protest Highlights Women's Safety and Rising Costs

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

A protest meeting was held in the city raising serious concerns over women's safety, rising prices, and social inequalities. Leaders and participants voiced strong criticism of both state and central governments, alleging failure to address key public issues effectively. Speakers at the event highlighted the increasing incidents affecting women and stressed the urgent need for stronger safety measures and stricter enforcement of laws. They stated that ensuring women's security and dignity must be treated as a top priority.

The issue of rising prices, especially cooking gas and essential commodities, was also strongly raised. Participants pointed out that inflation is

placing a heavy financial burden on households, particularly affecting women who manage daily expenses. They demanded immediate steps to control price rise and provide relief to common people.

Concerns were also expressed about growing inequality in society. Speakers noted that despite progress, significant gaps remain in opportunities and rights, and achieving equality could take

many more years if current trends continue.

The gathering further called for empowerment of women through education, employment, and awareness initiatives. Participants emphasized that collective efforts from society and government are necessary to build a safer and more equitable environment.

Leaders also criticized certain policies, claiming they are negatively impacting public

welfare. They urged authorities to adopt people-focused approaches and ensure better governance.

The meeting concluded with a call for unity and public participation to demand accountability, improved safety measures, and economic stability. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to continue raising their voices for justice, equality, and better living conditions.

# Tension Mounts Over BJP Division President Selection

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

The selection process for division presidents of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Dundigal Circle has turned politically intense, with multiple aspirants vying for key posts. The development has sparked significant interest among party cadres and local leaders.

Under the leadership of Municipal Circle President Peesari Krishna Reddy, nominations from aspirants of Bahadurpally and Dundigal divisions were collected and forwarded to the state leadership. The process was conducted in the presence of District General Secretary D. Vigneshwar Chary and State ST Morcha Vice President Dasari Shyam Rao. Following the expansion of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Dundigal Municipality was divided into three divisions—Bahadurpally (294), Bowrampet (295), and Dundigal (296). Currently, the party is focusing on appointing presidents for Divisions 294 and 296.



In Bahadurpally Division 294, Akiboyina Srinivas Yadav, Kavali Santosh, and D. Yashwanth Reddy have filed nominations. With relatively

low competition, Srinivas Yadav is reportedly a strong contender for the post.

However, the contest in Dundigal Division 296 has become

highly competitive, with six aspirants in the race. These include Akula Vijay Sai, Turai Bhanu Goud, Maloth Venkatesh Naik, Talari Rajkumar,

Bhaskar Naik, and Nadikattla Roja. Each candidate is highlighting their contributions, social support base, and leadership experience to strengthen their claim. Akula Vijay Sai stated that he played a key role in bringing youth into the party, while Turai Bhanu Goud emphasized his active participation in party programs. Venkatesh Naik has sought consideration under the ST quota, while Municipal Vice-Chairperson Roja appealed for an opportunity under the women's quota. Talari Rajkumar mentioned that he would seek the support of MP Eatala Rajender. Speaking on the occasion, Peesari Krishna Reddy said that positions in the party are a recognition of service, but ideology remains paramount. He urged all aspirants to work together regardless of the outcome and called for united efforts to secure BJP victories in all three divisions in the upcoming GHMC elections.

A large number of BJP workers and supporters attended the nomination process, reflecting the growing political activity in the region.

# Cellar Pit Accident Injures Youth in Quthbullapur

Quthbullapur, March 31 | TPN Bureau

A construction-related accident occurred in Gajularamam under Quthbullapur on Tuesday, leaving a young man seriously injured after a washroom collapsed due to unsafe excavation work.

According to reports, a deep cellar pit dug for an under-construction multi-storey building near an HP petrol bunk led to the sudden collapse of a washroom in an adjacent structure. The incident took place around 4:30 PM when 27-year-old Sai Kumar entered the washroom and was caught in the collapse.

Locals alleged that the accident occurred due to negligence in construction practices, particularly the lack of proper safety measures during cellar excavation. They claimed that no protective arrangements were in place, turning the pit into a dangerous hazard for nearby buildings and residents. Upon receiving information, 108 ambulance staff promptly reached the spot. Emergency Medical Technician Narendra Reddy and pilot Srinivas provided immediate first aid to the injured man before shifting him to Malla Reddy Hospital in Suraram for further treatment.

Residents expressed serious concern over unsafe construction

activities in the area. They stated that the deep excavation without adequate safeguards has turned into a dangerous trap and poses a constant threat to public safety.

Locals have demanded strict action against those responsible for the negligence and called upon authorities to enforce safety regulations at construction sites. They also urged officials to ensure justice and proper compensation for the injured person. The incident has once again raised concerns over the implementation of safety norms in urban construction projects and highlights the need for stricter monitoring to prevent such accidents in the future.



## Call for Special Law to Protect Journalists in Telangana

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

Mamidi Somaiah, State President of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation, has urged the Telangana government to enact a special law for the protection of journalists, expressing concern over the lack of legal safeguards for media professionals.

Speaking in Hyderabad on Tuesday in the context of the ongoing Assembly sessions, Somaiah said it was disappointing that while the state government has introduced several new laws, it has failed to bring forward a dedicated law for journalist protection. He appreciated the government for enacting laws related to the protection of parents and advocates, but criticized it for ignoring long-pending demands of journalists.

He stated that their affiliated national body, the Indian Federation of Working Journalists, has been fighting for a journalist protection law at the



national level for a long time. Similarly, he urged the state government to introduce and pass such a law in the Assembly at the earliest.

Somaiah pointed out that states like Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra have already enacted laws for the protection of journalists. He added that several other states, including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha, have formed study committees to consider similar legislation.

Expressing concern over the situation in Telangana, he said journalists in the state are facing increasing attacks, harassment, and false cases, and lack

adequate protection. He alleged that journalists, who played a significant role during the Telangana movement, have been neglected by successive governments.

He further criticized the current Congress government, stating that it appears to be continuing the same approach as the previous administration. He noted that the recent state budget made no mention of journalist welfare, with no allocations for housing plots, pensions, or other support systems.

Somaiah also highlighted pending issues such as non-payment of advertisement bills to newspapers for the past two years, lack of accreditation cards, and absence of health cards for journalists. He said neglecting journalists and their families is not in the best interest of the government.

He expressed disappointment over the silence of other major journalist unions on these issues and demanded that the government fulfill the promises made to journalists during the previous elections.

## Tummala Nageswara Rao Assures Full Support to Turmeric Farmers After Untimely Rains

Hyderabad, March 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has assured complete support to turmeric farmers affected by untimely rains and strong winds, directing officials to take immediate relief measures and ensure fair procurement.

In response to crop damage caused by sudden weather changes, the minister issued strict instructions to officials to procure even moisture-affected turmeric without any deductions. He emphasized that farmers should not face any financial loss due to factors beyond their control and assured that the government would stand firmly with them.

At the Nizamabad Agricultural Market Yard, a significant inflow of turmeric has been recorded in recent days. Officials reported that around 4,500 turmeric heaps, amounting to approximately 27,400 bags, have arrived at the market yard so far. Of these, a ma-



majority have been safely stored in covered sheds, while nearly 500 heaps are currently kept in open areas due to space constraints.

To prevent further damage, the Agricultural Market Committee has completed the bidding process to procure around 1,500 tarpaulins. These will be distributed to farmers to protect turmeric stored in open spaces. The minister directed officials to expedite the distribution process and ensure that

all necessary arrangements are in place without delay.

According to preliminary reports, heavy rains and strong winds that occurred late last night affected nearly 35 to 40 farmers, damaging around 70 to 80 turmeric heaps. Considering the situation, the minister reiterated that even damp or moisture-affected turmeric should be procured without any cuts, ensuring that farmers receive full payment.

He also instructed that pay-

ments must be made strictly as per the government-fixed prices for quality turmeric. The minister warned that any market yard official or staff member found harassing farmers in the name of moisture content, quality checks, or deductions would face strict disciplinary action.

Tummala Nageswara Rao stressed that the government is committed to protecting farmers' interests and minimizing their losses during natural calamities. He directed market yard secretaries, directors, and other concerned officials to remain vigilant and ensure smooth procurement operations. Reassuring farmers, the minister said that there was no need for panic and that the government would take all necessary steps to safeguard their livelihoods. The move is expected to provide significant relief to turmeric farmers in the region, especially in Nizamabad and surrounding districts, where turmeric cultivation is a major source of income.

## Relentless Enforcement Yields Major Sand, LPG, and PDS Seizures

Hyderabad, April 1, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Vigilance & Enforcement Department maintained a robust crackdown on illegal activities across the State during March 2026, focusing on unlawful sand mining, diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) commodities, and misuse of LPG cylinders.

In a series of coordinated raids, officials uncovered unauthorized sand excavation in the Manjeera River and surrounding areas, resulting in the seizure of 13 vehicles, including JCBs, tippers, tractors, excavators, and a motorbike. Authorities recovered a staggering 1,633 metric tons of sand and arrested five individuals on the spot.

Over the past six months, operations were expanded to 14 mandals across eight districts, including Medak, Jangaon, Hanamakonda, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Narayanpet, Mahbubnagar, and Khammam. Raids at 18 strategic locations led to the confiscation of 2,131 metric tons of sand, 10 excavators, 6 tippers, and 39 tractors. Legal action has been initiated against 70 accused in 18 FIRs under multiple acts, including the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, and Motor Vehicles Act.

These enforcement drives were carried out in close coordination with the Transport, State Tax, Mines & Geology, Commercial Taxes, Forest, Civil Supplies, and Police Departments. Operations included joint route checks, surprise inspections, and night monitoring at key highways, Outer Ring Road exits, and major toll plazas. More than 850 vehicles were inspected, resulting in



the seizure of over 242 vehicles for violations such as overloading, non-payment of taxes, absence of valid permits, and illegal transport of sand, gravel, granite, bricks, and other minerals.

In addition, inspections revealed illegal hoarding and refitting of LPG cylinders into smaller units sold at under 1,500 each. Authorities seized 41 full domestic and commercial cylinders, 103 empty cylinders, 33 weighing machines, and various refitting equipment.

The department also recovered approximately 101.81 quintals of PDS rice, valued at 4.57 lakh, from illegal diversion operations. Welfare hostel inspections were carried out in Karimnagar district to ensure proper infrastructure and services for students.

Revenue losses detected during the month totaled 0.82 crore, with 13.98 crore realized through penalties and recovery actions.

The Vigilance & Enforcement Department reaffirmed its commitment to curbing illegal mining, preventing tax evasion, safeguarding public resources, and ensuring compliance with transport and commercial laws. Citizens are urged to report irregularities via the toll-free number 14432.

## Indian Doctor Elected Head of Global Cancer Forum

Hyderabad, March 31 | TPN Bureau

In a moment of pride for India and the medical fraternity, renowned oncologist Dr. T. Subramanyeswara Rao from Hyderabad has been elected as the President of the Global Forum of Cancer Surgeons. This prestigious appointment marks a historic milestone, as he becomes the first Indian and the first representative from a developing nation to lead the international body.

Dr. Rao currently serves as the Medical Director of the Basavarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, one of the leading cancer care institutions in the country. With decades of experience in surgical oncology, he has earned global recognition



for his expertise, dedication, and contributions to cancer treatment and research.

The Global Forum of Cancer Surgeons is a prominent international organization that

brings together cancer surgeons' associations from across the world to promote collaboration, research, and advancements in oncology. Dr. Rao's election to this top position reflects his exceptional leadership and the growing stature of Indian medical professionals on the global stage.

Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Rao stated that he would focus on improving access to affordable and quality cancer care, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. He emphasized the need for greater international cooperation, knowledge sharing, and training to address the rising burden of cancer worldwide. He also highlighted his commitment to mentoring young doctors and encouraging innovation in cancer treatment.

Hailing from a modest farm-

ing background in Nalgonda district, Dr. Rao's journey to global recognition is both inspiring and remarkable. His achievements stand as a testament to perseverance, hard work, and excellence in the medical field. The medical community, colleagues, and well-wishers have congratulated Dr. Rao on this significant achievement, describing it as a proud moment for Telangana and the entire nation. His appointment is expected to further strengthen India's role in global healthcare and contribute to advancements in cancer care across the world. This recognition not only honors Dr. Rao's individual accomplishments but also showcases India's growing leadership in the field of medicine and its commitment to addressing global health challenges.

## Warangal's Vemula Satyamurthy Elected National Vice-President of Builders Association of India

Hyderabad, 31st March, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant development for the construction sector, Warangal-based Vemula Satyamurthy has been elected as the national vice-president of the Builders Association of India. The election, conducted unanimously by the association members, recognizes Satyamurthy's long-standing contributions to the building and contracting community.

Speaking after his election, Satyamurthy expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him, saying, "I am deeply honored by the confidence my peers have shown in me. I will work diligently to represent the interests of builders and contractors across the nation."

In his new role, Satyamurthy



has outlined priorities that focus on addressing critical challenges faced by the contracting community, including advocating for supportive government policies, ensuring regulatory compliance, and promoting sustainable growth within the construction sector. He emphasized his commitment to brid-

ing the gap between industry needs and government initiatives, aiming to create a more efficient and transparent environment for builders and contractors.

The Builders Association of India serves as the apex body representing civil engineering contractors and builders

across the country. It plays a key role in policy advocacy, facilitating dialogue between its members and government authorities, and addressing regulatory and operational challenges within the construction sector. The association is widely regarded as a crucial platform for shaping the development and modernization of India's infrastructure landscape. Satyamurthy's election to this national leadership position reflects his credibility and the respect he commands among peers. Industry observers note that his leadership is expected to strengthen the association's advocacy on issues such as contractor welfare, project financing, and compliance standards. His role will also include fostering collaboration between builders, regulatory authorities, and policymakers to ensure a conducive

environment for infrastructure growth. With the construction industry witnessing a surge in projects and investment, the Builders Association of India's leadership is seen as pivotal in ensuring that contractors' voices are effectively represented at national forums. Satyamurthy's appointment is anticipated to bring renewed focus on improving operational efficiencies, promoting transparency, and addressing challenges faced by builders at various levels. As the new national vice-president, Vemula Satyamurthy is poised to play a proactive role in shaping the future of India's construction sector, strengthening advocacy efforts, and supporting initiatives that drive sustainable development and growth for builders and contractors nationwide.

# India At WTO: Balancing Principles And Pragmatism On Investment Facilitation

India's position at the World Trade Organization has once again come into focus as debates intensify over the proposed Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement (IFDA). While many countries support the agreement as a step toward modernising global trade rules, India has chosen a more cautious approach — one that reflects a delicate balance between defending long-standing principles and adapting to evolving global realities.

This balancing act highlights a broader challenge facing India today: how to protect the multilateral foundations of global trade while remaining pragmatic in a rapidly changing economic environment.

## The Core Of The Debate

At the heart of the discussion is the question of how new agreements should be incorporated into the WTO framework. The IFDA is a plurilateral agreement, meaning it applies only to countries that choose to join it. Unlike multilateral agreements, which require consensus from all WTO members, plurilateral deals allow smaller groups of countries to move forward independently.

India's primary concern lies in this procedural shift. New Delhi believes that allowing plurilateral agreements to become part of the WTO's rulebook without full consensus could weaken the multilateral system. Over time, this could create a fragmented trading environment where smaller groups set rules that others may later feel compelled to accept.

India argues that such fragmentation risks marginalising developing countries that may not have the capacity to par-

ticipate in every new initiative. It also raises concerns about fairness, inclusivity, and the long-term credibility of the WTO as a consensus-based institution.

## Why IFDA Matters

The Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement aims to streamline administrative procedures, improve transparency, and make it easier for investors to operate across borders. Supporters argue that these measures could boost foreign direct investment, particularly in developing and least-developed countries.

Many countries view the agreement as a practical step toward modernising global investment rules. With global trade negotiations often moving slowly, plurilateral agreements are increasingly seen as a way to achieve progress when consensus proves difficult.

Supporters also argue that participation in such agreements remains voluntary. Countries that choose not to join are not legally bound by the rules. This flexibility, according to proponents, makes plurilateral agreements compatible with the WTO's broader framework.

However, India remains cautious. The concern is not only about the specific provisions of IFDA but also about the precedent it could set. If such agreements become common, the WTO could gradually shift from a multilateral institution to a collection of smaller negotiating groups.

## The Multilateral Principle

India has historically supported a multilateral trading system that ensures equal participation for all members. This approach reflects the interests of developing coun-



tries, which often rely on collective bargaining to protect their economic priorities.

India's stance is rooted in the belief that consensus-based negotiations provide a fairer platform. While consensus can slow decision-making, it also ensures that smaller economies are not sidelined.

From this perspective, India's opposition to the IFDA is not simply about investment rules but about preserving the foundational principles of the WTO. These principles include inclusivity, transparency, and equal representation.

India's position also reflects broader concerns about the future of global trade governance. If plurilateral agreements become the norm, developing countries may face

increasing pressure to join agreements that they did not help shape.

## The Case For Pragmatism

While India's principled stance has strong foundations, the global trading environment is changing rapidly. The WTO's negotiating function has faced significant challenges in recent years, with limited progress on major issues.

In response, many countries have turned to plurilateral agreements as a pragmatic solution. These smaller agreements allow willing participants to move forward while leaving the door open for others to join later.

This approach has gained momentum in areas such as digital trade, environmental goods, and investment facilitation.

Supporters argue that such agreements help maintain momentum in global trade cooperation.

For India, the challenge lies in balancing its commitment to multilateralism with the need to remain engaged in evolving trade frameworks. Remaining outside emerging agreements could risk isolation, while joining them without safeguards could undermine long-standing principles.

## India's Strategic Approach

India's position reflects a nuanced strategy rather than outright opposition. While resisting the incorporation of IFDA into the WTO framework, India has indicated openness to dialogue and reform.

New Delhi has emphasised the need for clear guardrails

and legal safeguards before integrating any plurilateral agreement into the WTO system. This suggests that India is not rejecting reform altogether but seeking a structured and inclusive approach.

India's strategy also reflects its broader trade policy. The country has consistently advocated for reforms that strengthen the WTO while preserving its core principles. This includes ensuring that developing countries retain adequate policy space for economic growth.

At the same time, India continues to engage actively in bilateral and regional trade negotiations. This demonstrates a pragmatic willingness to pursue economic opportunities while maintaining caution at the multilateral level.

## The Global Context

The debate over IFDA highlights broader tensions within the global trading system. Many developed countries favour faster decision-making and flexible agreements. Developing countries, on the other hand, often prioritise inclusivity and fairness.

This divide reflects differing economic priorities and levels of development. While some countries see plurilateral agreements as necessary for progress, others worry about unequal participation and potential marginalisation.

India's position places it at the centre of this debate. As one of the largest developing economies, India's stance carries significant weight in shaping the future of the WTO.

## Risks And Opportunities

India's cautious approach carries both risks and opportunities. On one hand, defending multilateral principles strengthens India's credibility

as a champion of developing countries. It also helps preserve a more inclusive global trading system.

On the other hand, staying outside emerging agreements could limit India's influence in shaping new rules. As global trade evolves, participation in new frameworks may become increasingly important.

The challenge, therefore, lies in striking the right balance. India must ensure that it remains engaged in global trade discussions while safeguarding its core principles.

## The Road Ahead

The debate over the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement is unlikely to be resolved quickly. Discussions within the WTO are expected to continue, with countries exploring possible compromises. India's position suggests that it is open to negotiation but unwilling to compromise on fundamental principles. This approach reflects both caution and pragmatism. Ultimately, India's stance highlights a broader reality: global trade governance is undergoing transformation. The WTO is evolving, and countries must adapt while protecting their interests.

India's approach — balancing principles with pragmatism — reflects this complex environment. By defending multilateralism while remaining open to reform, India is attempting to navigate a challenging and uncertain global trade landscape.

As debates continue, India's role will remain crucial. Whether through negotiation, reform, or compromise, the outcome will shape not only India's trade policy but also the future direction of the global trading system.

# Iran-Israel Conflict Enters Its Most Deceptive Phase as Diplomacy Masks Rising Tensions

The ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel has entered what analysts describe as its most deceptive phase yet. While diplomatic activity appears to be increasing and discussions around negotiations are becoming more frequent, the reality on the ground suggests that tensions are continuing to build. This period is marked by a paradox — the more the world hears about talks and potential solutions, the more complex and dangerous the situation seems to become.

At first glance, the conflict may appear to be stabilising. Statements about possible negotiations, temporary pauses in attacks, and diplomatic outreach give the impression that de-escalation is underway. However, beneath this surface calm, military deployments are intensifying, strategic alliances are shifting, and economic pressures are mounting. Rather than moving toward peace, both sides appear to be strengthening their positions before any meaningful negotiation takes place.

## The Illusion of De-Escalation

One of the key features of this phase is the appearance of restraint without any real reduction in conflict. Temporary pauses in certain military actions are being interpreted as signs of progress. However, these pauses often apply only to specific targets or regions, while activity continues elsewhere. This selective restraint creates a misleading impression that tensions are easing.

At the same time, troop movements and military preparations continue across the region. Reinforcements are being deployed, surveillance operations are expanding, and defence systems are

being strengthened. These actions suggest that both sides are preparing for prolonged confrontation rather than a swift resolution.

This dual strategy — talking about peace while preparing for escalation — is what makes the current phase particularly deceptive. It creates uncertainty not only for the region but also for global markets and international observers trying to assess the direction of the conflict.

## A Wide Diplomatic Divide

Despite growing diplomatic engagement, the gap between opposing positions remains wide. The United States, a key player in the situation, is pushing for strict limitations on Iran's nuclear programme, missile development, and regional influence. Washington is also seeking assurances regarding maritime security and stability in critical shipping routes.

Iran, however, has its own set of demands. Tehran is seeking guarantees against future attacks, recognition of its strategic interests, and compensation for damage caused by military actions. It is also unwilling to give up capabilities that it considers essential for deterrence and national security.

These competing demands make negotiations extremely difficult. While communication channels remain open, neither side appears willing to compromise significantly. As a result, diplomatic engagement continues without meaningful breakthroughs.

## Regional Divisions Complicate Efforts

The conflict is also exposing divisions among regional powers. Some countries in the Gulf region are calling for immediate de-escalation, fearing economic fallout and instability. Others believe that tensions should continue until Iran's military capabilities



are reduced.

Israel, meanwhile, remains cautious about any agreement that might limit its ability to act militarily in the future. This stance reflects concerns that any temporary agreement could allow Iran to regroup and strengthen its position.

These differing priorities make coordinated diplomatic efforts more difficult. Without a unified regional approach, negotiations become more complicated, and the likelihood of prolonged conflict increases.

## Expanding Fronts Raise Concerns

The conflict is no longer limited to direct tensions between Iran and Israel. Lebanon has emerged as a potential flashpoint, raising fears of a broader regional confrontation. Increased activity along borders and discussions about security zones indicate that the conflict could spread further.

The involvement of addi-

tional actors raises the stakes significantly. As more parties become involved, controlling escalation becomes increasingly difficult. The risk of miscalculation grows, and even minor incidents could trigger larger confrontations.

This expansion of the conflict also complicates diplomatic efforts. Negotiations become more complex as additional stakeholders enter the equation, each with their own interests and demands.

## Economic Fallout Intensifies

Beyond the battlefield, the economic consequences of the conflict are becoming increasingly visible. Rising tensions have pushed up oil prices, disrupted shipping routes, and created uncertainty in global energy markets. These developments are affecting economies far beyond the Middle East.

Higher fuel prices are increasing transportation costs, which in turn affect

food prices and consumer goods. Shipping disruptions are slowing supply chains, while rising insurance costs for vessels in the region are adding further pressure.

These economic impacts are not limited to energy markets. Fertiliser prices are also rising, raising concerns about agricultural production and food security. As costs increase globally, pressure is mounting on all sides to reduce tensions.

However, economic pressure alone may not be enough to resolve the conflict. Strategic considerations and security concerns continue to dominate decision-making.

## Implications for India

India is among the countries closely watching developments in the region. The country depends heavily on energy imports from the Middle East, making it vulnerable to rising oil prices and supply disruptions.

Shipping routes through the region are also critical for

India's trade. Any disruption could affect imports, exports, and overall economic stability. Additionally, millions of Indian workers living in Gulf countries could be impacted if tensions escalate further.

For India, de-escalation is not just a diplomatic priority but an economic necessity. Rising fuel prices can lead to inflation, affecting everything from transportation to food costs. This makes stability in the region particularly important for India's economic outlook.

## Strategic Calculation Over Immediate Conflict

The current phase of the conflict reflects a shift from immediate confrontation to strategic positioning. Both sides appear to be trying to strengthen their leverage before entering serious negotiations.

This approach often leads to prolonged standoffs. Each side attempts to gain advantages through military, political, and economic means

while keeping diplomatic channels open. The result is a situation where negotiations occur alongside ongoing tensions.

This form of "coercive diplomacy" can be particularly dangerous. It increases the risk of escalation while maintaining the illusion of progress. As both sides push for stronger positions, the chances of miscalculation rise.

## A Fragile and Uncertain Future

Despite increased diplomatic activity, the conflict shows little sign of ending soon. Military preparations continue, regional tensions remain high, and economic pressures are growing.

Temporary pauses or limited agreements may occur, but a comprehensive resolution appears unlikely in the near future. Instead, the region seems to be entering a prolonged phase of strategic competition.

This deceptive calm — where diplomacy appears active but conflict continues — makes the current phase particularly dangerous. The absence of clear progress, combined with rising tensions, creates uncertainty for the entire region.

## Not Peace, But Preparation

Ultimately, the current phase of the Iran-Israel conflict is not a step toward peace but a period of preparation. Both sides are strengthening their positions, building alliances, and increasing leverage. While negotiations may continue, meaningful compromise remains elusive. The battlefield remains active, and the risk of escalation persists. For now, the world is witnessing a deceptive calm — a period where diplomacy and conflict coexist. Beneath the surface, tensions are rising, and the path to resolution remains uncertain.

# 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 politico 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.

## 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.



## 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.

# 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, and Blackstone has declined to comment on the development.

The planned IPO comes at a time when India's primary market has seen mixed trends in 2026. After two years of strong fundraising activity, market volatility and a decline in equities have slowed new listings. The benchmark indices have witnessed sharp corrections recently, which has made companies cautious about launching public issues.

Despite the broader market uncertainty, the healthcare sector continues to attract investor interest. Several healthcare companies are exploring listing opportunities, reflecting strong growth prospects and resilient demand in the sector. This has encouraged firms like Blackstone to consider tapping the public markets. Founded in Chennai in 2011, 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.

While the move may reduce speculative trading, it is also expected to encourage more disciplined participation and better risk management among traders going forward.



## 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.

# “Inform Family Twice”: Woman’s Joke About Bengaluru Airport Distance Goes Viral

A humorous social media post about Bengaluru’s airport distance has gone viral, leaving many travellers amused and nodding in agreement. The post, shared by a woman named Megha, highlighted the long journey passengers often face after landing at Bengaluru’s airport. Her witty remark suggested that travellers in Bengaluru should inform their families twice — once after landing and again after finally reaching home.

Megha shared a photo from the airport along with her light-hearted observation. She joked that Bengaluru might be the only place where landing at the airport doesn’t really mean you’re close to home. According to her, it often takes around two hours to reach different parts of the city, depending on traffic conditions and distance. Her relatable comment quickly caught attention online and sparked a wave of reactions. Social media users found the remark both funny and accurate. Many shared their own experiences of long airport commutes, agreeing that the journey from the airport can sometimes feel longer than the flight itself. Some users mentioned that during peak traffic hours, the travel time can extend even further, occasionally reach-

ing three to four hours. Others added that they often plan their airport pickups carefully because of the unpredictable traffic. While many agreed with the observation, a few users pointed out that Bengaluru is not alone in this situation. They noted that several major cities around the world also have airports located far from the main urban areas. However, most commenters still felt that Bengaluru’s traffic congestion makes the journey particularly challenging. Bengaluru’s airport is situated on the outskirts of the city, which contributes to the extended travel time. With the city’s rapid growth

and increasing traffic, commuting from the airport has become a common concern for both residents and visitors. Although infrastructure improvements and connectivity options continue to develop, the journey remains time-consuming for many travellers. Despite being a simple joke, Megha’s post struck a chord with countless people who have experienced the same situation. Her humorous take turned a daily travel frustration into an entertaining conversation online. The viral post not only brought laughter but also highlighted a shared reality faced by those travelling to and from Bengaluru.



# Bengaluru Woman Alleges Phone Theft at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Calls It “Organised Crime”

A Bengaluru woman has alleged that her mobile phone was stolen during a cricket match at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, claiming the incident appeared to be part of an organised operation. Her post on social media quickly gained attention, sparking concerns about security arrangements at the venue.



According to the woman, the incident took place while she was attending a match at the stadium. She claimed that her phone was stolen amid heavy crowd movement and later suggested that the theft did not appear to be an isolated incident. In her post, she described the situation as “organised crime,” raising concerns about the presence of coordinated groups targeting spectators. The woman further alleged that the individuals involved were wearing Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) jerseys and were carrying complimentary match tickets. This detail led her to suspect that the thefts may have been carried out by a group working together

inside the stadium. Her claims quickly gained traction online, with many users sharing similar experiences and concerns about security during crowded events. Her post triggered widespread reactions on social media. Several users supported her claims, stating that large gatherings at stadiums often create opportunities for pickpocketing and theft. Others urged authorities to strengthen security measures and improve crowd monitoring during matches.

The allegations come at a time when multiple fans have reported losing their phones during a recent match at the same venue. Around a dozen phones were reportedly lost during a game, with several complaints filed with police. Authorities have since begun reviewing CCTV footage to determine whether the phones were misplaced or stolen. While the woman’s claims have not been officially confirmed, the incident has raised concerns about spectator safety and security at major sport-

ing events. Large crowds, limited movement space, and excitement during matches often create conditions where theft incidents can occur unnoticed. The viral post has also sparked a broader discussion about the need for improved security protocols, including better surveillance, crowd management, and quicker response systems for reporting lost items. As the conversation continues online, many fans are calling for stricter measures to ensure a safer match-day experience at the stadium.

# Mother’s Tribute: Chinese Woman Makes Shoe Pads for Soldiers for 20 Years After Son’s Heroic Death

A grieving mother in China has spent more than two decades honouring her late son in a deeply moving way — by handcrafting shoe pads for soldiers serving in difficult conditions. Her story of love, loss and dedication has touched many, turning personal tragedy into a lifelong mission of compassion. Zhang Xinghui from Chongqing lost her son, Gu Nu, in 2005. The 19-year-old soldier died during a rescue operation in Tibet after a landslide struck. While trying to save a fellow soldier, he sacrificed his life — a moment that left his family devastated.



Before receiving the tragic news, Zhang had already prepared 20 pairs of handmade shoe pads and planned to visit her son. When she later travelled to meet his fellow soldiers, she was deeply moved by their challenging working conditions. Many of them had to patrol long distances on rugged mountain paths in harsh weather, often for extended periods. Zhang distributed the shoe pads she had made and decided to continue supporting soldiers in memory of her son.

What began as a small gesture soon turned into a long-term commitment. Over the past 20 years, she has hand-stitched more than 1,000 pairs of shoe pads, each carefully crafted with patience and care. She believes the long threads she uses while sewing represent her love and memories of her son. Despite growing older and facing health concerns, Zhang continues her work, saying she will keep making shoe pads as long as she is physically able. Over the years, Zhang has travelled to Tibet multiple times to personally deliver the shoe pads. During her visits, she also brings local specialties from her hometown and offers encouragement to soldiers, re-

mind them to stay safe while performing their duties. Her dedication has helped her form close bonds with many soldiers, especially those who served alongside her son. Many now call her “Mother” and remain in touch with her. She also attends family gatherings and celebrations with them, treating their children like her own. Though she lost one son, Zhang says she feels she has gained many more through her continued support for soldiers. Her heartfelt tribute stands as a powerful reminder of how grief can be transformed into kindness, and how one mother’s love can continue to inspire even after loss.



# Viral Yellow Plastic Bag Isn’t Balenciaga Trash Bag — Here’s The Real Story

A simple yellow plastic bag recently went viral online after many social media users mistakenly believed it was an expensive designer item from Balenciaga. However, the truth behind the buzz turned out to be far more meaningful than a high-fashion accessory.

The confusion began when Chinese actress Zhang Jingyi appeared at the Beijing International Film Festival carrying what looked like an ordinary yellow plastic bag. The unexpected accessory quickly caught attention, with many social media users joking that it resembled one of Balenciaga’s unconventional fashion pieces.

Given the brand’s reputation for launching unusual and sometimes controversial designs, many assumed the bag was a luxury item. The speculation gained momentum, with several users claiming the plastic bag could be an expensive designer product similar to the brand’s previously discussed “trash bag”-style accessories. However, the viral claims were soon clarified. The yellow plastic bag was not a designer item at all. Instead, it was a simple prop connected to Zhang Jingyi’s film, *The One*. In the movie, the yellow plastic bag carries emotional significance and plays an important role in the storyline.

According to reports, the bag is used by Zhang Jingyi’s character as a communication tool with her hearing-impaired parents. The object becomes a symbol of love, connection, and understanding within the film’s narrative. By carrying the bag at the film festival, the actress appeared to be paying tribute to her character and the story’s emotional theme. Once the real reason behind the bag became known, reactions online quickly shifted. Many users who initially joked about the “designer trash bag” appreciated the deeper meaning behind the simple accessory. Others praised Zhang Jingyi for using a modest object to highlight the emotional essence of her film.

The incident also sparked broader conversations about how quickly assumptions can spread on social media, particularly when luxury brands are involved. A simple plastic bag, initially mistaken for a high-end fashion statement, ultimately turned out to represent a heartfelt story. In the end, what began as a viral fashion mystery became a touching reminder that sometimes the simplest items carry the most powerful meaning.

# Michael Vaughan Shares Mumbai Gully Cricket Moment, Wins Hearts Online

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has delighted cricket fans after sharing a heartwarming glimpse of gully cricket from the streets of Mumbai. The video, posted on X, showed children playing cricket in a narrow lane — a familiar and nostalgic sight for millions across India.



Vaughan captioned the clip as a “Monday morning in Mumbai,” but what truly caught his attention was a young boy patiently waiting for his turn to bat. Highlighting the moment, Vaughan wrote, “Check out the young lad waiting to bat,” a simple observation that quickly resonated with cricket lovers online. The short video captured children enthusiastically playing cricket in a cramped street, turning the narrow lane into their playground. Despite limited space, the excitement and

passion of the young players were evident. The boy waiting eagerly for his chance became the highlight of the video, symbolising the dreams many youngsters carry while playing gully cricket. The post quickly gained traction, especially amid the excitement surrounding the Indian Premier League season. Many users praised the inno-

cence and simplicity of the moment, saying it reminded them of their own childhood memories of playing cricket in neighbourhood streets. Social media users flooded

the comments section with warm reactions. Some described the video as capturing the true spirit of Mumbai, while others said the children could be future cricket stars. A few even mentioned that such street games often produce legends like Sachin Tendulkar or Rohit Sharma.

The viral clip once again highlighted India’s deep-rooted love for cricket, where the sport thrives not only in stadiums but also in small streets and neighbourhoods. For many young players, gully cricket is where their journey begins, and Vaughan’s post served as a reminder of how the game connects people across cultures. The charming moment quickly became a talking point online, with fans celebrating the enthusiasm of young cricketers and the universal appeal of the sport.

# US Woman Praises India’s Fast, Affordable Healthcare, Internet Reacts

A woman from the United States has gone viral after praising India’s healthcare system, calling it fast, accessible, and surprisingly affordable. The woman, identified as Liz, shared her experience in a video posted on Instagram, which quickly caught the attention of users online. In the video, Liz initially described Indian healthcare as “really annoying,” but soon clarified that she was being sarcastic. She explained that what she actually found surprising was how quick and easy it was to receive medical care. According to her, she could walk into a hospital, consult a doctor on the same day, and receive treatment without long waiting times.

Comparing her experience with healthcare in the United States, Liz pointed out that getting a doctor’s appointment there often involves contacting multiple clinics, waiting for weeks, and paying significantly higher costs. She jokingly remarked that India makes healthcare “too easy,” highlighting the stark difference between the two systems. Her video quickly drew widespread reactions online. Many users agreed with her observations and shared their own experiences. Some said they were able to get blood tests, scans, and medical reports within hours in India. Others noted that many services are available at relatively low costs, making healthcare more accessible to a larger pop-

ulation. The viral post also sparked broader discussions about healthcare accessibility in different countries. Several users praised India’s system for its speed and affordability, while others pointed out that experiences can vary depending on location and facility. Liz’s video resonated with viewers, especially those who have experienced healthcare systems in multiple countries. Her light-hearted yet meaningful comparison highlighted how everyday services like healthcare can differ greatly across the world. The clip quickly became a talking point online, with many people appreciating India’s healthcare accessibility and sharing their own positive experiences.



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# 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, including 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.

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## 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.

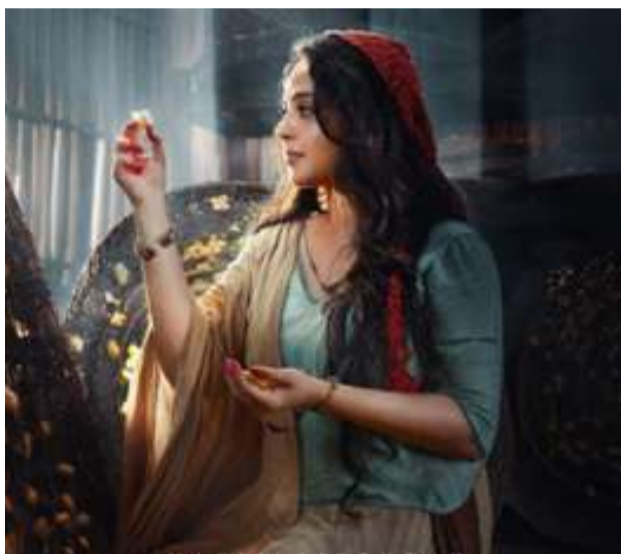
Lead actor SangeethShobhan said the team had worked with the goal of delivering a memorable film. He praised the contributions of the technical crew, including music composer Anudeep Dev and cinematographer Raju Edurolu, adding that audiences would particularly appreciate their work. Sangeeth also highlighted 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.

## 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.

## 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 VamsiPaidi-

pally. 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.



## 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.