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Bulls Charge On: Equities Up, Oil Down

MONEY MATTERS 9

Taapsee Finds Film Production Both Liberating and Challenging



BOX -OFFICE 12



KUWAIT CITY: SMOKE BILLOWS FOLLOWING A STRIKE AT A FUEL DEPOT AT KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN FARWANIYA GOVERNORATE, KUWAIT, ON WEDNESDAY

BEYOND BORDERS 8

SHORT TAKES



NASA TARGETS MOON BASE BY EARLY 2030S

Just a few weeks ago, NASA announced major changes to its Artemis program. The first human Moon landing in decades was shifted from Artemis III to Artemis IV with the goal of doing not one but two Moon landings in 2028.

FOCUS POINT 10



5,000-TONNE RARE EARTH TARGET SET

India is fast-tracking domestic production of rare earth permanent magnets and critical minerals like lithium, aiming for a 5,000-tonne capacity by 2030, the government announced Wednesday.

MONEY MATTERS 09



L'AFFAIRE DEPUTY SPEAKER

L'affaire Deputy Speaker has become more and more intriguing. It continues to pit the Opposition in the Lok Sabha not only against Mr. Lakshmanan, the Deputy Speaker, but against the Speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, himself.

OPINION 06

THE DAILY MANTRA

GROW WITHIN

Train your mind to see the good in everything. Positivity is a choice. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.



Mind naturally reacts to situations, often with bias toward negativity (fear, doubt, comparison). The word train suggests intentional effort, like building a habit. Positivity isn't automatic—it's practiced

Collected by

Venna Srinivasa Reddy



HydFuel Panic Triggers Long Queues

HYDERABAD, MARCH 25

Long queues of vehicles stretching up to 500 metres were witnessed at petrol pumps across Hyderabad on Thursday, as panic buying of fuel intensified amid concerns over a possible supply disruption linked to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

Despite repeated assurances from the Centre that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG in the country, anxious motorists thronged fuel stations early in the morning, leading to traffic congestion and temporary closures at some outlets. Commuters re-

ported heavy rush at multiple pumps, with several either running out of stock or witnessing unusually long waiting times.

The situation is not limited to Hyderabad. Similar scenes were reported from cities such as Indore, Surat, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, and Kutch, where videos circulating on social media showed chaotic conditions and customers waiting for hours to refuel. The surge in demand comes amid fears triggered by the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime route that accounts for nearly 40% of India's crude oil imports. The disruption has

raised concerns over shipping delays and future fuel availability, prompting citizens to stock up.

Social media platforms were flooded with posts from users highlighting their difficulties. Some claimed petrol pumps displayed "No Stock" boards, while others pointed to delays in LPG cylinder deliveries and overcrowding at fuel stations. Authorities, however, reiterated that fuel supplies remain stable and urged citizens to avoid panic buying, warning that such behaviour could create artificial shortages and disrupt normal distribution.

HPCL, BPCL, IOCL Assure Fuel Supply, Urge Calm in TG



RUMOURS MISLEADING: T-BJP CHIEF

SPECIAL 02

KTR FLAGS POWER CRISIS, SEEKS Rs.38 CR RELIEF FOR SIRCILLA WEAVERS

HYDERABAD, MARCH 25

K.T. Rama Rao on Wednesday urged the Telangana government to step in urgently to rescue Sircilla's struggling textile sector, hit by a mounting electricity burden. In representations made to Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao at their chambers in the Assembly, KTR sought a complete waiver of back-billing dues and surcharges imposed on powerloom units. He expressed hope that the Deputy Chief Minister would respond positively and resolve this issue with utmost urgency. KTR was accompanied by party MLC L. Ramana during the visit.

The BRS leader said around 127 small-scale units have been slapped with Rs.19 crore in arrears for 2016 - 2024, which, with surcharges, has ballooned to Rs.38 crore. The burden has forced several units to shut.

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BRS walked out without listening to welfare discussion for poor: Bhatti

HYDERABAD, MARCH 25

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka strongly criticised the opposition BRS members for walking out of the Assembly without listening to the discussion on welfare of the poor, stating that they lacked the intent to hear the budget reply.

During the Question Hour in the Assembly on Wednesday, he spoke at length on the Indiramma Housing Scheme. On this occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted the failures of the previous government while showcasing the commitment of the present people's government. "Previous rulers misled the public with false promises and secured votes by assuring double-bedroom houses. However, during their ten-year rule, they failed to construct even a single house for the poor and abandoned them," Bhatti alleged.

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AKBAR ROAD ULTIMATUM: WHEN THE STATE KNOCKS, POWER MUST ANSWER

Three Days To Vacate Five Decades Of Political Memory On Notice Delhi Witnesses A Clash Where Law, Legacy, And Raw Power Collide In Full Public View

BY CHATURVEDULA SUBRAHMANYAM



The Congress faces a three day deadline to vacate its long held headquarters at 24 Akbar Road after shifting to Indira Bhawan. The government frames the move as strict enforcement of allotment rules, while the party alleges political intent and prepares for legal challenge. The episode reflects a deeper struggle over authority, optics, and control of political space in Delhi. There are moments in Delhi when the file does not move quietly. It strikes.

The eviction notice served to the Congress at 24 Akbar Road is one such strike.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

100 NEW Airports

Cabinet Clears Revamped UDAN Scheme

NEW DELHI MAR 25

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the revamped Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN, aiming to develop 100 airports over the next decade with an outlay of ₹28,840 crore. The modified UDAN scheme will be implemented for a period of ten years from 2026-27 to 2035-36. Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the initiative will focus on developing existing unserved and underserved airstrips to boost regional air connectivity.

The move is expected to enhance connectivity in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, promote economic growth, and boost trade and tourism. It

will also support affordable air travel for common citizens, while improving emergency response and health-care access in remote and hilly regions. The scheme aims to ensure long-term viability and sustainability for regional airports and airline operators.

Launched in October 2016, the UDAN scheme has operationalised 663 routes across 95 airports, heliports and water aerodromes over the past nine years.

In another key decision, the Cabinet approved the continuation of the Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) scheme for five years beyond March 31, 2026, with a budget outlay of ₹1,800 crore. The scheme, which integrates immigra-

tion, visa and foreigner registration services, is aimed at enhancing security while facilitating legitimate travel.

Additionally, the Cabinet approved India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets for the period 2031-35 under global climate commitments. India has pledged to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 47% from 2005 levels by 2035. The country has already achieved 52.57% non-fossil fuel-based power capacity as of February 2026, meeting its earlier target ahead of schedule, and has now set a higher goal of 60% by 2035. The government said the updated climate targets align with the vision of building a climate-resilient and developed India by 2047.

Jaishankar Hits Back at Opposition on Pak Role

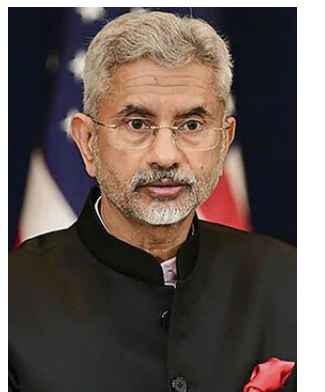
NEW DELHI, MAR 25

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday strongly defended the government's position on the ongoing West Asia crisis, even as Opposition parties questioned India's

stance and Pakistan's reported role as a mediator between the U.S. and Iran.

Addressing an all-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Mr. Jaishankar dismissed concerns over

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



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No fuel crisis, don't fall for rumours: CP Sajjanar



Hyderabad: Hyderabad police commissioner V. C. Sajjanar on Wednesday urged the citizens not to believe false propaganda about fuel shortage, assuring that petrol and diesel stocks sufficient for nearly 60 days were available in the city. At a high-level review meeting conducted by Sajjanar, the concerned officials confirmed that fuel supply remains uninterrupted. Sajjanar explained that panic buying led to a sudden spike in demand, temporarily causing "No Stock" boards at some petrol bunks. Fuel sales surged from 3,024 kiloliters on March 22 to 6,400 kiloliters on March 23, driven entirely by public panic. Authorities warned of strict action against illegal sale of fuel in bottles and against those spreading misinformation on social media. On this occasion, District Collector Harichandana said a control room has been set up and assured that supplies across all petrol bunks are running smoothly, urging the public to remain calm and cooperative. Additional CP Tauseer Iqbal, Joint CP Ms. Swetha and officials from the Civil Supplies Department attended the meeting.

HPCL, BPCL, IOCL Assure Fuel Supply, Urge Calm in TG

HYDERABAD

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Oil Marketing Companies) wish to assure the public that adequate stocks of Petrol and Diesel are available across Hyderabad and all districts of Telangana. All petroleum terminals and supply points of the Oil Marketing Companies are fully stocked, and fuel supplies to retail outlets are continuing smoothly to meet the demand of customers. It has been observed that in certain locations, an

unusual surge in fuel purchases has occurred due to panic buying, which temporarily impacted availability at a few retail outlets. The Oil Marketing Companies would like to clarify that there is no shortage of fuel (both Petrol and Diesel). Such temporary disruptions are solely due to a sudden spike in demand.

To address this, supplies to affected outlets are being prioritised, and inventory levels at petrol pumps are being continuously monitored to ensure normalisation at the earliest. The Oil Marketing Companies strongly urge the public not to indulge in panic buy-

ing or unnecessary stocking of fuel, as the supply chain is functioning normally and sufficient fuel is available.

The public is also advised to avoid unsafe practices, such as storing petrol in plastic cans, bottles, or other unapproved containers, as this poses serious safety hazards. The Oil Marketing Companies remain committed to ensuring seamless fuel availability and customer safety. Supplies from refineries are continuing as usual, and production has been ramped up to ensure uninterrupted availability of Petrol and Diesel across Telangana.

Don't fall for fuel shortage rumours, says Bandi Sanjay

HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday urged the people not to panic over rumours of petrol and diesel shortage in Telangana, assuring that there is no disruption in supply.

The Union minister clarified that public sector oil companies like Indian Oil, HPCL and BPCL have sufficient fuel reserves, and the Central Government is closely monitoring the situation under the leadership

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sanjay warned that misinformation on social media has triggered panic buying, leading to temporary shortages at some fuel stations. He cautioned that such situations could be exploited for black-marketing. "There is absolutely no truth in claims linking fuel shortage to international conflicts. Supply remains smooth and adequate", he claimed. He appealed to citizens to purchase fuel responsibly and only as per their daily needs, and not to fall prey to false propaganda.

"No fuel shortage, only rumours: Centre urges calm in Telangana"

HYDERABAD

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday dismissed social media claims of a petrol and diesel shortage, calling them "baseless and misleading". "This sudden surge in demand is leading to temporary stock shortages at several petrol stations, which, in turn, creates the potential for inconvenience to motorists. Furthermore, there is a risk that unscrupulous individuals may seize this opportunity to create an artificial shortage and engage in black-marketing activities.

I appeal to the public not to believe such rumors under any circumstances", he stated He, in a press statement, assured the people that the public sector oil firms which included Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited -

have adequate reserves, with no supply disruption. The Telangana Petroleum Dealers Association has also clarified this very fact, he noted. Officials said the panic buying, triggered by rumours linked to global tensions, caused temporary pressure at fuel stations. The public has been urged to avoid hoarding and purchase fuel only as needed.

Lotus Lap Schools Create a Sensation - Transparent Exams, Siblings Writing Board-Level Papers

HYDERABAD

Setting a new benchmark in the field of education, Lotus Lap Public Schools have recorded a remarkable and rare achievement. Students from Boduppal, Dilsukhnagar, and Badangipet branches are delivering outstanding performance, bringing pride to parents and attention from the academic community.

In the SSC public examinations conducted this year, not only Grade 10 students but also their siblings—from Grades 5 to 9—appeared for board-level question papers and performed successfully. The unique instance of two children from the same family writing board-level exams has emerged as a rare and inspiring milestone in the education sector.

While in March 2025, younger students attempted only English and Social papers, in March 2026 they confidently wrote Telugu, English, and Hindi SSC-level papers, showcasing significant academic growth and strong foundational skills.

Parents as Invigilators - Ensuring Transparency

A distinctive feature of Lotus Lap Schools is:

- Parents serving as invigilators during examinations
- School teachers not being allowed for invigilation duties
- Complete transparency
- Fair evaluation
- Genuine student performance

Parents expressed immense satisfaction, stating that their children are proving their abilities independently and honestly.

Lotus Methodology - The Driving Force

The success is attributed to the Lotus Education Model, which focuses on:

- Strong foundations in reading, writing, and speaking
- Multilingual proficiency
- Continuous practice and individual attention
- Value-based education

International Recognition

Adding to its achievements, Lotus Lap Public Schools received the prestigious "Wonder Book of Records - International" recognition in 2025, marking its contribution to creating a new era in education.

Parents & Teachers - The Pillars of Success

This achievement reflects:

- Responsible parental involvement
- Dedicated efforts of teachers

The combination of school guidance and home support has proven to be the key to holistic student development.

Visionary Leadership

The driving force behind this success is:

- Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy
- Eminent Educationist & Environmentalist
- TRSMA National Advisor
- Vidya Rathna
- Chairman, Lotus Lap Group of Public Schools

His vision emphasizes building confident, capable, and well-rounded students with strong academic foundations.

Towards Global Excellence

The Lotus model demonstrates that:

- The state can emerge as a leader in education
- The nation can achieve a top position globally

With strong fundamentals, values, and confidence, students can shape the future of the country on a global scale.

This achievement of Lotus Lap Schools is not just an institutional success

It marks the beginning of a new era in Indian education

- Transparent examination practices
- Board-level competence at a young age

International recognition Together, these establish Lotus Lap as a role model in the education sector.

"Education + Values + Integrity + Confidence = Global Future"

No fuel shortage, rumours misleading: T-BJP chief

HYDERABAD

BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao on Wednesday asserted that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG in Telangana, dismissing reports of scarcity as baseless rumours. Addressing a gathering in Rajendranagar constituency of Rangareddy district, the BJP leader claimed adequate fuel stocks are available across the state and the country. He urged the public not to panic or indulge in panic buying, emphasizing that oil companies such as HPCL,

IOCL and BPCL have sufficient reserves. Rao accused the Congress party of spreading misinformation about fuel shortages, stating that such claims were creating unnecessary anxiety among citizens. He maintained that the Centre, under Narendra Modi, had taken precautionary measures to ensure uninterrupted supply even amid global uncertainties.

Taking a swipe at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Rao criticised CM's remarks on delimitation, alleging that they were aimed at creating divisions between

northern and southern states. He rejected concerns that delimitation would disadvantage southern states politically.

Rao further claimed that the Congress opposes delimitation as it may not align with its stance on 33% reservation for women, while asserting that the BJP would continue to promote opportunities for women and youth in upcoming elections. Earlier, he welcomed several leaders and workers from other parties, including BRS upa-sarpanch Kishan Reddy, into the BJP fold during the event.

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When the state knocks, power must answer

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It arrives not as routine paperwork but as a hard administrative order with a political echo that cannot be ignored. Three days. That is the window. Forty eight years. That is the history. Between these two numbers lies the entire drama of this confrontation.

A notice that reads like a message

The Directorate of Estates has spoken in the language of rules. The Congress shifted its headquarters to Indira Bhawan more than a year ago. The logic is simple. You move out, you give up the old allotment. But governance in Delhi does not operate in isolation from politics. Timing shapes interpretation. And this timing is razor sharp. Senior leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi calls it politically driven. The government camp signals the opposite. Compliance delayed is compliance denied. Both arguments are crafted for effect. Only one will hold in court.

The three day test

Three days is not just a deadline. It is a stress point. It tests how quickly a political organisation can respond when the state tightens the frame. It tests whether negotiation still has space or whether enforcement has taken centre stage. Above all, it tests how optics are managed when legality and politics collide in public.

When address becomes authority

Akbar Road is not just real estate. It is where decisions travelled from whispers to headlines. Where defeats were stitched into strategies. Where power was lost and pursued

again. For decades, this address carried the weight of a national party's central command. To vacate such a space is not merely to shift furniture. It is to surrender a political stage that once commanded the national narrative.

The government's case: rules over sentiment

The administration's position is built on a clean premise. A government bungalow is not a permanent inheritance. It is an allotment tied to purpose. Congress, even after inaugurating its new headquarters, continued to operate from Akbar Road and from 5 Raisina Road.

Two prime properties. One party. That is where the argument sharpens. In an era where public messaging emphasises discipline and accountability, continued occupation becomes difficult to defend beyond a point. The state has chosen that point.

The Congress gambit: law as the next battleground

The party is preparing to move court. That is not a retreat. That is a shift of theatre. Legal relief, if granted, will pause the eviction. If denied, the optics will be far more severe than the notice itself. Congress believes precedent is on its side. Earlier notices did not culminate in eviction. Space was negotiated, not enforced. But Delhi today does not operate on old accommodations.

The silent question that looms

There is a parallel being whispered in political corridors. Other parties too have held on to Lutyens addresses after relocation. Why

then this urgency now. The answer from the ruling side is blunt. Past practice does not override present rules. The deeper reality is even starker. In politics, consistency is often claimed. Selectivity is often perceived. And perception is what shapes public debate.

Power rewrites geography

The Congress leadership including Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Rahul Gandhi formally shifted to Indira Bhawan with ceremony and symbolism. Yet Akbar Road was not fully relinquished. That hesitation has now invited a confrontation where the state is asserting ownership not just over land, but over political space. Because in Delhi, geography follows power.

Double occupancy dilemma

One party. Two government bungalows. In a city where access itself is privilege, this arithmetic carries weight. The government has chosen to make that arithmetic the centrepiece of its case. Whether that argument convinces the court is one matter. Whether it resonates with the public is another. This confrontation will not end at the gates of Akbar Road.

It will travel into courtrooms, into political speeches, and into the wider contest over narrative. The immediate future hinges on judicial intervention. But the larger question will remain alive far beyond the verdict. Who decides the terms on which political memory occupies public space in the capital. "In Delhi, eviction is never about walls. It is about who still commands space and who is being asked to make way."

BRS walked out without listening to welfare discussion for poor: Bhatti

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He recalled that in the united state, former Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had initiated the Indiramma housing scheme with the noble aim of ensuring dignity for the poor, and said the present government is continuing the same spirit with substantial budget allocations. Bhatti Vikramarka lashed out at BRS MLAs who tore the budget copies and walked out, stating that they have no right to speak about budget allocations. "The opposition does not want the poor to build houses and live with dignity. They are spreading false propaganda that funds have been reduced. In reality, we have allocated ₹22,500 crore for constructing 4.5 lakh houses across the state, with 3,500 houses per constituency," he clarified.

Bhatti Vikramarka further stated that Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy is continuously reviewing the progress of Indiramma housing. To accelerate the works, the government has issued strict instructions to ensure weekly bill payments instead of making beneficiaries wait for months as in the past, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that the government is firmly supporting beneficiaries with the slogan: "Build the house... Get the bill paid." Despite financial constraints, the government has not stepped back from supporting the poor, he added. He Deputy Chief Minister noted that although funds for the Indiramma housing scheme are readily available, there is a need to speed up construction at the ground level. So far, bill payments to beneficiaries have not crossed ₹5,000 crore, he said. Bhatti Vikramarka urged all MLAs to focus on expediting construction in their constituencies, assuring that the faster the progress, the quicker the funds will be released.

RTC to add more services to match growing passenger load

HYDERABAD

In view of increased ridership under the Mahalakshmi scheme, the State government has initiated measures to further expand RTC services across Telangana. A three-day interactive meeting was conducted under the leadership of Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampalabharathi at Assembly Committee Hall-1 on Wednesday, involving in-charge Ministers, district Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, and senior RTC officials.

On the first day, public representatives from the erstwhile Nalgonda, Medak, Rangareddy, and Greater Hyderabad districts highlighted RTC-related issues in their constituencies. Officials are compiling a detailed report based on these inputs.

From Nalgonda district, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and MLAs Vemula Veeresham, Balu Naik, Jayaveer Reddy, and Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy participated. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

stated that the Mahalakshmi scheme is being successfully implemented and assured full support for procurement of new buses, expansion of routes, and resolution of RTC employees' issues. He also suggested completing development works at Kodad and Huzurnagar bus stations.

Several requests were raised by public representatives, including, introduction of night halt bus services and additional buses on key routes, development and modernisation of bus stations, increasing bus frequency during school and college hours, improving connectivity to rural and semi-urban areas and construction of bus shelters in major Gram Panchayats along highways.

Minister Ponnampalabharathi directed officials to conduct route surveys and take necessary action on feasible proposals. He clarified that there is currently no proposal for establishing new depots but assured improvements in services and infrastructure.

Sridhar Babu demands apology from BJP MLA over remarks on Indira Gandhi

HYDERABAD

Minister for Legislative Affairs Sridhar Babu stated that it is regrettable and shameful that BJP MLA Rakesh Reddy made inappropriate remarks about former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The Minister said that the BJP MLA must apologize immediately, stating that it is not a platform for reckless statements. "Everyone must remember that this is a sacred Legislative Assembly. I have been elected as an MLA five times and have come to this House. I have not come here just once or twice. I have served both in the ruling party and the opposition. I am

not at a stage where I need BJP MLAs to teach me about legislative decorum," Sridhar Babu said.

He stated that the manner in which BJP Legislature Party Leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy is defending Rakesh Reddy's remarks is not appropriate. "When a first-time MLA makes inappropriate remarks, it is the responsibility of senior members of that party to correct him. Instead, provoking him further is unacceptable. If an apology is not issued, it will have to be understood that your party has no respect for women. That will reflect the true character of your party," Sridhar Babu said.

KTR flags power crisis, seeks Rs.38 crore relief for Sircilla weavers

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In recent times, 13 workers had committed suicide due to financial distress stemming from these difficulties. He urged that the burden of these bills be waived on humanitarian grounds to provide relief to the weavers. Calling Sircilla the backbone of Telangana's textile industry, KTR demanded immediate relief, uninterrupted power subsidies, and financial support to protect thousands of livelihoods.

Jaishankar Hits Back at Opposition on Pak Role

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Pakistan's involvement, describing it as a long-standing "interlocutor" role dating back to the 1980s. He remarked that such mediation by Pakistan was not new and had historical precedents. Responding to criticism over India's perceived "silence," Mr. Jaishankar said maintaining a balanced position was essential, given India's strategic and economic interests in the region, including the presence of nearly one crore Indians in West Asia. He emphasised that India remains in a unique position to engage with all sides. Citing recent diplomat-

ic engagements by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Minister said two Indian ships had safely passed through the Strait of Hormuz, while 18 more were expected to follow soon. He also noted that the U.S. continues to be India's largest trading partner, with Israel serving as a key technology partner.

Union Petroleum Minister Harddeep Singh Puri assured that India's energy security remained stable, with strategic petroleum reserves sufficient for 74 days. However, he acknowledged that LPG supply cycles had lengthened from 20 to 45 days due to the ongoing crisis.

The meeting began with a pre-

sentation by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, followed by a question-and-answer session where Opposition leaders raised concerns over India's diplomatic stance. Opposition parties questioned the government on multiple fronts, including India's silence on the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader, the timing of the Prime Minister's visit to Tel Aviv ahead of the conflict, rising LPG prices, and India's position within the Non-Aligned Movement.

Leaders such as Mukul Wasnik argued that Pakistan's growing diplomatic relevance marked a shift from earlier efforts to isolate it globally. Others, including John Brittas

and Asaduddin Owaisi, criticised the government's approach as "silence as statecraft" and called for a clearer position on the conflict. Additional concerns were raised by Dharmendra Yadav, Sanjay Singh, and Supriya Sule regarding foreign policy decisions and their implications. After the meeting, senior Congress leader Tariq Anwar termed the discussion "unsatisfactory" and reiterated the demand for a detailed debate in Parliament. Despite the criticism, the government maintained that its approach prioritised national interest, strategic balance, and the safety of Indian citizens in the region.

Young Minds Inspire: iVision Youth Parliament - 2026

Showcases Leadership, Civic Awareness, and Debate Skills of Telangana Students

HYDERABAD

Build a Better Future (BBF) NGO, in collaboration with Ikhshana Marketing's educational vertical - AKO Vision, and TRSMA (Telangana Recognised School Managements Association), successfully conducted "iVision Youth Parliament 2026 - Telangana Youth", a platform designed to nurture leadership, critical thinking, civic awareness, and communication skills among young students.

As part of the build-up to the main event, intensive rehearsal sessions were conducted today at The Little Flower High School, Chirag Ali Lane, Abids, Hyderabad. Around 120 students from Classes VI to IX participated enthusiastically, representing schools across Telangana, including Lotus Lap Public School (Dilsukh Nagar & Boduppal branches), Samaritan Public School (ECLB branch), Pragathi Vidya Niketan, and Greesas Public School.

The students demonstrated impressive knowledge, confidence, and problem-solving abilities while discussing themes such as environmental protection, sustainable development goals (SDGs), civic responsibility, water and food security, and plastic waste man-



agement. Their debates reflected not only awareness but also a strong sense of responsibility and solution-oriented thinking. Special recognition was given to Lotus Lap Public School students for their exceptional performance, discipline, and confidence during the sessions.

Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Chairman of Lotus Lap Group of Schools, eminent educationist, environmentalist, and 2025 Global Green Mentor awardee (New York, USA), remarked:

"Discussing environmental protection and sustainable development at an early stage is extremely important. By instilling these values in children from a young age, we can raise responsible, aware individuals who will actively contribute to SDGs and environmental protection in the future. This is both practical and impactful."

Event Leadership:

- Smt. Anjali Gupta, Founder & CEO, Ikhshana Marketing
- Sri Sadula Madhusudhan, TRSMA State President
- Sri Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, TRSMA State Advisor
- Smt. Jayalakshmi, Programme Coordinator
- TRSMA leaders, teachers, and students

Grand Finale

The Semi-Finals and Finals will be held on 28th March 2026 at the same venue. Outstanding participants will be awarded certificates and prizes in recognition of their excellence.

Sri Sadula Madhusudhan, TRSMA State President, added

"Programs like iVision Youth Parliament help nurture leadership, civic

awareness, critical thinking, and collaborative discussion among young minds. From the upcoming academic year, this initiative will expand to all districts of Telangana, with State-level Finals planned in Hyderabad in January 2027."

Summary

iVision Youth Parliament 2026 provided a platform for students to think critically, debate effectively, and demonstrate leadership skills. The event truly reflected the spirit of global cooperation, responsibility, and youth empowerment - showing that young minds can shape the future through discussion, awareness, and action.

"From awareness to discussion, from discussion to decision, and from decision to action - iVision Youth Parliament 2026 reflects the power of youth-led engagement."

Do Not Dictate to the Speaker: Minister Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD

Minister for Legislative Affairs Duddilla Sridhar Babu cautioned that it is not a healthy practice for BRS members to try to dictate to the Speaker on how the House should be conducted. He questioned how the opposition could expect to behave the same way now as they did when they were in power and used to bulldoze proceedings.

Reacting strongly on Wednesday in the Assembly to the objections raised by BRS members while ministers were introducing Bills, he said Harish Rao possesses all the qualifications required to be elected as the Leader of the Legislature Party.

He remarked that Harish Rao is fully capable of holding that position. The Minister further said that, as Deputy Leader, it is not possible to give him the microphone every time he asks for it. Addressing Harish Rao, he commented that if he were seated in the position of the Legislature Party Leader, he would have the opportunity to speak whenever necessary.



Mission Aids Suraksha zeroes in on 19 Telangana districts

HYDERABAD

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) convened a high-level "Suraksha Sankalp Karyashala" in Hyderabad to accelerate HIV control efforts under Mission AIDS Suraksha. The Karyashala brought together national, state and district leadership to accelerate targeted interventions across priority districts in the State.

With 0.41% HIV prevalence and nearly 1.57 lakh people living with HIV, Telangana remains a key focus state. As many as 19 priority districts have been identified for intensified programme implementation and monitoring.

Chaired by Dr. Rakesh Gupta, NACO director general, the workshop stressed data-driven, district-level interventions, improved testing, ART access and stronger monitoring. Dr. S. Sangeetha Satyanarayana, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Telangana and Project Director, Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TSACS) also participated.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Rakesh Gupta, AS & DG, NACO, emphasized that priority districts remain central to India's HIV response, and focused, data-driven interventions at the grassroots level are critical to improving outcomes and accelerating progress to-

wards national targets." He further highlighted the need for strengthened planning, monitoring and accountability at the district level to ensure effective programme implementation.

During the Karyashala, district teams presented detailed updates on programme performance, highlighted operational and field-level challenges, and engaged in structured discussions to develop district-specific, data-driven action plans. The deliberations focused on strengthening HIV prevention strategies, expanding access to testing services, improving linkage and retention on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART),

enhancing viral load suppression, and scaling up targeted interventions among vulnerable and key populations. The platform enabled collaborative problem-solving, experience sharing and convergence between national, State and district stakeholders, ensuring a more coordinated and responsive HIV programme.

Representatives from 19 priority districts, including Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Khammam, Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Siddipet, Medak, Warangal, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Suryapet, Peddapalli, Jangaon, Vikarabad, Kamareddy, Hanumakonda, Sangareddy, Mahabubabad and Jayashankar Bhupalpally, took part in the deliberations.

GITAM Congratulates Dr. RaaviDeepthi on Earning Ph.D.

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, proudly congratulates Dr. Raavi Deepthi on the successful completion of her Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering. Her research, titled "An Efficient Learning-Based Approach for Smart Intrusion Detection System on Internet of Vehicles," makes a significant contribution to the field of intelligent and secure vehi-

cular communication systems.

Conducted under the guidance of Dr. G. Hima Bindu, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, the research presents an innovative learning-based framework designed to strengthen intrusion detection mechanisms in the rapidly evolving Internet of Vehicles (IoV) ecosystem.

The study aims to enhance the security, reliability, and efficiency



of connected vehicular networks by applying advanced machine learning techniques to detect and prevent cyber threats.

The research highlights the growing importance of cybersecurity in smart transportation systems and contributes valuable insights toward building safer and more resilient intelligent mobility infrastructures.

The GITAM community—including Prof. D.S.Rao, Pro Vice-Chan-

cellor; D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director; and Prof. Shaik Mahabub Basha,

Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering—along with faculty members, researchers, and students, extends heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Raavi Deepthi on this outstanding academic accomplishment and wishes her continued success in her future research and professional endeavors.

Historic push for tribal welfare: Rs.15 lakh cheques distributed to Amrabad families

HYDERABAD

In a major socio-environmental initiative, the Telangana government has launched a rehabilitation program for tribal families residing in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve, aiming to balance community development with wildlife conservation. At a ceremony held in Hyderabad, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Ministers Konda Surekha, Utam Kumar Reddy and Jupally Krishna Rao, distributed Rs.15 lakh cheques to 14 tribal families as part of the first phase of the program.

The initiative will cover 417 families from four villages, of-



fering two voluntary rehabilitation options: a Rs.15 lakh cash package for 160 families, and for 257 families, housing with modern amenities along with five acres of agricultural land at Bacharam in Nagarkurnool district. Calling it a "historic

reform", Vikramarka said the program aims to improve living standards of tribal communities while restoring forest ecosystems and wildlife habitats, including those of tigers. He stressed that the process is being implemented with the full

consent of the affected families. A total outlay of Rs.62.55 crore has been earmarked for the project, covering villages such as Sarlapalli, Kudichintalabailu, Tati-gundalapenta, and Kollampenta. Of this, Rs.24 crore is allocated for direct cash compensation and Rs.38.55 crore for housing development. The rehabilitation site at Bacharam is being developed as a model village with roads, drinking water, electricity, schools, healthcare, and community infrastructure. The government also plans to introduce digital education, anganwadi centres, self-help groups, and skill development programs to ensure long-term socio-economic upliftment.

Union jalsakthi secretary visits polavaram project



POLAVARAM

The Secretary of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources), V. L. Kantha Rao, emphasized the need to focus on both quality and speed in the execution of works at the Polavaram Project. He stated that every moment is crucial in the construction of this national project and urged officials to utilize time effectively to meet the set targets.

On Wednesday, the Secretary visited the Polavaram Project site along with Project CEO Yogesh Paitankar, newly appointed CEO Sanjeev Vohra, and Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) Chief

Engineer K. Ramesh. During his visit, he reviewed the ongoing construction works and later held a detailed with officials of the PPA, Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department, and representatives of the executing agency MEIL.

The review covered progress achieved so far, future work plans, timelines, challenges being faced, and strategies for resolving them. The Secretary spent nearly five hours at the project site. In light of the announcement by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to complete the project by June next year, he sought detailed information on the action plan prepared to meet this dead-

line. Expressing satisfaction over the progress made so far, Kantha Rao noted that works are being executed as per the planned schedule. He stressed that even a minor delay going forward could impact the overall completion targets. He advised officials and contractors to set daily targets and ensure their timely completion. The Secretary assured full support from the Central Government for the completion of the project, including timely approvals for designs. He also noted that earlier coordination issues existed as the PPA office was located in Hyderabad, but with its relocation to Rajamahendravaram, such issues should now

be resolved through daily coordination meetings. He announced that a comprehensive review meeting involving all concerned Central and State Government departments would be convened shortly.

Engineer-in-Chief K. Narasimha Murthy presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the project progress, including rehabilitation and resettlement of project-affected families and land acquisition status.

During his site visit, the Secretary inspected key components including the Buttress Dam, Diaphragm Wall (Gap-1 and Gap-2), D-Hill, and G-Hill. He reviewed the timelines for completion of these critical works. He also visited the Polavaram Hydroelectric Project, where officials informed him that construction is progressing simultaneously and all generating units are expected to be completed by January 2028.

Senior officials who participated in the visit and review meeting included Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department advisor M. Venkateswara Rao, Engineer-in-Chief K. Narasimha Murthy, Chief Engineer Ramachandra Rao, MEIL representatives A Satish babu, A. gangadhar, murali pamm and APGENCO, and WAPCOS.

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SHORT TAKES

Cong stages massive protest over LPG price surge

HYDERABAD: A large-scale protest against rising LPG prices was led by Motha Rohit Mudiraj, President of Khairatabad (Hyderabad Central) district Congress committee. Demonstrators marched from the Indira Gandhi Statue to Lok Bhavan, raising slogans and banging plates to highlight the issue. Around 800 women and party workers participated, holding plates and spoons and creating loud sounds to 'awaken' the Central government. Targeting the policies of Narendra Modi, protesters alleged neglect of energy security and lack of planning despite heavy dependence on LPG imports. A delegation later submitted a memorandum to the Governor, demanding immediate steps to reduce LPG prices and ease the burden on consumers.

Bracelet blow turns fatal: 22-yr-old gets 10 yrs for Miyapur murder

HYDERABAD: A 22-year-old labourer, Aravind Singh, has been sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment by a Ranga Reddy court for the murder of his acquaintance in Miyapur. The incident dates back to July 7, 2024, when the accused attacked Man Singh at a labour camp near Jaitra company over previous disputes. Using a steel bracelet, Aravind Singh assaulted the victim, inflicting severe head and body injuries. Initially registered as an attempt to murder, the case was later altered after the victim succumbed to injuries on July 11 while undergoing treatment at Gandhi Hospital. After a full-fledged trial, Smt. C. Pavani, the Hon'ble VI Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ranga Reddy District Court at Kukatpally convicted the accused and imposed the above sentence.

'Not a single house built': Talasani slams govt over housing in Hyd

HYDERABAD: BRS MLA and former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Wednesday lashed out at the state government, alleging complete inaction in housing construction in Hyderabad over the past 28 months. Speaking in the Assembly, the BRS MLA claimed that not a single house has been built since the Congress came to power. Highlighting the previous BRS government's efforts, Talasani said 2.31 lakh double-bedroom houses were sanctioned, of which 1.62 lakh were completed in the twin cities. About 65,000 houses were allotted through a transparent lottery system and credited former Chief Minister KCR for fulfilling the housing aspirations of the poor, he noted.

Jeevan Reddy quits Cong, declares political war on CM Revanth

KARIMNAGAR

Senior Congress leader and former minister T Jeevan Reddy on Wednesday resigned from the ruling party after four decades of association, launching a blistering attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Announcing his decision after a meeting with supporters in Jagtial, Jeevan Reddy said he would formally send his resignation to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. Expressing deep anguish, he alleged that he had faced continuous humiliation and neglect within the party over the past two years. In a strongly worded statement, the veteran leader declared that confronting Revanth Reddy would be his next political battle. "I have fought leaders like Chandrababu Naidu and K Chandrashekar Rao in the past. Taking on Revanth Reddy is nothing new", he asserted, accusing the Chief Minister of sidelining senior leaders and suppressing internal growth within the party. Jeevan Reddy also questioned key decisions within the party, including the elevation of leaders like Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, and claimed he was denied due recognition despite

his long-standing service and loyalty to the Congress high command, including Rahul Gandhi. He further alleged that internal politics cost him the opportunity to become PCC chief, accusing Revanth of influencing the leadership, including Sonia Gandhi, to reverse decisions. He also cited instances such as being sidelined during the Nagarjuna Sagar by-election as evidence of systematic marginalization. Highlighting personal grievances, Jeevan Reddy expressed pain over the party's alleged indifference following the murder of his associate Gangareddy, stating that neither the government nor party leadership extended support to the bereaved family. "It is not power I seek, but respect", he said, adding that despite being an MLC, he was forced to protest for basic rights in his own constituency. Reiterating his commitment to his supporters, he vowed to continue his political fight, now directly targeting the Chief Minister. The resignation marks a significant political development in Telangana Congress, potentially triggering further internal unrest within the party ranks.

"We will complete allocation of 2BHK houses under the 99-day plan"

Housewarming for 1.12 lakh Indiramma houses soon

Another 1 lakh to be completed by June

Action plan for Indiramma houses in urban areas

- State Revenue, Housing & Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

HYDERABAD

As part of the Praja Palana - Pragathi Plan (99-day program), State Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that the government will not only complete the construction of unfinished double-bedroom houses across the state but also allocate vacant houses to eligible poor beneficiaries. During the Assembly sessions on Wednesday, the Minister gave a detailed explanation in response to questions raised by around 22 MLAs regarding Indiramma houses, double-bedroom houses, and related issues. He stated that special review meetings will soon be conducted at the erstwhile district level to resolve issues related to Indiramma housing across all Assembly constituencies. A toll-free number will also be introduced shortly to address complaints from all constituencies, with responses provided within 24 hours and necessary action taken.

A Sapta Shati Havanam and Nava Chandi Homam Conducted at Sri Rama Temple

Geetha Murthy attended as a special guest

NIZAMABAD

Pothangal village under Banswada mandal of Nizamabad district, a Sapta Shati Havanam and Nava Chandi Homam were conducted today at the Sri Rama Temple. During the ritual, all 13 chapters comprising 700 verses were recited, and the Purnahuti (final offering) was completed successfully. This havan was conducted under the leadership of the temple organizers Brahmashri Sriram, Srinivas, and Gajanan. The ritual was carried out in a highly spiritual manner with the chanting of mantras by Vedic scholars Brahmashri Satish Maharaj, Raju Maharaj, and others. At this event, BJP National Council member and former State President of Mahila Morcha, Geetha Murthy, attended as a special guest and received the blessings of the Goddess. Village elders and women also participated in the



homam. Additionally, Pradeep Kulkarni, Anita, Abhilash, and other elders from Damaranch village took part in the ritual. A large number of youth and women, including Leelavati, Lalitha Sharma, Shweta, Latha, Mandakini, and Sharanya, participated in the event. Arrangements were made for the distribution of prasadam after-



The Minister said that issues related to Indiramma houses have been categorized into three groups for resolution. He recalled that during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, about 21 lakh houses were constructed in the Telangana region of the undivided state. He added that large-scale construction of Indiramma houses is continuing under the current pro-poor government. He noted that the previous government sanctioned over 2 lakh houses, including 1 lakh for Hyderabad. Out of these, 78,861 houses were completed but lacked basic infrastructure, while 21,838 houses remained at the foundation stage. In the GHMC area, 26 colonies remained incomplete. The current government has sanctioned houses for the Cantonment constituency and

provided infrastructure worth ₹738 crore. Out of 92,000 previously incomplete houses, 62,000 have now been completed. Before the 2023 elections, 23,500 houses were allocated. However, many beneficiaries, whose livelihoods are in the city, did not move to houses located 20-30 km away, leaving over 12,000 houses vacant. The government held three special review meetings with senior officials and district collectors. Notices were issued giving beneficiaries two months to occupy the houses. If they fail to do so, the houses will be reallocated to eligible poor people living within a 5-10 km radius. Under the 99-day program, all new allocations will be completed. The government has cancelled earlier estimates for infrastructure in colonies initiated in 2017 and will take

steps to provide facilities in journalist colonies as well. About ₹784 crore has been sanctioned for infrastructure in around 80 colonies, of which ₹432 crore has already been spent. An additional ₹270 crore is estimated to be required. In the first phase, 4.5 lakh houses have been sanctioned, including 12,000 houses specifically for tribal communities under ITDA areas. Regarding shops in housing colonies, the Minister said that lessees are not paying rents properly and are approaching courts, leading to revenue loss. The government has proposed auctioning these shops publicly and depositing the proceeds in colony committees and government accounts. The interest generated will be used for maintenance expenses such as electricity and lift facilities.

No Fuel or LPG Shortage in Telangana, says Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

Dismisses Rumours, Assures Adequate Stocks and Advises Against Panic Buying

HYDERABAD

Amid growing rumours of petrol, diesel and LPG shortages that triggered panic buying and long queues at fuel stations across Hyderabad, the Telangana government on Wednesday firmly assured the public that there is no shortage of any petroleum products in the state. Addressing a press conference, Minister for Civil Supplies and Irrigation N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, categorically stated that stocks are more than adequate for the next three months and that supply is currently running well ahead of demand. The Minister revealed that oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have ramped up supplies significantly. On the day of the briefing, against a demand of 17,246 kilolitres (KL), the companies supplied 17,898 KL, leaving an excess of nearly 652 KL. He pointed out that while daily demand has suddenly spiked by 25% due to panic buying, supplies have been maintained at 22% above the average, ensuring seamless availability. "Supply is more than the demand. We are providing very excess supply," the Minister emphasised. He added that an additional 16,000 KL of buffer stock has already been arranged and 1,200 extra tankers have been pressed into service to keep fuel stations fully stocked. Any temporary "no stock" boards visible at a few outlets were only because tankers had not yet arrived, he clarified, and not due to any actual shortage. The government has also taken strong note of the use of cans and containers to carry petrol and diesel, terming the practice illegal and hazardous. "Officials are in the field.



Use of containers will not be allowed. OMCs have been strictly instructed," the Minister warned. He appealed to the public not to indulge in panic buying, stating that all rumours of shortages have no basis. **Nationwide and Statewide Situation Normal** The Minister informed that there is no shortage anywhere in Telangana. Referring to situation elsewhere in the country, major cities and depots such as Ahmedabad, Surat, Bengaluru, Dharwad and Belgaum have been experiencing such panic buying instances. CNG and LPG supply chains remain fully intact. Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) are sufficient for 60-65 days and ONGC has extended a credit line to ensure uninterrupted supplies. On the LPG front, the Minister clarified that domestic LPG cylinders and petrol/diesel are in abundant supply with no shortage. While there is a problem with commercial LPG cylinders, the government is actively representing the matter to the Centre. In a related crackdown, authorities have seized a total of

2,952 commercial cylinders being misused or illegally filled. **596 Petrol Bunks in Hyderabad Fully Operations** The Minister revealed that 596 petrol bunks are functioning in Hyderabad city alone. "All shops and petrol bunks are open. No bunk is being allowed to close. He confirmed that officials had inspected outlets in LB Nagar and Bhairamalguda and found them fully operational. Staff from the Civil Supplies Department have been reaching out to every bunk, and dedicated control rooms are monitoring supplies round-the-clock in coordination with Legal Metrology, Police and Civil Supplies officials. **Appeal to Public and Action Plan** Describing the current rush as "purely panic-driven", Uttam Kumar Reddy urged citizens to stop rumour-mongering and avoid hoarding. "There is absolutely no need for panic. Petrol, diesel and domestic LPG are in abundant supply," he said.

Open universities turn "agentic AI hubs", say experts at BRAOU meet

HYDERABAD

Open universities are fast transforming into "agentic AI universities", leveraging artificial intelligence to expand access and improve learning outcomes, said Vice Chancellor, IGNOU Prof. Uma Kanjilal at a national conference held at BRAOU campus here on Wednesday. The two-day conference is being organized by the Indian Distance Education Association in collaboration with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University and hosted in association with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), along with the Telangana Council for Higher Education and INFILIBNET Centre. Addressing the inaugural



session of "Beyond Boundaries: The New ODL Landscape", she noted that Open and Distance Learning (ODL) contributes nearly 50% to higher education enrollment and is central to the vision of the National Education Policy 2020. She stressed AI-driven, learner-centric models, hybrid edu-

cation, and stronger industry linkages. Presiding over the event, Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, vice-chancellor of BRAOU, highlighted ODL's role in ensuring inclusive education for marginalized sections, calling it a "necessary and preferred" mode in today's digital era.

IBC amendments may weaken insolvency framework, says Cong MP Mallu Ravi

HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader and MP Mallu Ravi on Wednesday raised serious concerns over the proposed amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), warning that they could dilute the core principles of India's insolvency framework. The Bill, in its current form, risks weakening the foundational principles of India's insolvency framework. The amendments dilute the institutional strength of the insolvency resolution process, moving away from the core objective of preserving and maximizing asset value for all stakeholders, he noted. "The earlier framework ensured a fair and balanced approach by empowering the liquidator with quasi-judicial authority. Subordinating this role to the Committee of Creditors (CoC) risks undermining neutrality and due process, while concentrating excessive power in the hands of financial creditors", he said. The Congress MP said the changes weaken the institutional strength of the resolution process by reducing the autonomy of the liquidator and giving excessive powers to the Committee of Creditors (CoC). This, he cautioned, may undermine neutrality and due process. Further, he pointed out that the proposed Credi-



tor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP) continues to rely on default as a trigger, rather than enabling early intervention. "This approach allows value erosion to set in before corrective action begins. Additionally, it creates inequity by excluding operational creditors and certain financial creditors from initiating proceedings, thereby narrowing access and reducing transparency", he added. He also flagged restrictions on withdrawal of insolvency applications, stating that such rigidity would discourage early settlements and out-of-court resolutions. On cross-border insolvency, Ravi warned against excessive delegation of powers to the executive and cautioned against blindly adopting global frameworks like UNCITRAL without adapting them to Indian conditions. Highlighting systemic issues such as tribunal backlogs and infrastructure gaps, he stressed that strict timelines alone cannot ensure effective resolution.

SCR achieves record freight loading of 144.244 MTs

HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway (SCR) has recorded its highest-ever freight loading, reaching 144.244 million tonnes in 2025-26, surpassing last year's 144.14 MTs. The milestone was achieved a week ahead of the financial year-end, reflecting strong operational efficiency and coordinated efforts across the departments. Coal and cement remained the dominant commodities, with significant contributions from Singareni collieries and regional cement industries. The zone also expanded its freight basket by increasing movement of fertilizers, iron ore, food grains, containers and other goods. SCR attributed the achievement to improved infrastructure at freight terminals, upgraded goods sheds, and continuous engagement with customers to meet logistics needs efficiently. SCR general manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava praised the coordinated efforts of operations, commercial teams.



Groundbreaking Ceremony for SC Community Hall Construction

BY DR SUNEELKUMAR YANDRA,

Pithapuram, March 25 : A groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of an SC Community Hall was held on Wednesday in Mallam village, Pithapuram Mandal. The event was conducted under the leadership of Burra Anubabu (Anil), Vice Chairman of the erstwhile East Godavari Zilla Parishad, utilizing ZP funds. Former Pithapuram MLA Pendum Dorababu attended the ceremony as the chief guest; he formally inaugurated the project by breaking a coconut and laying the foundation stone. Janasena Party leader Venna Jagadeesh, Mallam Sarpanch Suribabu, MPTC members Melam Srinivas and Koppana Somaraju, former Sarpanch Kumpatla Chellarao, and others participated in the event.

Gujarat Passes Bill to Curb Illegal Property Transfers

GANDHINAGAR: (MAR 25)

After a heated debate over demographic shift and safeguard for a particular community, the Gujarat Assembly on Wednesday passed an amendment Bill to a 1991 Act that aims to curb illegal property transfers and strengthen safeguards for lawful owners.

The Bill to amend the Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in the Disturbed Areas Act, 1991, was passed through a voice vote on the last day of the budget session.

Pitching the Bill as a necessary safeguard for a particular community, Minister of State for Revenue Sanjaysinh Mahida, who introduced the legislation, invoked historical attacks on Sanatan Dharma and warned against forced migration driven by "Land Jihad" and "Love Jihad".

Women's Workforce Participation Triples in UP: Adityanath

GORAKHPUR (UP): (MAR 25)

Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a three-fold rise in women's participation in the workforce over the past nine years, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday, attributing the growth to his government's improved safety and self-reliance initiatives. Addressing a gathering at the Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology (MMMUT), the chief minister said the proportion of working women has increased from around 12 per cent to over 36 per cent.

"A society where women step out fearlessly for work is a true indicator of security," he said, adding that earlier, safety concerns forced families to send their daughters outside the state for education.

Jagan backs proposed amendments to Women's Reservation Act

AMARAVATI, MARCH 25

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday expressed strong support for the proposed amendments to the Women's Reservation Act, 2023, aimed at enabling its implementation by 2029.

In a post on the social media platform 'X', he welcomed the move to ensure 33 per cent reservation for women in the Assembly and Lok Sabha, calling it a significant step toward strengthening women's political representation in the country.

Reaffirming YSRCP's long-standing commitment to women's empowerment, YS Jagan stated that the party has consistently taken proactive measures to promote women's participation in governance by implementing 50 per cent reservation for wom-

en in local bodies, nominated posts, and nomination-based works and service contracts.

He emphasised that empowering women to emerge as leaders at every level of democracy has always been a core principle of the party's governance approach.

Welcoming the initiative, he expressed confidence that such measures would further advance gender equality and create greater opportunities for women in public life.

Meanwhile, addressing a meeting of YSRCP leaders from Addanki constituency at the YSRCP central office, Jagan Mohan Reddy strongly criticised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for what he called indulging in blatant credit theft and misleading propaganda over the ArceclorMittal steel plant.

The former Chief Minister said that the groundwork for the steel plant was laid during



his tenure and not by the present government.

He stated that during his Davos visit in 2022, he had met with Aditya Mittal and reached a preliminary understanding to set up a steel plant in Andhra Pradesh.

He added that the company had also agreed to invest Rs 4,800 crore in the Greenko project in Kurnool and that multiple locations, including Nakkapalli, were shown to the company, which was finalised before the elections.

YS Jagan questioned why Chandrababu Naidu was not speaking about the Bulk Drug Park project in Nakkapalli, which was brought during his tenure after competing with several states. He alleged that the present government deliberately created land disputes, leading to the stagnation of the project and loss of potential investments and employment opportunities. Criticising the coalition government, he said it had failed to implement any of its election promises and had scrapped all welfare schemes introduced earlier. He remarked that the super six schemes had become a complete deception, adding that people were now openly discussing the failure of governance. He further alleged that within two years, the state's debt had crossed Rs 3.37 lakh crore, with no visible welfare delivery. He claimed that revenue was not

reaching the state treasury and that large-scale corruption was taking place in sectors such as liquor, sand, and mining. He also said that the education, healthcare, and agriculture sectors were in decline, with students dropping out, hospitals withdrawing services under Aarogyasri, and farmers suffering due to a lack of remunerative prices.

YS Jagan also spoke about future opportunities for party workers, stating that the proposed increase in Assembly and Parliament seats would create more leadership roles, especially for SCs, STs, and women.

He assured that in "Jagan 2.0," party workers would receive greater importance and opportunities.

He expressed confidence that public dissatisfaction with the present government would lead to its defeat in the next elections.



Telangana CM Revanth Reddy attends wedding Ceremony

Minister Lokesh extends invitation

GUNTUR:

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and IT, Nara Lokesh, attended the wedding ceremony of the daughter of senior TDP leader and Ponnur MLA Dhulipalla Narendra. The wedding was held at Sri Convention in Guntur. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also attended the along with his family.

On this occasion, Minister Nara Lokesh formally welcomed CM Revanth Reddy. Later, they blessed the newlyweds, Nagasai Vaideepthi and Kevin Ram. They presented a bouquet and conveyed their best wishes to the couple as they began their married life.

Several ministers, MLAs, TDP representatives, and party leaders were present at the event.

Med Student Found Dead; Family Alleges Doctor Abetment

NEW DELHI: MAR 26, 2026

In an official statement issued by her college, the institution has claimed that the woman was long under treatment for a mental health condition and that she had attempted suicide in the past. The body of a 26-year-old woman studying at a medical college in Dehradun was found inside a car in the Patel Nagar area of the city under suspicious circumstances, the police said. She had last spoken to her father the night before and sounded upset, the police stated, citing her father's account. The woman was living in a rented accommodation in Dehradun. Her family has claimed that she died by suicide and have accused a doctor at the same institution of abetting the extreme step. Based on the allegation, the police have registered a case against the doctor, saying the matter is being investigated from all possible angles. According to a police officer, the woman seemed emotionally distressed during her last phone



call with her family. They failed to establish contact with her after that phone call, he added. The woman's father, subsequently, reached Dehradun but was unable to find her either at her place of residence or at the medical college, the official said. She was eventually found unresponsive inside an abandoned car. One of the vehicle's windows was smashed to retrieve the woman. She was then rushed to a hospital, where she was declared dead. In an official statement issued by her college, the institution has claimed that the woman was long under treatment for a mental health condition and that she had attempted suicide in the past.

High level committee led by Chief Secretary to promote tourism sector:CM

AP targets 50,000 hotel rooms, 10,000 home stays by 2029 to boost tourism
CM's stress on fast tracking infrastructure development at key tourism destinations

AMARAVATI :

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu suggested forming of a High level committee led by Chief Secretary to promote tourism in the state. He stressed the need to make available 50,000 rooms by 2029. At the same time he directed officials to promote 10,000 homestays across key tourist destinations and introduce rating system for home stays with the increase in tourists foot fall in the state.

Addressing a review meeting on tourism today the Chief Minister said the government is planning large-scale development of beaches from Baruva to Nellore, along with enhancing eco-tourism circuits in regions such as Araku Valley, Maredumilli and Chintapalli. He called for establishment of caravan parks in at least 10-15 locations, enabling families to safely experience nature with proper



amenities. The Chief Minister said the state government plans to introduce Caravan parks and tent cities (target: 1,000 units by Godavari Pushkarams) Amusement parks in Tirupati and Visakhapatnam in addition to Promotion of eco and temple tourism in coordination with forest and endowments departments. The Chief Minister stressed fast-tracking development of major tourist spots including Gandikota, Suryalanka Beach and Borra Caves. He directed officials to complete Godavari Pushkar Ghat works by August and restoration

works on Havelock Bridge by December, allowing tourist access. Seaplane services under the UDAN scheme, Water aerodromes in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Srisailem, Gandikota and Kambham Cheruvu Cruise tourism from Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam Port will be promoted. Highlighting the role of creative economy, the Chief Minister said Amaravati should evolve into a Creative City, encouraging content creation and cultural industries. He noted that Sanjay Dutt has expressed interest in investing in such projects.

The officials informed the Chief Minister the state recorded 309.2 million tourist visits last year, with a 21 per cent growth in the first nine months of the current year. The government aims to further accelerate this momentum through integrated tourism planning, including temple tourism circuits.



One killed as wild elephants raid Nawada in search of food

PATNA, MARCH 25

An atmosphere of fear has gripped Nawada district as a herd of wild Asian elephants continues to wreak havoc in rural areas in search of food due to the shrinking habitat and loss of forests. Social media trends in Suartoli village, under Rajauli Hardiya Panchayat, a 30-year-old man, Sanoj Bhuiyan, was tragically trampled to death during the elephant rampage. In addition, three buffaloes were also killed, intensifying panic among villagers in the last 24 hours. Confirming the incident, Forest Divisional Officer Shreshtha Krishna stated that one human life has been lost and livestock have also been targeted. He assured that the Forest Department is actively monitoring the situation and has urged residents to remain cautious and avoid venturing into forested areas. According to local residents, a herd of around 20-22 elephants has been active in the region for the past three days. The herd is believed to have entered Bihar from neighbouring Jharkhand due to loss of habitat. During night, the elephants reportedly enter villages, destroy

crops, and damage houses, leaving residents too frightened to step outside. After causing widespread destruction in Suartoli, the herd has now moved towards Kawakol and has been sighted in the forests of Nawadih. In response, the Forest Department has launched a full-scale operation to track and manage the herd. A specialised team has been called in from West Bengal, and drones are being deployed to locate the elephants and prevent further damage. Authorities continue to appeal for calm while emphasising safety precautions, as efforts are underway to bring the situation under control. Earlier, similar incidents had been reported in Jharkhand, where herds of wild Asian elephants created havoc across districts such as Hazaribagh, Chatra, and Chaibasa. In those areas, the elephants reportedly killed several people and caused extensive damage to crops, homes, and other property.

These recurring incidents highlight a growing human-wildlife conflict in the region, often attributed to shrinking forest habitats and migration of elephant herds in search of food and water.

No Power Tariff Hike in AP for 2026-27

AMARAVATI, MARCH 25

In a major relief to electricity consumers across Andhra Pradesh, the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC), on Wednesday, approved no increase in electricity tariffs for 2026-27. The state government said that the APERC's decision reaffirms its commitment to protecting households, farmers, and small businesses from rising power costs. The Commission's order also includes the true-up/down and performance review of DISCOMs for 2024-25, following an extensive public consultation process.

While DISCOMs projected a revenue gap of Rs 17,508 crore, APERC approved a lower gap of Rs 15,790 crore, which will be fully supported by the state government. This intervention ensures no tariff hike across all consumer categories, no additional burden through true-up charges and continued affordability and financial stability for consumers. According to an official statement, the order delivers wide-ranging benefits across sectors. This has protected 1.13 crore domestic consumers from tariff increases while 22 lakh farmers will continue receiving free power supply. As many as 22 lakh SC/



ST and economically weaker households will receive free or subsidised electricity through direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme. Commercial tariffs have been reduced from Rs 12.25/unit to Rs 9.95/unit, benefiting about 2 lakh consumers. Cottage industry load

limit has been doubled from 10 HP to 20 HP, aiding 18,000 small enterprises. To boost industrial activity and align with emerging sectors, APERC has introduced key structural changes, including new tariff subcategory for solar module manufacturing, promoting clean energy investments, reclassification of water purification plants and printing presses as industrial units, rationalisation of tariffs for utilities such as national highway street lighting and special provisions for poultry and seasonal processing industries. The Commission rejected several proposals that would have increased consumer burden,

including changes in time-of-day tariff structure, shift to non-telescopic billing for certain consumers and removal of green power category.

APERC has issued critical directions to DISCOMs to improve operational efficiency: They have been told to accelerate clearance of subsidy dues and government department arrears, implement strategies to minimise private arrears, enhance electrical safety measures, including public reporting systems via websites and WhatsApp and ensure compliance with national standards and The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme targets.

Jal Shakti Secretary Visits Polavaram Project

POLAVARAM, MARCH 25 :

The Secretary of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources), V. L. Kantha Rao, emphasized the need to focus on both quality and speed in the execution of works at the Polavaram Project. He stated that every moment is crucial in the construction of this national project and urged officials to utilize time effectively to meet the set targets.

On Wednesday, the Secretary visited the Polavaram Project site along with Project CEO Yogesh Paitankar, newly appointed CEO Sanjeev Vohra, and Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) Chief Engineer K. Ramesh. During his visit, he reviewed the ongoing construction works and later held a detailed meeting with officials of the PPA, Andhra



Pradesh Water Resources Department, and representatives of the executing agency MEIL.

The review covered progress achieved so far, future work plans, timelines, challenges being faced, and strategies for resolving them. The Secretary spent nearly five hours at the project site. In light of the announcement by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to complete the project by June next year, he

sought detailed information on the action plan prepared to meet this deadline. Expressing satisfaction over the progress made so far, Kantha Rao noted that works are being executed as per the planned schedule. He stressed that even a minor delay going forward could impact the overall completion targets. He advised officials and contractors to set daily targets and ensure their timely completion.

The Secretary assured full support from the Central Government for the completion of the project, including timely approvals for designs. He also noted that earlier coordination issues existed as the PPA office was located in Hyderabad, but with its relocation to Rajamahendravaram, such issues should now be resolved through daily coordination meetings. He announced that a comprehensive review meeting involving all concerned Central and State Government departments would be convened shortly.

Engineer-in-Chief K. Narasimha Murthy presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the project progress, including rehabilitation and resettlement of project-affected families and land acquisition status.

During his site visit, the Secretary inspected key components including the Buttress Dam, Diaphragm Wall (Gap-1 and Gap-2), D-Hill, and G-Hill. He reviewed the timelines for completion of these critical works. He also visited the Polavaram Hydroelectric Project, where officials informed him that construction is progressing simultaneously and all generating units are expected to be completed by January 2028.

Senior officials who participated in the visit and review meeting included Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department advisor M. Venkateswara Rao, Engineer-in-Chief K. Narasimha Murthy, Chief Engineer Ramachandra Rao, MEIL representatives A Satish babu, A. gangadhar, murali pamm and APGENCO, and WAPCOS.

Caught on CCTV: Speeding car hits scooter in Tamil Nadu; man, daughter injured

COIMBATORE: MAR 25, 2026

A man and his daughter were seriously injured after a speeding car rammed into their two-wheeler in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district. The accident occurred on Monday morning around 8.20 am when the car lost control and crashed into the two-wheeler before also hitting another vehicle.

A CCTV footage of the incident shows the man riding a scooter with his daughter, who is carrying a school bag - suggesting he may have been dropping her to school - moving normally along the road as other vehicles pass by. Moments later, a grey-coloured car suddenly appears from behind, crashes into them, flings them off, then hits a tempo



traveller coming from the opposite direction, and stops.

Bystanders rushed to help and called for an ambulance, following which the injured were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. The incident triggered panic among commuters.

MUMBAI MAN KILLED IN HIT-AND-RUN

In a separate incident, a 24-year-old man was killed in a hit-and-run case in Mumbai's Vile Parle East in the early hours of Wednesday.

EDITORIAL

L'AFFAIRE DEPUTY SPEAKER

A HEAVY HAND AND A WEAK CASE:
THE FUTILITY OF
WANGCHUK'S DETENTION

Activist Sonam Wangchuk's release on March 14 ended a months-long legal and political standoff between his allies and Ladakh's leadership on one hand and the Centre on the other. Detaining him under the National Security Act 1980, the Centre alleged that he was the "chief provocateur" of the September 2025 violent clashes in Leh that left four dead, and dubbed his presence in the region a catalyst for an "Arab Spring-like" mobilisation to force its hand on Ladakh's constitutional status. The Centre also argued that given Ladakh's borders with China and Pakistan, continued "instigation" by a high-profile figure such as Wangchuk threatened territorial stability. About six months later, the Ministry of Home Affairs modified its order, intending to create an environment of "peace, stability, and mutual trust" and resume formal talks with the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA). But even as a judicial commission was still investigating the September violence, Wangchuk's legal team and his wife Gitanjali Angmo had successfully undermined the government's case. Foremost, the alleged evidence of incitement was a translation of a short speech padded with pages of "aspersions" — a legally dubious pattern seen in the Elgar Parishad, Delhi liquor scam, and G.N. Saibaba cases. His lawyers also pointed to Wangchuk's social media posts condemning the unrest that day.

The Supreme Court had also expressed serious concerns over Wangchuk's health in Jodhpur jail. His release came just three days before the Court's final hearing on the matter, letting the Ministry to avoid a potentially embarrassing ruling that could have deemed the detention arbitrary. But while Wangchuk's release has defused the immediate tension, the political situation remains fundamentally unresolved. Two days on, Leh saw massive rallies for the first time since September 2025, while Kargil observed a shutdown, with local leaders saying that the agitation for constitutional safeguards would continue. Talks between Ladakh bodies and the Ministry have however been inconclusive, with LAB and the KDA reiterating their demands for statehood and Sixth Schedule status — already recommended by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and promised in the BJP's 2020 election manifesto. Crucially, other activists, including Deldan Namgyal and Smanla Dorjey, remain in detention. In effect, what Wangchuk's detention was meant to serve is unclear, beyond allowing the Centre to brandish its heavy hand, worsening his health, and stalling negotiations. Unless the Centre can negotiate in good faith with the Ladakhi leadership and provide concrete timelines, the people of Ladakh

L'affaire Deputy Speaker has become more and more intriguing. It continues to pit the Opposition in the Lok Sabha not only against Mr. Lakshmanan, the Deputy Speaker, but against the Speaker, Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, himself. Issues of importance to Parliament and its functioning are involved. The Opposition maintain that Mr. Lakshmanan is no longer the Deputy Speaker and have even brought forward a motion for his removal. They assert that his resignation became effective from June 25 when he wrote to the Speaker following the break between the DMK and the Congress-I over Pondicherry. There was no scope for its withdrawal on June 27 even if the first letter had not been received by the Speaker until then. In support, they want the Speaker to make the two letters available to the House. Mr. Jakhar has so far declined to do so. Instead, he has offered to show these to the members in his chamber. Meanwhile, Mr. Lakshmanan has reportedly made two points in a talk with MPs. First, the letter of resignation, drafted by the DMK leaders, was not of his own volition. Second, it was defectively worded. He had not tendered his resignation but only offered to do so!

Some readers may be tempted to ask: why bother about the office of Deputy Speaker? Does he really count? True, the office of Deputy Speaker is nowhere near that of the Speaker. Nevertheless, the Deputy Speaker plays an important role in India since he presides over the House for most part of the day. What is more, the Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha has all the powers of the Speaker while presiding over the House unlike in the UK. (Once Mr. Lakshmanan astonishingly expunged even his own remarks! Expunctions and the Speaker's powers in the matter concern another serious issue which has so far not received the collective attention of the House it deserves. But this must await another day.) In Britain, the Deputy Speaker is not authorized, unless the absence of the Speaker is formally announced, to put the question or a motion for the closure of a debate nor can he exercise the power of selecting amendments. But even more important than the Deputy Speaker's office in the present affair is the crucial issue of the rights of the House — and the values we wish free India's Parliament to uphold and espouse.

The issue regarding the rights of the House may be framed as follows in the present case: Can the Speaker withhold from the House what parliamentary experts describe as a constitutional document, namely a document which comes to him in his capacity as the Speaker? Or, can the Speaker withhold from the members the two letters of the Deputy Speaker? Further enquiries confirm what I briefly indicated last week: the Speaker has no right to withhold any constitutional document or the two letters in question. The Speaker, it needs to be understood, is no more than a channel of communication in regard to

such documents. The question of not showing a document will arise only if the Speaker has not received the document or if the document has been given to him in his private capacity. A parliamentary expert remarked "Democracy would become a sham if Parliament and through it the people are not to be informed. Remember, the right to information is Parliament's most important right. There is no rule that empowers the Speaker to withhold a constitutional document. If there is one, I would like to know which?"

But the Speaker is essentially a channel which is borne out by one simple fact. Resignation by the Deputy Speaker becomes effective even if the office of the Speaker is vacant. The letter of resignation then goes to the Secretary who in turn informs the House. Following the death of the Speaker, Mr. Mavalankar, the then Deputy Speaker, Mr. Ananthasayanani Ayyangar, resigned on March 7, 1956 as he was anxious to stand for the office of the Speaker. His letter of resignation was addressed to the Speaker and sent to the Secretariat even though there was no Speaker then. The Secretary of the Lok Sabha informed the House of the resignation by the Deputy Speaker on March 8, 1956. But the resignation became effective from March 7, namely the date on which the letter was signed. There was no question of any acceptance or non-acceptance. Parliamentary experts assert: "The letter of resignation of the Deputy Speaker, becomes effective the moment the letter is signed and a full stop put after the signature as in the case of letters from persons holding such statutory offices as those of the Speaker, the Vice-President and the President of India."

In a historic case, King Edward VIII ceased to be the King the moment he put his signature on his letter of abdication. The King's resignation was in accordance with established practice which continues to be followed in Britain as also in parliamentary democracies based on the Westminster pattern. In fact, the same procedure applies to MPs in Britain and did so in regard to MPs in India also until some years ago. In a sensational case in India, Mr. H.C. Mudgal, a member of the provisional Parliament took advantage of this rule to escape expulsion from the House on a motion moved by none other than Jawaharlal Nehru, as the leader of the House. After Nehru had made out a powerful case against Mr. Mudgal, the latter took the floor and spoke for 90 minutes. He was thereafter asked to withdraw from the House according to practice to enable the members to decide the issue dispassionately. But Mr. Mudgal asked the Deputy Speaker for a few minutes before he withdrew. The request was granted. During this time, he wrote out his resignation on a piece of paper, dramatically walked up to the Deputy Speaker, handed it to him and then walked out of the House.

The Deputy Speaker then read out Mr. Mudgal's resignation to the House. The letter, which

was addressed to the Speaker, said: "As I feel that members may not have freedom to vote, I beg to submit my resignation of my membership of the present House." The Deputy Speaker announced Mr. Mudgal's resignation and said it had become effective instantly. Nehru, taken completely by surprise, was livid. However, he did not let Mr. Mudgal get away lightly. He then amended the motion to make it clear that Mr. Mudgal "deserved expulsion from the House and further that the terms of the resignation letter that he has given to the Deputy Speaker at the conclusion of his statement constitute a contempt of this House which only aggravates his offence." Incidentally, Mr. Mudgal's crime makes interesting reading against the backdrop of all that one hears in the Central Hall of Parliament these days. Mr. Mudgal was held guilty by a five-man Committee, headed by T.T. Krishnamachari, of having received from the Bombay Bullion Association Rs 2,000 in respect of services rendered -- with expectation of another Rs 7,000 for work done for "memorandum and parliamentary contacts!"

The procedure regarding the resignation by MPs was changed following the agitation in Gujarat where some Members of Parliament were forced to resign under pressure of the Navnirman Samiti. The Constitution was amended to provide against members being forced to resign involuntarily. The Speaker or the Deputy Speaker are now required to satisfy themselves that the resignation by an MP is offered voluntarily and not under any threat or pressure. But the same does not apply either to the Office of the Speaker or to that of the Deputy Speaker. There is thus no force in the new argument reportedly put forward by Lakshmanan in his talk with some unnamed MPs that he had been forced by Mr. Karunanidhi and Mr. K. Manoharan to sign the letter of resignation drafted and mailed by them. There is also no question of the Deputy Speaker "offering" to resign since there is no provision for either its acceptance or non-acceptance. The precise language used in the letter is important. But it is a matter which can be decided only by the House and no one else, not even the Speaker.

The House can do so if it has before it the two letters written by Mr. Lakshmanan. The Speaker should, therefore, even now place the two letters before the House and let it decide for itself. There should be no difficulty in doing so in view of what transpired before our eyes in a sensational question of privilege raised by Mr. M.R. Masani against the Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr. EMS Namboodripad, on September 23, 1958. The Chief Minister, according to Mr. Masani, had committed a breach of privilege in a telegram sent to the Union Home Minister, Pandit Pant, and published in the Press. EMS was reported to have accused certain unnamed members of trying "to slander the State Government" through a motion seeking to discuss "the serious situation in Kerala".

The motion was opposed by Prof. Hiren Mukherjee and some others on the ground that the House could not take cognizance of the matter in the absence of a proper, authentic report. But the issue got clinched since the Speaker, Mr. Ayyangar, had been earlier shown the telegram in confidence by the Home Minister. The Speaker finally ruled: "Whatever communication is made to me will be the property of the House."

Much of the controversy over Mr. Lakshmanan has arisen today because of our failure to build healthy conventions in regard to the office of Deputy Speaker. Free India's first Deputy Speaker, Mr. Ayyangar, was no doubt a Congressman. But once elected Deputy Speaker, he functioned impartially. He was succeeded by Mr. Hukam Singh of the Akali Party, thanks to the ruling Congress. Nevertheless, Nehru's decision to choose Mr. Hukam Singh reflected a desire to inspire in the Opposition a greater sense of confidence in the system based on government by debate and consensus. In fact, the Janata Party went one step further in 1977. It invited the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, to name the Deputy Speaker. Mr. Godey Murahari then became Deputy Speaker as a Congress MP and, what is more, as an Opposition nominee for the first time. Unfortunately, this convention was not followed when Mrs. Gandhi returned to power in 1980 and Mr. Lakshmanan was chosen Deputy Speaker. True, Mr. Lakshmanan carried the DMK label. But the DMK was then closely aligned with the Congress-I.

Every consideration should have been extended to the Opposition genuinely. Had this been done, we would not be stuck with the present messy affair involving the Deputy Speaker. It is not too late even now to deal with the issue honourably, without allowing personal predilections to come in. Either Mr. Lakshmanan's resignation became effective on June 25 or it did not? We cannot swear by truth and still have it both ways. In the final analysis, we would do well to recall what Pandit Pant said on September 24, 1958, while speaking on Mr. Masani's privilege motion against EMS. He said: "everything that is done in this House serves as a precedent for the future. The conventions that we build are not only for today or tomorrow, not in respect of any particular government but also in respect of all that might happen hereafter, whether in this Parliament or in State Legislatures or in connection with the relationship between the States and the Centre." Wise words indeed. We can ignore them only at the cost of Parliament and its future.

INDER JIT
RELEASED ON 23
AUG 1983

"CHANGE — THE SUPREME ASCENT"

Not all who breathe... become.
Some drift
dim shadows on the wall of time,
dissolving like whispers in a restless wind;
their days—dust,
their dreams—distant,
their destiny—undrawn...
But a rare few
rise like roaring dawns from silent nights,
rewriting fate with fearless fire;
they wear their wounds as wings of will,
and crown their scars with
sovereign desire...
Change
not a word, but a waking storm,
a sacred spark in the soul's deep core;
a buried seed in the dark of doubt,
that breaks the earth—to rise and roar...
When resolve becomes the sun within,
and discipline rains in relentless grace,
the ordinary turns oracle,
and effort unveils the eternal face...
Laziness
a velvet cage with invisible chains,
soft to touch, yet strong to bind;
but thought must thunder
through that trance,
a lightning strike in the sleeping mind...
Fear
a phantom forged by fragile sight,
a trembling wall that blocks the way;
but courage
a blazing blade of boundless might,
that cleaves the night into living day...
Life—
not a tale to tell and fade,
but a tempest to tame and transcend;
not a road to walk in borrowed steps,
but a realm to rule, a will to bend...
Let each step speak like sculpted script,
each breath burn bright like a

sacred hymn;
let every fall forge finer strength,
and every loss—refine the win...
For he who resists the rhythm of rise,
remains a mirage in a maze of lies;
but one who dares to dare again,
becomes the storm no fate denies...
Time may carve its cryptic lines,
but karma writes the final art;
the mind
the chisel of cosmic craft,
the hand that shapes the human heart...
You are not clay to be confined
you are the sculptor, fierce and free;
a flame unborn in timid winds,
a force that dares eternally...
So rise—
not slowly... but with sacred surge;
not softly... but with sovereign flame;
melt your doubts in the forge of faith,
and brand your soul with a boundless name...
Do not wait for stars to guide
be the sky where stars are born;
do not seek a path outside
be the path the world adorns...
Let pain be power, let struggle sing,
let silence shape your scream within;
for every ending hides a spark,
and every fall prepares a wing...
Your life—
not a flicker... but a fierce forever,
not a moment... but a mighty motion;
a blazing verse in the book of being,
a boundless, burning, bold devotion...
Ignite
not just to shine... but to set aflame;
not just to live... but to leave a name;
not just to dream... but to dare and do—
and turn your existence...
into an eternal EPIC.

... Dr. Peruka Raju ...
7810032847

Shri Ram:

The Inspirer of Good Governance
and Democratic Values

Ram Navami is not merely a religious festival; it is a sacred occasion for the moral and cultural renaissance of human civilization. At a time when the world is struggling with wars, violence, terrorism, intolerance, family disintegration, political distrust, and moral decline, the life philosophy of Shri Ram is not just a matter of faith but a guiding framework for human society and global politics. The life of Shri Ram is not merely a religious narrative; it is a complete philosophy of governance, society, family, war, diplomacy, justice, and human relationships that needs to be reinterpreted in modern contexts.

The entire life of Shri Ram is filled with extraordinary qualities and inspiring ideals. He cared more about the welfare of society than his personal happiness, and therefore he set numerous examples of sacrifice. Because of such ideals of kingship, the concept of Ram Rajya—an ideal state—has remained alive in India for centuries. The idea of Indian society without Shri Ram is almost unimaginable. With the construction of the Ram Temple, a powerful spiritual and cultural center has emerged, which can also create a positive environment for realizing the long-cherished dream of Ram Rajya. The Ram Temple can evolve as a center of life values and a laboratory of ethical living, because the character of Shri Ram has the potential to establish peace, non-violence, harmony, and human unity not only in India but across the world.

In the context of ongoing global conflicts such as tensions in the Middle East and the Russia-Ukraine war, and the looming fear of larger global conflicts, there is a strong need to universalize the ideals of Shri Ram so that humanity may live in peace and security. The life of Shri Ram first and foremost teaches the principle of Maryada—ethical restraint and moral discipline. The biggest crisis of the modern world is the crisis of restraint—there is no restraint in politics, society, family life, or even in international relations. Shri Ram's life teaches that restraint and ethics are more important than power. Despite having the strength and capability to claim the throne, he chose to honor his father's word and social ethics over personal ambition. If global politics could incorporate ethics and restraint, many wars could be avoided. If nations abandon expansionist policies and adopt justice-based policies, world peace would become possible.

Shri Ram's philosophy of war was very differ-



ent from modern warfare. He never considered war as the first option; for him, war was the last resort. First came dialogue, then diplomacy, then negotiation, and only when all options failed did he choose war. This model—dialogue, diplomacy, negotiation, and finally war—can serve as an ideal framework for modern international relations. If the modern world adopts this sequence, conflicts could be minimized.

Shri Ram also represents the ideal of good governance, known as Ram Rajya. Ram Rajya does not mean a religious state; it means a just, equitable, secure, prosperous, and ethical governance system. In Ram Rajya, there was no distance between ruler and people, governance was accountable, justice was swift, society was fearless, and economic inequality was minimal. Today, despite democracy, the distance between people and government is increasing, and politics is becoming a means of power rather than service. Shri Ram's governance teaches that the purpose of governance should be service, not power. If modern democracies draw inspiration from Ram Rajya, democracy can become more humane and responsible.

The life of Shri Ram is also a great example of family values. In today's world, families are breaking apart, communication between generations is declining, and relationships are increasingly based on self-interest. Shri Ram set ideals as a son, brother, husband, and friend. The relationship between Bharat and Ram remains one of the greatest examples of sacrifice and love in human history. If families replace rights with duties and selfishness with sacrifice, half of society's problems would disappear. From a social perspective, Shri Ram's life is equally significant. He respected and embraced people from all sec-

tions of society—Kevat, Shabari, Jatayu, Sugriva, Hanuman—each represented different sections of society. Shri Ram achieved victory by including everyone in his mission. This is a powerful lesson in social harmony. A nation becomes strong not merely through economic growth but through social unity and moral integrity.

Shri Ram's life also teaches that a great nation is not built merely by military strength or economic power but by character. If citizens are ethical and disciplined, the nation automatically becomes strong. Today, national strength is often measured only in terms of military and economic power, but Shri Ram's life teaches that moral power is the greatest power. Ravana had more wealth, knowledge, army, and power, yet he was defeated because he lacked moral strength. This is a profound message for the modern world. Today, when the world faces existential crises, environmental crises, war crises, and moral crises, Shri Ram's life offers the philosophy of balance—balance between power and peace, rights and duties, enjoyment and sacrifice, state and society, family and individual life. This balance alone can save human civilization.

Ram Navami does not merely ask us to worship Shri Ram; it asks us to bring his ideals into our personal lives, society, and national policies. If global politics learns from Shri Ram's war ethics, if democracy learns from his governance model, if families learn from his values, and if society learns from his social harmony, then the dream of an ideal society and an ideal nation can become reality. Today, the need is not only to build temples of Ram, but to build Ram within ourselves. When Ram is born within individuals, Ram Rajya will emerge in society. Ram is not merely history; Ram is not merely faith—Ram represents the moral future of human civilization. That is the true message of Ram Navami.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

Delhi Seeks Report on Karol Bagh Bus Accident

NEW DELHI: (MAR 25)

The Delhi transport department has sought details of the tourist bus accident in Karol Bagh that took place early Wednesday and claimed the lives of two passengers, with several others injured. "We have sought a report on the matter; further action will be taken after the report from all concerned is received," a senior transport official said. A speeding tourist bus from Jaipur overturned while taking a sharp turn near Hanuman Mandir in Karol Bagh's Jhandewalan area here early Wednesday, leading to the death of two passengers and injury to 23 others, police said.

No Panic Buying, Fuel Supply Normal

NEW DELHI, MARCH 25

The government said on Wednesday that it is making all efforts to ensure availability of LPG, petrol and diesel and citizens are advised to avoid panic purchases. Millennial media consulting No dry-outs have been reported at LPG distributorships or petrol pumps. Delivery of domestic LPG cylinders continues as normal, the official update of the situation said. The government has already restored partial commercial LPG supply of up to 20 per cent to consumers. Further, the government proposed an additional 10 per cent allocation linked to PNG expansion reforms. All refineries are operating at high capacity with adequate crude inventories, and sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel are being maintained. Domestic



LPG production from refineries has been increased to support domestic consumption, said an official statement from the inter-ministerial briefing. Citizens are requested to use digital mode for LPG bookings and avoid visiting LPG distributors.

"Supply of LPG continues to be affected due to the prevailing geopolitical situation. Citizens are encouraged to use alternative fuels such as PNG and electric or induction cooktops. Citizens are requested to conserve energy in their daily usage," said Petroleum Ministry. All retail outlets are operating normally across the country. Panic buying was reported in some areas due to rumours, resulting in unusually high sales and heavy crowding at retail

outlets. However, adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available at all petrol pumps, it added. The government reiterated its advice to the public rely on official sources for information and not to believe rumours. Enforcement drives are being carried out across States and UTs to curb hoarding and black marketing of LPG. More than 2,700 raids have been conducted and about 2,000 cylinders seized in States including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Chhattisgarh etc. yesterday, informed the government. PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs) conducted over 1,700 surprise inspections at retail outlets and LPG distributorships across the country. More than 650 FIRs have been registered till now and 155 people have been arrested so far.

Priority allocation continues with 100 per cent supply to domestic PNG for cooking and CNG for fuelling vehicles, while supply to industrial and commercial consumers connected to the grid is being maintained at around 80 per cent of average consumption. City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities have been advised to prioritise PNG connections for commercial establishments such as restaurants, hotels and canteens. CGD companies including IGL, MGL, GAIL Gas and BPCL are offering incentives for domestic and commercial PNG connections. An additional allocation of 48,000 KL of kerosene has been made to all States and UTs over and above the regular allocation. States and UTs have been requested to identify district-level distribution points, said the statement.



Teacher Harassment Case Escalates; UKD Demands Strict Action

BARKOT (UTTARKASHI):

A case involving alleged harassment, injustice, and defamation of a government primary school teacher has intensified, drawing political attention. The Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (UKD) has demanded strict action against those responsible.

Addressing a press conference at a local restaurant, party's Central Vice President Shanti Prasad Bhatt urged the government, administration, and police authorities to take firm legal action against the accused.

According to Bhatt, the affected teacher, Devkumar Jain, posted at Government Primary School Pindki in Nagaon block, has been facing prolonged harassment at both departmental and local levels. He alleged that the issue began after the teacher raised concerns over irregularities in student admissions. Bhatt further stated that certain individuals, in an attempt to suppress the matter, allegedly subjected the teacher and his wife, Shobha Jain, to so-

cial, economic, physical, and mental harassment. Raising concerns over the role of the police, Bhatt accused Barkot Police of carrying out only a "formal investigation" without taking effective action. He also alleged that a person claiming to be a journalist on Facebook tried to tarnish the teacher's clean image under the guise of journalism, an act strongly condemned by the party. The UKD leader demanded strict legal action against the said individual and urged recognized journalist bodies to take cognizance of the matter. He added that Devkumar Jain has already filed a defamation case against the alleged Facebook-based journalist and others involved. Targeting the state government, Bhatt remarked that instead of protecting honest employees, such individuals are being harassed in Uttarakhand. He called for a fair and impartial investigation and stringent action against the culprits. District General Secretary Pankaj Pokhriyal was also present during the press briefing.

31st Osho Meditation Camp to be Held from March 28 to 31

SHIVPURI:



Like every year, the 31st Osho Meditation Camp will be held from March 28 to 31 at Shiv Resort, located on Rataur Road. The camp will be conducted by world-renowned Osho facilitator Swami Anand Ekant from Madhuvan Osho Ashram, Champa (Chhattisgarh). Around 200 Osho followers from across the country will participate, immersing themselves in dance, meditation, spiritual practices, and listening to Osho's discourses (audio and video), experiencing infinite energy. According to the press release issued by the organizers of the Osho Family Shivpuri—chief organizer Rajkumar Bindal (Swami Devbandhu), chief manager Gopal Ji Swar Sangam (Swami Nikhil Anand), and media in-charge Dr. Bhupendra Vikal (Swami Krishna Anand)—about 200 Osho followers from Shivpuri district as well as from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattis-

garh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh have already registered and confirmed their participation. The four-day camp will begin on Saturday, March 28 at 1:00 PM. Each day, sessions will run from 5:00 AM to 8:30 PM, featuring various meditation activities in accordance with Osho's teachings, including dance, meditation, spiritual practices, and listening to Osho's discourses (audio and video). From 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM, dynamic meditation sessions along with cultural programs will also be organized. The camp will conclude on Tuesday, March 31 at 12:00 PM after the Osho Sannyas Festival. The Osho Family Shivpuri has been organizing Osho meditation camps in Shivpuri since 1990, and 29 camps have already been held.

"It is not easy to shake the chains of justice"

National Seminar and Mushaira organized in memory of Dr. Akhtar Bastavi

GORAKHPUR:

"It is not easy to shake the chains of justice; do not consider the world as the court of Jahangir"—with this impactful couplet, a grand national seminar and mushaira were organized in memory of the great poet and artist Dr. Akhtar Bastavi. The event was organized by Vikalp Foundation, Lucknow, in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy, Lucknow, and was held at Amba Marriage Hall, Sahjanwa Tehsil Road, Gorakhpur. On this occasion, renowned poet and actor C.P. Bhatt attended as the chief guest. In his address, he said that Dr. Akhtar Bastavi's poetry reflects the truth of society, the voice of justice, and the deep pain of humanity. He added that his works remain as relevant today as they were in his time. The program featured prominent poets and literary figures from across the country sharing their thoughts. Dr. Vinod Upadhyay said that Bastavi Sahab's poetry is the voice of the common man's heart, reflecting every



color of life. Dr. Afzal Hussain 'Afzal' described his works as a mirror of society, saying that his poetry makes us confront ourselves. Anwar Parsa remarked that Bastavi Sahab beautifully expressed human loneliness and emotions through his poetry. National poet Dr. Ram Krishna Lal 'Jagmag' described his couplets as the voice of justice and truth. Dr. Mohammad Ansari, Head of the Urdu Department at P.P. PG College, said that artists like him are rare—those who can reflect society through their words. Deepak Singh 'Premi' and Sagar Gorakhpuri also described Bastavi Sahab's poetry as a legacy that touches hearts.

During the mushaira, poets mesmerized the audience with their unique presentations. The nazm recited by Dr. Mohammad Ansari—"Why does time frighten us again, why does the calendar instill fear..."—received loud applause. Dr. Vinod Upadhyay recited—"Life seems like a platform, its charm never diminishes..." Deepak Singh 'Premi' said—"Played life like a gamble all my life, and never lost a bet at any destination..." Dr. Afzal Hussain 'Afzal' deepened the atmosphere with his couplet—"Wherever I raise my eyes, there are faces everywhere, yet among them I see a facelessness..." Dr. Ram Krishna Lal 'Jagmag's couplet—"It is not easy to shake the chains of justice; do not consider the world as the court of Jahangir..."—was a special attraction. Anwar Parsa recited—"A man wanders through the deserted hidden chambers of life, relying on the heart..." Additionally, Sagar Gorakhpuri, Tahir Faraz, Shakeel Azmi, Dr. Kaleem Kaiser, and many other poets presented their finest works.

At the end of the program, all guests and poets were honored by the secretary of the organization, Deepak Pandey. The program was presided over by Arvind Kumar Singh and conducted effectively by Ram Krishna Lal 'Jagmag'. Guests were welcomed by Ram Puran Chaudhary, Qayyum Khan 'Kammu', Mushtaq Ahmed, and Ashraf Jamal. A large audience, including Mushtaq Ahmed, Ashraf Jamal, Jameel Ahmed, Shah Nawaz Ahmed, Anil Keshri, Gulam Ahmed 'Milkku', Usman Gani 'Bablu', Ayub Khan, Anis Khan, Irfan Ahmed, Vinod Singh, Ibrar Ali, Saddam Khan, and Mithilesh, attended the event.

NFR Upgraded Quality of Bedroll to Enhance Comfort and Hygiene in Premium Trains

MALIGAON, 25 MARCH, 2026:



In a significant step towards modernising on-board amenities and enhancing passenger comfort, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has introduced upgraded linen services in two of its premium long-distance trains Agartala - Anand Vihar Terminal Tejas Express and Dibrugarh - New Delhi Rajdhani Express. This initiative reaffirms its commitment to delivering a cleaner, more comfortable and enhanced travel experience for passengers. The Agartala-Anand Vihar Terminal Tejas Express has been equipped with upgraded bedrolls featuring specially designed, superior-quality linen with effect from 23rd March 2026. This significant upgrade is aimed at ensuring enhanced cleanliness and improved hygiene. It also provides a more comfortable and refreshing journey for passengers availing premium services. The Dibrugarh - New Delhi Rajdhani Express has also been equipped with upgraded bedrolls in its AC coaches from 24th March 2026 covering both 1st AC and 2nd AC classes. Passengers are being provided with

standardized, high-quality bedrolls that are specially designed for enhanced comfort and quality. NFR emphasised that such initiatives reflect its commitment to enhancing passenger comfort and service standards. The upgraded bedrolls offer improved uniformity, durability and hygiene, particularly benefiting long-distance overnight travellers. Passengers have expressed great delight at the initiative and conveyed their sincere appreciation for such thoughtful, passenger focused improvements by NFR. The introduction of the upgraded bedroll service is in line with Indian Railways' vision of ensuring a safe, clean, and traveller-friendly travel environment. NFR continues to undertake progressive initiatives, reaffirming its focus on service excellence and customer satisfaction.

Delhi CM Opens Film Festival, Pushes Cultural Growth

NEW DELHI: (MAR 25)

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday inaugurated the International Film Festival Delhi (IFFD) 2026 and said the initiative will help position the national capital as a global hub for cinema and culture. The week-long festival, to be held from March 25 to 31, will showcase more than 125 Indian and international films and host a series of masterclasses, panel discussions and cultural events involving leading names from the film industry, an official statement said. Addressing the gathering at Bharat Mandapam, Gupta described the event as a significant step in strengthening Delhi's identity on the global cinematic platform.

Popularity of Online Ticket Bookings Surge

NEW DELHI, MARCH 25:

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has provided the facility to book reserved tickets online saving passengers from the trouble of going to reservation counters to book the tickets thus saving travel time and transportation costs. IRCTC incurs substantial expenditure on providing online ticketing facility and in order to defray the cost incurred in maintenance, upgradation and expansion of ticketing infrastructure, a very nominal convenience fee is levied by IRCTC. The online ticket booking facility provided by IRCTC is one of the most passen-

ger friendly initiatives of Indian Railways and its acceptance can be gauged from the fact that at present approximately 88% of the reserved tickets are booked online. Clerks are levied on cancellation of all wait-listed tickets including cancelled through IRCTC website as per the Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Tickets and Refund of Fare) Rules, 2015, notified through Gazette notification and as amended from time to time. Review and rationalization of policy is a continuous and ongoing process. To prevent the misuse of the reservation facility & to ensure transparency, the following steps have been taken by Indian Railways:

i. With effect from 01-07-2025, tickets under Tatkal Scheme can be booked through the website of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)/its app only by Aadhaar authenticated users.

ii. During the opening day of general reservation of ARP, the reserved general tickets can be booked through the website of IRCTC or its app only by Aadhaar authenticated users. Measures taken in this regard have improved ease of booking by reducing instant booking of tickets. The system has also been made more equitable by restricting multiple bookings using fake accounts. No user ac-

count has been deactivated due to non-linking of Aadhaar. IRCTC adopts broad parameters for identifying fake/malicious user ids/ User accounts like, unrealistic mobile numbers, disposable email domains, IP Addresses, Sequential and Gibberish User IDs etc. During calendar year 2025, 3.04 crore user accounts were deactivated and 2.94 crore user accounts were put under temporary suspension with option of Revalidation. However, during the period 01.01.2025 to 28.02.2026, 1,80,474 user accounts have been re-activated. Aadhaar authentication provides instantaneous verification of user uniqueness, which is critical con-

sidering the time-sensitive nature of Tatkal ticket booking. The introduction of Aadhaar authentication has helped in preventing the creation and operation of fake or unauthorized agent-controlled multiple user accounts by imposing a uniqueness constraint. This measure acts as an effective safeguard against account multiplication and automated misuse, thereby ensuring fair allocation of Tatkal tickets. Consequently, Aadhaar authentication has contributed to improved ticket availability for genuine passengers by reducing unfair booking practices and enhancing transparency in the online Tatkal booking system.

Official Language Panel Meets in Gorakhpur, Stresses Purity and Wider Use of Hindi

GORAKHPUR, MARCH 25, 2026:



A meeting of the Regional Official Language Implementation Committee was held on Tuesday at the General Manager's conference hall in Gorakhpur under the chairmanship of General Manager Uday Borwankar. The meeting reviewed the progress of Hindi usage in official work and emphasized improving both quality and consistency in its implementation across departments. The session began with a detailed PowerPoint presentation by Assistant Financial Advisor Mrs. Anju Mishra from the Accounts Department, who outlined various pension schemes of the Central Government. The presentation aimed at enhancing awareness among officials and ensuring better dissemination of information related to

employee welfare. The meeting witnessed the participation of department heads, Additional Chief Official Language Officers from all three divisions, and representatives from workshops and production units. Discussions revolved around strengthening the use of Hindi in official communication and ensuring compliance with government guidelines on the official language. Addressing the gathering, General Manager Borwankar highlighted the rich

literary heritage of the Northeast Railway region, noting that it has been home to several eminent writers, poets, and literary figures who have significantly contributed to the growth of Hindi. He said that while the region has nearly achieved 100% compliance in terms of official language targets, the focus must now shift toward ensuring linguistic purity and excellence. He expressed concern over the increasing tendency to write Eng-

lish words in Hindi script and stressed the importance of using appropriate Hindi equivalents. He encouraged officials to adopt refined and polite language in their daily work and urged them to continuously improve their vocabulary through regular reading and writing. The General Manager also referred to a presentation on the life and works of renowned Hindi poet Mahadevi Verma, whose birth anniversary falls on March 26. He noted that the coming year would mark her 120th birth anniversary and suggested that it should be celebrated in a meaningful way. Highlighting her connection to the region, he mentioned that she was born in Farrukhabad, which falls under the Northeast Railway jurisdiction. Further, Borwankar encouraged recognition of railway employees who demonstrate excellence in Hindi

writing and stressed the importance of maintaining linguistic discipline in official communication. He also drew attention to the region's association with Kabir, urging employees to draw inspiration from his teachings and literary works. Emphasizing continuous learning, he advised officials to adopt the practice of learning one new Hindi word every day and incorporating it into their usage. He said such small efforts could collectively contribute to the growth and enrichment of the language. He also nominated the Civil Engineering Department to deliver a presentation in the next committee meeting. Chief Official Language Officer Prakash Chandra Jaiswal welcomed the participants and reiterated that Northeast Railway has been consistently working toward increasing the use of Hindi in official work.

Indian Railways Introduces 1,024 Trains

Extends 907, Increases Frequency of 168 and Augments 4,651 Coaches in Last Five Years to Meet Rising Passenger Demand
74,800 Special Train Trips Operated During Festivals and Vacations
Between April 2025 and February 2026

NEW DELHI, MARCH 25:

Indian Railways has introduced 1,024 new trains over the past five years while extending 907 services and increasing the frequency of 168 others to meet growing passenger demand, the government said on Tuesday.

Replying in the Lok Sabha, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said 4,651 coaches were also added during this period to ease congestion, especially on busy routes. Train occupancy remains full during peak seasons, while some routes see lower utilisation

during lean periods, he noted. To address waiting lists, Railways regularly monitors demand and has rationalised waiting limits based on available accommodation. The national transporter has also focused on expanding non-AC travel, which caters largely to low and middle-income passengers. About 70% of the total 89,000 coaches are non-AC, with around 62,000 general and sleeper coaches. In the last financial year alone, 1,250 general coaches were deployed, while 860 more were added this year up to February 2026.



Tarique signals shift away from Pakistan

NEW DELHI: MAR 25, 2026

Tarique Rahman invoked the 1971 genocide at Pakistan's hands, countering what critics described as the soft-peddling of those atrocities under the Muhammad Yunus-led caretaker government. The message signals Bangladesh's intent to keep Pakistan at arm's length while projecting a balanced regional posture.

Tarique Rahman 1971 bangladesh massacre liberation war genocide india line shift away pakistan mohammed yunus operation searchlight geopolitics Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday marked Genocide Day (March 25) with a message that was a clear break from the soft-peddling of the country's bloodied 1971 history under the previous interim government of Muhammad Yunus. In a statement posted on social media, Rahman described March 25, 1971, as "one of the most disgraceful and brutal days" in Bangladesh's history. He recounted how Pakistani occupation forces launched Operation Searchlight, carrying out "one of the most heinous genocides in history" against unarmed civilians, teachers, intellectuals and police at places including Dhaka University, Pilkhana and Rajarbagh. "The genocide of 25 March was a pre-planned massacre," Rahman wrote. "Why this organised killing spree could not be resisted remains a matter of historical research regarding the visible role of the political leadership of that time." Rahman's reaffirmation of Pakistani atrocities might be the clearest signal yet of keeping Islamabad at arm's length.

Sri Lanka eyes two IMF tranches at once: Governor

COLOMBO: (MAR 25)

Faced with the external shock of the US and Israel's conflict with Iran, Sri Lanka has been looking forward to clenching two tranches together when the IMF team due here completes its mission, the island nation's central bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe said on Wednesday. An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team will arrive here on Thursday and remain until April 9 to conduct the combined fifth and sixth reviews of Sri Lanka's reform programme supported by the global lender's Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

25 injured as train derails in Pak's Punjab province

BY M ZULQERNAIN

LAHORE: (Mar 25) At least 25 people were injured when seven coaches of a train derailed in Punjab province of Pakistan, officials said on Wednesday. The incident that took place in Lodhran, some 400 Kms from Lahore, late on Tuesday night, prompted the railway officials to suspend traffic on the affected track. Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi said that human error and some mechanical issues are most probably the reasons behind the derailment of the Tezgam Express in Lodhran.

Iran fires missile at USS Abraham Lincoln an hour after Navy's warning

Iran has claimed it fired a cruise missile towards the USS Abraham Lincoln after issuing warnings to the United States, though there is no independent confirmation or US response.



The US is considering deploying the USS George HW Bush and its carrier battle group as the war with Iran drags on. Iranian Army public relations said coastal cruise missiles were fired in the direction of the US aircraft carrier. The claim, however, remains unverified independently. The development comes amid escalating rhetoric from Tehran. Earlier, the Iranian Navy issued a direct warning to the United States, stating that the USS Abraham Lincoln is under close surveillance and could be targeted if it approaches Iranian territory. According to a report by

state broadcaster Press TV, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani warned that the aircraft carrier would be struck by the Army Navy if it entered the range of Iran's missile systems. He said the vessel is being constantly monitored.

The warning was accompanied by broader remarks from senior Iranian military officials dismissing American influence. Press TV reported that Lieutenant Colonel Ebrahim Zolfagari, spokesperson for the Khatam al-Anbiya Cen-

tral Headquarters, said the "strategic power" previously claimed by the United States had now "turned into a strategic defeat."

These remarks follow what has been described as a de-escalation by US President Donald Trump, who stepped back from a 48-hour ultimatum to launch strikes against Iranian power plants. The shift reportedly came after Iran warned that any such attack would be met with reciprocal strikes on energy and power infrastructure across the region.

Responding to the change in the US stance, Zolfagari said, "If the self-proclaimed superpower of the world could have escaped this predicament, it would have done so by now. Do not call your defeat an agreement." The comments also appeared to counter Trump's claims on his Truth Social platform, where he said both countries had held "very good and constructive conversations" over the past two days towards resolving hostilities in West Asia. However, Press TV cited an informed source in Tehran as saying that no official communication had taken place between the two sides. Zolfagari echoed this position, stating that the era of relying on Washington's assurances is over. "The era of your promises is over. Today, there are only two fronts in the world: truth and falsehood. And every freedom-seeking pursuer of truth will not be deceived

by your media waves," he said. He also mocked what he described as internal divisions within the US administration, questioning whether the "level of your infighting reached the point of negotiating with yourselves." Zolfagari further claimed that previous levels of US investment and energy prices in the region would not return, asserting that regional stability is now determined by Iran's military capabilities. "Stability in the region is ensured by the powerful hand of our armed forces," he said, describing the situation as "stability through power." He added that there would be no return to the previous status quo unless the idea of military action against Iran is "completely erased." "Our first and last word from day one has been, is, and will be: someone like us will not come to terms with someone like you—not now, and not ever," he said.

1-month ceasefire, no nukes, reopen Hormuz Trump's 15-point plan to end Iran war

NEW DELHI: MAR 25, 2026

The US has put forward a 15-point proposal to Iran to end the Middle East conflict, which includes conditions such as strict curbs on Tehran's nuclear programme, an end to support for proxy groups and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Washington is also pushing for a month-long ceasefire to enable negotiations. However, given the sweeping nature of the demands and Iran's consistent resistance to similar proposals, Tehran is unlikely to accept the plan in its current form. Other key elements of the proposed peace plan include dismantling Iran's missile capabilities and related military infrastructure. In return, the US will offer partial sanctions relief, permit a UN-monitored civilian nuclear programme with a fuel facility located outside Iran and

explore economic engagement to help revive Tehran's economy. In response to Trump's proposal, Iran has set tough ceasefire conditions, including closure of US bases in the Gulf, lifting of all sanctions, halting Israeli operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon, and allowing Tehran to levy transit fees in the Strait of Hormuz, according to a Wall Street Journal report. Israeli officials, who have been urging Trump to continue the war, currently in its fourth week, were surprised by the US's ceasefire proposal, a person told The Associated Press. The development comes even as the US military prepares to deploy over 3,000 additional troops to the region, adding to the roughly 50,000 already stationed in the Middle East. A source familiar with the matter confirmed to Reuters that the US had shared the peace plan with

Iran but did not disclose further details. According to The New York Times, the proposal was conveyed to Iran through intermediaries from Pakistan, which has offered to host renewed talks between Washington and Tehran to end the conflict. On Truth Social, Trump on Tuesday reshared a post by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who said that Islamabad was ready to "facilitate meaningful and conclusive talks" to end the Iran war. According to multiple officials, the US has agreed in principle to join talks in Pakistan, though mediators are still working to bring Iran on board. The negotiations could begin as early as next week, with US representatives likely to include Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.

15-POINT PLAN NOT A NEW DOCUMENT

However, diplomats say that Trump's 15-point peace framework for Iran is not entirely new. According to The Guardian, the document is largely based on a proposal put forward by Trump's team during nuclear talks in May 2025, shortly before those negotiations collapsed following Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities. The earlier plan reportedly imposed sweeping conditions, including strict limits on Iran's nuclear and missile programmes, shipping out uranium stockpiles, disabling enrichment facilities, and restricting how sanctions relief funds could be used, while offering only partial sanctions rollback and a UN-monitored civilian nuclear programme. There remains uncertainty over whether a revised version has been formally presented to Iran. Some diplomats doubt any substantial new proposal exists,

and even if it does, it may not yet have been shared with Tehran. Trump claimed that "very good and productive" conversations over the past two days had led to progress with Iran. However, Tehran rejected the assertion, saying no back channel talks had taken place beyond limited indirect contacts about reviving negotiations. Iran, meanwhile, has denied any backchannel negotiations and accused Trump of trying to calm US markets by delaying threatened strikes, which he said were postponed for five days to allow time for a potential "15 points of agreement." Meanwhile, the Pentagon is deploying additional forces to the region, including Marine units, in what officials describe as an effort to retain "maximum flexibility." Iran has previously warned it could mine the Gulf if US troop movements escalate.

Iran eyes Vance as key for war-ending talks

NEW DELHI: MAR 25, 2026

Snubs, sarcasm and shifting power play - Iran's choice of JD Vance over Trump's trusted aides reveals a deeper mistrust, raising questions over who really controls the path to ending the war. In a move dripping with both strategy and scepticism, Iran has reportedly made it clear that it would rather deal with Vice President JD Vance than the very people hand-picked by Donald Trump to negotiate peace. If diplomacy is



theatre, Tehran has just recast the lead. Backchannel messages to Washington carry a blunt message. Talks led by Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff are a non-starter. Iran's distrust is

not subtle. It is absolute. "With the previous negotiating team, there's no chance," a diplomatic source said as quoted by CNN. "The Iranian side regards the request for negotiations as an-

other round of deception for the US-Israeli regime to find out a loophole to aggravate the strikes again." In other words, Tehran believes it has seen this script before. Talks on the table, bombs in the air. That is where Vance enters the frame. Unlike Trump's inner circle, Vance is viewed in Tehran as someone less enthusiastic about military adventures in the Middle East. "The perception is that Vance would be intent on wrapping up the conflict," a CNN source said. Another put it more blunt-

ly, "If the negotiations are going to have any outcome, JD Vance should join. With Witkoff and Kushner, nothing will come out of it. We have seen that in the past," the Daily Beast reported. For Iran, the choice is less about preference and more about damage control. Pick the man least associated with the war you are trying to end. The mistrust traces back to the collapse of nuclear negotiations that were underway when Trump ordered strikes on Iran. Tehran now sees those talks as a facade.

Shutdown of US bases, Hormuz transit fees Iran sets tough terms for ceasefire

From shutting US bases to controlling a key global oil route, Iran's demands in response to Trump's proposal set a steep stage for talks, but hints of flexibility quietly emerge behind the scenes.



In response to a proposal by Donald Trump for renewed talks, Iran has reportedly set sweeping demands, from shutting down American military bases in the Gulf to ending sanctions and securing control over a key shipping route. This came even as Tehran publicly rebuffed Washington's claims of ongoing negotiations, saying that there is no chance of a deal between the two adversaries. According to a Wall Street Journal report, Tehran has conveyed that the bar for re-entering negotiations on a ceasefire deal remains high, even as indirect engagement between the two sides takes

shape. Iranian representatives have pushed for the closure of all American bases in the Gulf, financial compensation for wartime damage, and an end to Israel's campaign against Hezbollah. They have also sought a framework that would allow Iran to collect fees from ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes. People familiar with the matter said the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has consolidated power within the country's leadership and is driving these de-

mands, reported Channel 12. STRAIT OF HORMUZ AT CENTRE Another key condition includes a new arrangement governing the Strait of Hormuz that would effectively place it under Iranian control, alongside firm guarantees that hostilities would not resume. Iran has also insisted on the lifting of all sanctions as part of any agreement to end the conflict. SIGNS OF LIMITED FLEXIBILITY Despite the tough public stance, there are indications

that Tehran may be signalling some flexibility in private. According to Channel 12, Iran could consider halting its ballistic missile programme for five years and reducing uranium enrichment levels. It may also enter discussions over its stockpile of 60 per cent enriched uranium and allow inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency of remaining centrifuges. POSSIBLE SHIFT ON REGIONAL PROXIES The reports suggest Iran could also agree to stop funding regional proxy groups, including Hezbollah, Hamas and Iraqi militias, as part of a broader deal. These positions are being viewed as potential opening moves, even as the official stance remains firm. 'NEGOTIATING WITH YOURSELF' In a pointed attack, earlier Iranian military spokesperson Ebrahim Zolfagari mocked the US leadership. "The United States is negoti-

ating with itself," he said, according to state media. "Has the level of your inner struggle reached the stage of you negotiating with yourself?" he asked, adding, "People like us can never get along with people like you." Zolfagari also warned that US economic interests would remain under pressure. "US investments and pre-war energy prices would not return as long as Washington does not accept that regional stability is guaranteed by Iranian armed forces," he said. HIGH-STAKES NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD The contrasting signals, hardline demands in public and possible concessions in private, underline the complexity of the negotiations now unfolding. With both sides testing the limits of what the other may accept, the path to any ceasefire agreement appears uncertain, with the stakes extending well beyond the immediate conflict.



Indian-origin man arrested in US child predator sting, capture caught in bodycam

SANTA FE (US), MAR 25, 2026

An Indian national was among four people arrested in the US state of New Mexico last month, following a secret operation to expose child sexual abuse. According to The American Bazaar, the Santa Fe Police department took 26-year-old Nagaraju Balkam into custody following the undercover sting operation.

igin man standing outside. Moments later, officers rush out and take Balkam into custody. As several officers move to handcuff him, one of them asks if he can speak English or Spanish. Later, officers escorted Balkam to a nearby room and continued to search him. Balkam was arrested on charges of "Sexual Exploitation of Children by Prostitution and Child Solicitation by Electronic Communication Device (Meets with Child)." In simple terms, this is a criminal act where an individual uses social media, messaging apps or gaming platforms to groom, solicit, or entice minors for sexual abuse in real world. Apart from Balkam, the secret operation also led to the arrest of 59-year-old Eduardo Ramirez, 55-year-old Harold Adams and 29-year-old Tomas Cajo.

The official bodycam footage of the arrest, released by the police department in the first week of March, has now gone viral on social media. The viral footage shows officers standing behind a closed door, waiting to apprehend the 26-year-old Indian-or-



He's a warrior: Trump cheers Saudi Crown Prince as Gulf allies lean into Iran war

NEW DELHI: MAR 25, 2026

As the conflict with Iran deepens, Donald Trump has openly praised key Gulf allies, calling Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman a "warrior" while backing the role of regional partners in the ongoing war effort. The remarks come even as reports suggest Saudi Arabia is urging Washington to intensify military operations against Iran.

Asked about reports that the Saudi leader is pushing for a prolonged campaign, Trump struck a supportive tone. "He's a warrior. He's fighting with us, by the way. Saudi Arabia has been excellent. And the UAE, excellent. And I will tell you, Qatar, incredible," Trump said.

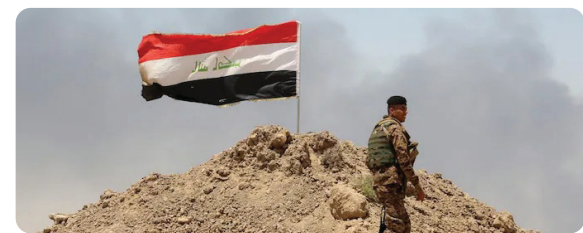
"Qatar took a hit, a pretty bad hit. Qatar is very close. You know, you can essentially walk right over the border. Qatar took a hit, but they've been very strong."

According to reports, Mo-

ammed bin Salman has privately encouraged Trump to continue operations in Iran, warning that Tehran poses a long-term threat to the Gulf. The discussions are said to include the possibility of expanding military action, including a high-risk operation targeting Kharg Island, a key hub of Iran's oil infrastructure. The option, involving airborne forces or an amphibious assault, is seen as a dangerous escalation.

GULF ALIGNMENT

Trump's remarks also extended to other regional allies, including the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, both of which he described as strong partners during the conflict. He also praised Kuwait, even after an incident in which Kuwaiti forces mistakenly shot down three American fighter jets. The growing alignment between Washington and Gulf capitals signals a broader regional front taking shape against Iran, even as the risks of escalation continue to rise.



7 soldiers killed, 13 others injured in airstrike on Shi'ite site in western Iraq

BAGHDAD: MAR 25, 2026

The ministry condemned the strike as a "blatant and serious violation" of international laws and norms prohibiting attacks on medical facilities and personnel. Seven Iraqi soldiers were killed, and 13 others wounded in an airstrike on a site belonging to Iraq's Shi'ite Popular Mobilization Forces near an army medical centre in western Anbar, security sources and the defence ministry said on Wednesday. The ministry said the strike, which

took place at around 9 am local time, hit a military clinic and a nearby engineering unit. Rescue teams were still searching the site for possible additional casualties. The ministry condemned the strike as a "blatant and serious violation" of international laws and norms prohibiting attacks on medical facilities and personnel, describing it as a dangerous escalation and calling for those responsible to be held accountable. It reserved the right to respond in accordance with legal frameworks, the ministry said.

US Fireball Shattered With Force Of 26 Tons Of TNT, Sent Meteorite Crashing Through Texas Home

A bright fireball exploded over the Texas skies just a few days ago, and it seems to have dropped a meteorite right through the roof of a house in the Houston suburbs. There were no casualties, but Sherrie James Williams, who lives in the Spring area, north of central Houston, has a brand new hole in her roof.

"I heard a big boom in my daughter's room, and I thought maybe something just fell," James Williams told local news station KHOU11 at the weekend. "My grandson went to check and said there was a hole in the ceiling ... then I saw the rock, and I thought, 'That looks like a meteor,'" she continued. James contacted the fire department, who first thought it was something from a plane, before finding out that there had been many reports of a fireball over Texas.

According to NASA, the fireball was traveling at a speed of 15.6 kilometers per second (3.4 miles per second). The object was about a meter across, and it broke apart, clearly leaving behind fragments. "An analysis of the currently available data indicates that the meteor became visible at an altitude of 49 miles above Stagecoach, located northwest of Houston. It moved southeast at 35,000 miles per

hour, breaking apart 29 miles above Bammel, just to the west of Cypress Station," the NASA fireball website stated.

"The disintegration of the asteroidal fragment – which weighed about a ton with a diameter of 3 feet – unleashed an energy of 26 tons of TNT, creating a pressure wave that propagated to the ground and causing the booms heard by some in the area. Doppler weather radar shows meteorites

falling to the ground between Willowbrook and Northgate Crossing."

Meteorites of such size are far from rare. There have been nine major fireballs reported in the US since February. What's a bit peculiar is that in the last few weeks, three of them have come down over pretty urban areas and have been visible in the daytime. That means a higher number of eye-witness reports, video footage, and a higher possibility of meteorites hitting an object. In Germany

early this month, a space rock reportedly hit a roof, and some meteorites may have been found following the Ohio fireball of last week.

Last year, a fireball over Atlanta dropped a meteorite through a roof that was discovered to be 20 million years older than Earth. Fortunately, on all these occasions, nobody was hurt. Only one person is known to have been hit by a meteorite and lived to tell the tale: Ann Hodge of Oak Grove, Alabama, back in 1953.

NASA Kills Lunar Gateway, Announces Ambitious Plans For Moon Base Ready In Early 2030s



Just a few weeks ago, NASA announced major changes to its Artemis program. The first human Moon landing in decades was shifted from Artemis III to Artemis IV with the goal of doing not one but two Moon landings in 2028. During today's Ignition press conference, NASA chief Jared Isaacman went even further, announcing plans to build a base on the surface of the Moon in the early 2030s, and explaining the plan to make it happen. Unfortunately, that means the end of the Lunar Gateway.

The Gateway is a proposed and partially built space station that was going to orbit the Moon and work as a halfway stop for astronauts. Last year, the Trump administration proposed some major cuts to NASA's 2026 budget, and the Gateway was among many missions cut. (The European Space Agency told IFLScience back in November it planned to go ahead with Gateway.) The 2026 budget was approved by Congress in January with major changes, so NASA's budget ended up being pretty healthy. But in the end, the new NASA Administrator, billionaire and private astronaut Jared Isaacman, still pivoted away from that space station.

SO, WHAT'S NEW? HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW.

NASA's New Vision For The Moon

The plan is now focused on the lunar surface, and it is very bold. NASA wants to have a Moon base that astronauts can occupy, not for days but for months, and they want it ready in a matter of years. In the plan, NASA proposed 24 launches

between 2028 and 2030, deploying a lot of basic and smaller payloads that will provide the initial infrastructure to build this base. During those years, NASA doesn't expect the astronauts to stay that long on the Moon's surface at first.

NASA wants to increase the Commercial Lunar Payload Services to increase mission quantities and cadence, and from 2031, it will bring larger materials to the Moon. The agency expects a cadence of seven landings per year between 2031 and 2036. This is needed to bring rovers (both robotic and for transportation), power plants, habitats, and more to the Moon.

NASA will deploy a satellite constellation on the Moon to improve communications at first, before adding permanent surface cell towers, and eventually navigation. When it comes to energy generation, NASA will start with solar, before deploying radioisotope thermal generators (RTGs) and nuclear power plants (to survive the 14-day-long lunar night). The habitat demos will be tested during phase 2 between 2031 and 2033.

Can This Be Done?

NASA was upfront that certain limitations are major challenges to making this happen. There are supply chain, capacity, and manufacturing capabilities to consider, and the testing of these technologies. On top of that, some technologies are not yet mature enough to be deployed and there is uncertainty that they will be ready by these very tight deadlines.

A lunar nuclear power plant has been going through design and testing for the last few years, and it might be ready to be delivered to the sur-

face of the Moon by the end of the decade if things continue to proceed successfully.

What happens if there are setbacks?

A similar question hangs over the human lander vehicles. SpaceX's Starship rocket and Human Landing System should be further along than it is, and a leaked memo suggests that it won't be ready until September 2028. Blue Origin's Blue Moon lunar landers are not supposed to be ready until 2030. Both need to be tested next year if they are to bring humans to the surface of the Moon in 2028.

The other uncertainty is money. Each three-year-long phase has a \$10 billion budget. The press conference stressed that the goal was to "achieve President Donald J. Trump's National Space Policy and advance American leadership in space." The Trump administration's proposed budget last year included a 25 percent cut in NASA's budget, which would have devastated the space agency. Will NASA receive adequate funding to achieve these lunar goals, and not at the expense of all its other work?

"NASA is committed to achieving the near-impossible once again, to return to the Moon before the end of President Trump's term, build a Moon base, establish an enduring presence, and do the other things needed to ensure American leadership in space," Isaacman said in the press conference.

The starting point for this bold plan should occur next week with the expected launch of Artemis II on April 1 and the return of humans into deep space after more than 50 years.

Unexpected Pink Boulders Found On Antarctic Mountain Peaks Reveal A Hidden Deep World Below

On top of the Hudson Mountains in West Antarctica, strange pink boulders stand starkly against a backdrop of ice, snow, and dark volcanic rock. Perched in the mountain peaks, their presence seems unexpected at first glance, as if they were placed by a giant or plunked there from another world. However, recent research has revealed a far more grounded explanation that lurks beneath the ice-capped region.

In a project last year, scientists led by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) were able to trace the origins of the pink granite in the Hudson Mountains and uncover how it arrived in such an unlikely setting.

By analyzing the radioactive decay of elements in the rock crystals, the team determined they formed around 175 million years ago, during the Jurassic Period.

Another piece of the puzzle came from aircraft surveys of the region that detected small variations in gravitational pull around the southern Hudson Mountains. This gravity anomaly indicated that something lay deep beneath the mountain's Pine Island Glacier – it was a hidden subglacial body of granite measuring 100 kilometers (62 miles) wide and 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) thick.

After ruling out other explanations, these two lines of evidence suggest the pink rocks reached the mountaintop at a time when the glacier behaved very differently. Glaciers are constantly shifting shape, albeit very slowly, moving like a super-thick syrup over the course of centuries and millennia. Over vast periods of time, the glacier appears to have collected rocks from the now-hidden granite body and carried them uphill.

The pink granites are what's known as "glacial erratics"; rocks transported long distances from their place of origin by the slow-moving flow of ice. It's more common for glaciers to carry ge-

ological debris down slopes under their own weight, but under certain conditions, it's possible for them to move material uphill and across land when ice sheets change in shape, size, or direction of flow.

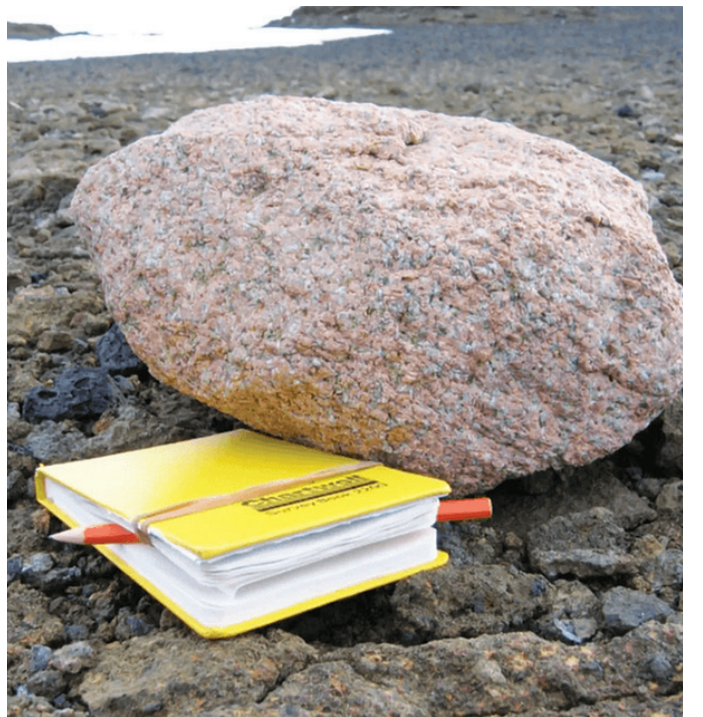
"It's remarkable that pink granite boulders spotted on the surface have led us to a hidden giant beneath the ice," Dr. Tom Jordan, lead author and geophysicist at BAS, said in a statement. "By combining geological dating with gravity surveys, we've not only solved a mystery about where these rocks came from, but also uncovered new information about how the ice sheet flowed in the past and how it might change in the future."

The vast timescales involved can make it difficult to gauge exactly how glaciers behave, but ancient rocks can act like literal milestones, recording their journeys in the past.

In the 21st century, the processes that shape glaciers have grown more complex still. Rising temperatures are driving ice loss at an unprecedented rate across the world, not least in Antarctica, making these ancient rocky records all the more valuable to scientists.

"Rocks provide an amazing record of how our planet has changed over time, especially how ice has eroded and altered the landscape of Antarctica. Boulders like these are a treasure-trove of information about what lies deep beneath the ice sheet, far out of reach," explained Dr. Joanne Johnson, study co-author and geologist at BAS, who collected the boulders during fieldwork in the Hudson Mountains.

"By identifying their source, we have been able to piece together how they got to where they are today, giving us clues about how the West Antarctic Ice Sheet may change in future -- information that is vital for determining the impact of sea level rise on coastal populations around the world."



IPL 2026



KKR pick Saini as for injured Rana



NEW DELHI: Three-time winners Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have picked Navdeep Saini as a player replacement for the injured Harshit Rana for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, whereas Gujarat Titans have replaced Prithviraj Yarra with Kulwant Khejroliya. Rana was previously ruled out of the tournament because of a ligament strain in his right knee that he got during the T20 World Cup, further weakening KKR's bowling unit. Akash Deep and Matheesha Pathirana are also out with injuries. Saini has previously played for Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Gujarat Titans (GT) have picked Navdeep Saini.

IPL 2026

Worked hard on fitness to keep motivation after IPL



MUMBAI: David Warner, the former Australian opener, has revealed that he worked really hard to keep himself motivated and fit after retiring from the Indian Premier League (IPL) two years ago, as he reaches Pakistan and gets ready to captain the Karachi Kings in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), a news report said on Wednesday. The 39-year-old Warner, who has represented Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals in a stellar 15-season career in the IPL before joining the neighbouring League last year, quit international cricket a few years back. He had to endure some tough times because of poor form in IPL, lost his captaincy, and was not retained by his franchise. Warner, who led Sunrisers to their only IPL title in 2016, scored 6,565 runs in 184 matches.

IPL 2026

Making to playoffs isn't enough, LSG have to win



NEW DELHI: With a renewed squad and clear lessons from the past, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) owner Sanjiv Goenka has outlined the franchise's evolution heading into the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 and has said that having made it to the playoffs twice is 'not good enough' as the team now aims at winning their first trophy. Reflecting on IPL 2025, Goenka pointed to the team's resilience despite significant injury setbacks, particularly within the bowling department. "The positive was that we won four of our first six games despite most of our frontline bowlers being injured," he told JioStar.

'To come back from 2-1 and clinch the series is super special,' says Maharaj

CHRISTCHURCH

South Africa skipper Keshav Maharaj lauded the efforts and the hunger of young players as the team registered a 33-run win against New Zealand in the final T20I to seal the five-match series by 3-2 at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Wednesday.

Batting first, South Africa posted 187/4 on the scoreboard from 20 overs, with Esterhuizen leading the charge with the bat. In reply, New Zealand were bundled out for just 154 runs in 20 overs and lost the match by 33 runs.

The Proteas were lagging behind by 2-1 after the first three matches, but then made a brilliant comeback and won the last two matches to clinch the series. Maharaj feels that the win will give crucial lessons to the youngsters who were playing international cricket for the first time. "It's a wonderful opportunity for these youngsters to understand what international cricket is about.

I think coming here, not a lot of people gave us credit with the young side that we had, but to see the hunger, desire, and passion, which you know to come back from

2-1 and clinch the series is super special. It just shows the depth in our system and how well the youngsters are sort of putting their hands up," Maharaj said in the post-match presentation.

"Like I said, I think going 2-1 down, probably not our best starting display, but to see the youngsters come through and put in two really good performances with the bat, I think as a captain, as a coaching staff, I think you can be really happy. We don't have the experience here, but to see how the guys played, it just looked like it was an easy transition into international cricket despite some pressure behind them," he added. Five debutants took part in the series as main players were rested after the recently concluded T20 World Cup 2026, where South Africa lost to New Zealand in the semi-final. 'Subpar finish disappointing after strong comeback': Neesham reflects on NZ's 3-2 series loss to South Africa. 'Subpar finish disappointing after strong comeback': Neesham Stand-in skipper Jimmy Neesham admitted that New Zealand's below-par performances in the final games cost them the T20I series against the South Africa



cricket team, after the hosts went down by 33 runs in the decider at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Wednesday.

Chasing 188, New Zealand could only manage 154/8 despite brief resistance in the middle overs, as South Africa sealed the five-match series 3-2.

Reflecting on the campaign, Neesham said the team did well to bounce back after an early setback but failed to maintain momentum towards the end. "It was obviously a tough start, and then we fought back in games two and three to go 2-1 up. But unfortunately, a couple of subpar performances at the

back end of the series are disappointing," he said.

The all-rounder also highlighted the demanding international calendar, with New Zealand players featuring across formats since October. "It's been a long summer. It's been going right from October. I'm looking forward to my six days

at home since then. That's just the nature of scheduling these days—there's cricket on all year round," he added.

With several first-choice players unavailable, Neesham emphasised the positives of giving opportunities to younger players during the series. "It was a good opportunity with a few guys absent to blood some young players. We saw some good experiences gained, some tough lessons, and some good moments. I think everyone who came in will take away something to make themselves better," he said.

Assessing the areas of concern, Neesham pointed out that fielding lapses, particularly in the series finale, hurt the team. "I thought we batted and bowled okay, but the fielding was probably a little bit below par, especially tonight. Under lights, it's never easy, but that's an area we can improve," he noted.

He also credited South Africa's bowling unit for challenging New Zealand's batters. "They brought a quality bowling attack. It gave a few of our batters a good taste of what the next level is like," Neesham concluded.

Sports are the Lifeblood of Police Duties



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at the Inaugural Ceremony of the 74th B.N. Mullick All India Police Football Championship

HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla stated that sports not only promote physical fitness but also serve as the lifeblood for personality development, discipline, and the effective discharge of police duties.

He was speaking as the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of the 74th B.N. Mullick All India Police Football Championship 2025-26, held at Gachibowli Stadium on Wednesday.

Recalling his deep passion for sports, the Governor referred to his earlier tenure as Minister for Sports in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. He appreciated the participation of police personnel from across the country, who had come together setting aside their uniforms to don sports jerseys to celebrate the spirit of camaraderie and healthy competition.

Governor expressed hope that the participation of women police personnel in such competitions would increase significantly in the coming years, emphasizing that their involvement would further strengthen the

forces and promote inclusivity.

The Governor noted that for police personnel, sports are not merely a recreational activity but an essential means to remain mentally agile and physically fit to meet the demanding nature of their duties. Commending Telangana's emergence as a hub for sporting excellence through initiatives such as the Young India Sports University, he advised participants to uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship by competing with enthusiasm, fairness, and integrity. He underscored that dedication and effort are more important than victory or defeat, and extended his best wishes to all athletes, urging them to enjoy their stay in Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy expressed his happiness and pride that Hyderabad was hosting this prestigious championship. DGP said that the Governor's presence had added grandeur to the event and served as a source of inspiration to the participants.

Highlighting the importance of sports in policing, he stated that qualities such as teamwork, strategy, endurance, quick decision-making, and mutual trust reflected in the game of football are essential for every police officer. He described the championship as not just a competition, but a celebration of unity, cooperation, and camaraderie

among police forces across the country.

He further remarked that such events reinforce the shared commitment of all police forces, regardless of state, towards safeguarding citizens, upholding the law, and maintaining peace and order. DGP urged the players to uphold honesty and fairness while representing their respective teams. Concluding his address, he congratulated the organizing staff for their efforts and expressed hope that the tournament would be a grand success. Delivering the welcome address, Inspector General of Police (Sports) Gajarao Bhupal highlighted Telangana's rich football legacy and noted that several police personnel from the state had excelled at national and international levels. He informed that matches would be conducted across five venues in Hyderabad, Cyberabad Police Commissioner M. Ramesh expressed gratitude to the Governor, the DGP, and other dignitaries for gracing the occasion.

Following a ceremonial march-past by teams from various states, the Governor, the DGP, and other officials witnessed the inaugural match for a brief period. RBVRR Telangana Police Academy Director Abhilasha Bisht, Additional DGPs Sanjay Kumar Jain and Anil Kumar, DIG Abhishek Mohanty, and other senior officers were present at the event.

'I think it's a fresh start now', says Prithvi Shaw on return to Delhi Capitals

NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals (DC) opener Prithvi Shaw says he is treating the upcoming Indian Premier League season (IPL) as a fresh start for himself in the set-up, adding that his focus is firmly on contributing to the team and then working his way back into the Indian team.

"It's always a new start, hundred percent. There are a lot of memories, but it's history and things can't be repeated. It's a fresh start. There's a fresh team, a lot of new things have happened. I was not here last year; I just joined this year.

"So there are a lot of new things, so I think it's a fresh start. Whatever we have practiced, we have done it so that the IPL can start well. So obviously it's a fresh start. All the good memories we have collected together were done previously and I think it's a fresh start now," Shaw told reporters on the sidelines of DC's practice session at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday.

Shaw, who missed IPL 2025, was re-signed by Delhi for the 2026 season. Between the 2018 and 2024 seasons, he scored 1,892 runs in 79 innings at a strike rate of 148, though his form fluctuated. He managed only 106 runs in 2023 but showed more explosiveness in 2024 with 198 runs at a strike rate of 164, though he had five scores of below 20. In between, fitness and behavioural issues meant he went out of favour for the Mumbai domestic team and shifted base to Maharashtra.

"I think everything is going well. I have never personally considered myself weak. I have always believed in myself, even if no one has. My family has supported me. I am not a person who thinks a lot. It's all about the present for me - what I am doing today, how much effort I can put in today. "Obviously, there were a lot



of learnings in the last few years. You have to keep learning. If there is nothing to learn, then what's the point? So obviously, we have to keep learning. I have handled all the ups and downs very well. It was a lot of fun in the last few years. There were runs and no runs. I worked hard in some places.

"So it's been good," he added. What has also contributed to Prithvi being in a happy space is his recent engagement to long-time partner, actor and influencer Akriti Agarwal. "I am not married yet. I feel that when you get a good partner, then it's the right time and I did it. Actually, this is the first time I was asked this question. That's why I am a little flustered. I don't usually do it."

"Stability was there before. But obviously, she has been my lucky charm. Both of them worked hard to build a relationship. It wasn't easy for us as well. But we both understood our life and where we belong. I am a cricketer; she is an actress. But we have to sacrifice some stuff and keep all those things in mind," he said.

A lot of people still feel Shaw, who has been capped in all formats for India, is still the next-door prodigy and the opener replied to that notion in affirmative. "I am still a small kid and I don't feel old. Sometimes I feel that I have just now won the U-19 World Cup. But it's been more than eight years now.

Northern Railway defeats Central Railway

to win 46th All India Railway Women Hockey Championship at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala

KAPURTHALA

The 46th All India Railway Women Hockey Championship, organized at Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala, concluded successfully today. In an exciting final match, Northern Railway defeated Central Railway 2-0 to clinch the championship title. In a hard fought final, Northern Railway team took lead in 14th minute when Kanika Siwach scored a field goal. Later in 49th Minute, Manju scored through penalty corner to give a decisive 2-0 lead. Divya Thepe of Central Railway was declared player of the Final.



Earlier, in the third-place match, host RCF Kapurthala defeated South Eastern Railway, Kolkata 1-0 to secure third position in the championship. Annu scored the decisive goal for RCF through a penalty stroke in the 54th minute

of the match.

A total of nine teams from Zonal Railways and Production Units participated in this prestigious championship. To make the competition more competitive, the teams were divided into two pools.

Pool-A comprised Central Railway Mumbai, South Eastern Railway Kolkata, Western Railway Mumbai, North Eastern Railway Gorakhpur, and East Central Railway Hajipur, while

Pool-B included host Rail Coach

Factory Kapurthala, North Central Railway Prayagraj, Northern Railway New Delhi, and West Central Railway Jabalpur.

From Pool-A, Central Railway Mumbai and South Eastern Railway Kolkata, and from Pool-B, Northern Railway New Delhi and RCF Kapurthala advanced to the semifinals, where Central Railway and Northern Railway emerged victorious to enter the final.

Following the final match, a prize distribution ceremony was held in which renowned hockey player Rajbir Kaur, popularly known as the "Golden Girl," presented awards to the winning and runner-up teams as well as the players. On this occasion, senior officials of RCF i Shri K. S. Asla, President of the RCF Sports Association, Shri Sukhraj Singh, General Secretary, Sh . Balwinder



Singh Shammii, Smt. Sukhjit Kaur, Sh. Bikram Jit Singh Kahlon, Sh. Jagmohan Singh, Sh Sanjay Bir, members of the Sports Association, and a large number of sports enthusiasts and spectators were present. Lal Thant Luangi of RCF was declared Player of the Championship and was presented a special trophy sponsored by Olympian

Balwinder Singh Shammii, besides a cash award of Rs 11000/-.

The participation of several Olympians and international-level women hockey players significantly elevated the standard of the championship, making it highly competitive and providing spectators with thrilling and high-quality hockey matches.

Did SS Rajamouli Give Hollywood Media Rare Access to Varanasi Sets?



Director S. S. Rajamouli is once again in the spotlight with his upcoming film Varanasi. This time, the buzz is not only about the story or star cast, but also about a surprising move that has caught everyone's attention. Many people are now asking one question: did Rajamouli really allow Hollywood media to visit his film sets? Recent reports say that the team shared pictures of the grand Varanasi sets. These images quickly went viral on social media. What shocked fans the most was that international media teams were invited to India even before the teaser release. This kind of access is very rare in Indian cinema.

Foreign journalists were allowed to visit the shooting locations and see the sets closely. They explored the detailed work created by the film team. The sets include ghats, temples, narrow streets, and small buildings that look just like the real city of Varanasi. Many viewers online even found it difficult to believe that these were not real locations.

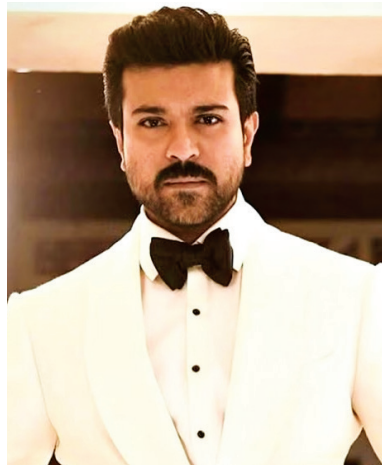
The film features popular stars like Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra, and Prithviraj Sukumaran. According to reports, Mahesh Babu will be seen in a dual role as Rudhra and Lord Ram. Priyanka Chopra plays Mandakini, while Prithviraj appears as Kumbha. This powerful casting has already increased excitement among fans.

Another major highlight is the scale of the project. Varanasi is said to be one of the most expensive films ever made in India. The team has already filmed scenes in African grasslands and Hyderabad. They are also planning a shoot in Antarctica at the Ross Ice Shelf, which is very rare for any film production. Interestingly, Rajamouli is known for keeping his projects secret until release. But this time, he has taken a different approach by openly showing the sets. This has made many believe that he is aiming for a global audience. The film is still in production and is expected to release in 2027.



Ram Charan Injured During Peddi Shoot

Mega Powerstar Ram Charan recently faced a small setback while shooting for his upcoming film Peddi. The actor reportedly suffered a minor eye injury during the filming of an intense action sequence. According to sources close to the team, the injury is not serious, and doctors have advised him to take rest for two days. Fans can stay relaxed as there is no major concern regarding his health. Meanwhile, the shoot of Peddi is moving forward as planned. A key schedule is set to begin at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium from Tuesday. This important sequence will be filmed over four days. Despite some rumors about delays, the makers are confident that the film will hit theatres on April 30, 2026, as scheduled. Adding more excitement to the project, popular actress Mrunal Thakur is likely to join the film. She became widely loved for her performances in films like Sita Ramam and Hi Nanna. Reports suggest that she has been approached for a special song in Peddi. There is also a chance that she may appear in a cameo role alongside Ram Charan. While she has shown interest, the team is waiting for her final confirmation.



R. Rahman, with production handled by Venkata Satish Kilaru. On the other hand, Mrunal Thakur is also preparing for her next release, Dacoit: A Love Story, starring alongside Adivi Sesh. Directed by Shaneil Deo, the film is set to release on April 10, 2026.

Taapsee Finds Film Production Both Liberating and Challenging

Taapsee Pannu, who turned producer with Blurr, enjoyed the process so much that she's looking at bringing out more films. But at the same time, she shares that it is not easy being a producer.

"The challenge for me is to find subjects and directors on my wavelength. I am now looking at various subjects and directors. I want to produce the films that I believe in," says the actor.

She finds film production liberating. But even more, she says she feels a sense of ownership. "Because you are the one who's going to put things together, put the team together, choose the right person to do a certain role; and that gives a sense of responsibility. But it's also extremely challenging."

Taapsee, who also acted in her debut production Blurr, says, "As an actor, you're only responsible for your Yes or No, but when you become a producer, you're responsible for getting a Yes from everybody and keeping everybody on the same page, which is far more difficult than being just an actor on set."



Miley Cyrus Recalls Fun Memories With Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens From High School Musical Days

Miley Cyrus took a nostalgic trip down memory lane as she celebrated 20 years of her career-breaking show, Hannah Montana. The 33-year-old American actress and singer recently opened up about her early days in the Disney spotlight, recalling her close bond with Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens. In an interview with Alex Cooper on her podcast Call Her Daddy, Cyrus recalled how the two used to take her to High School Musical press events. At the time, when her teen sitcom was turning out to be famous, this film series was also getting a massive amount of fame and popularity.

"They Were The Coolest Kids Ever"

Miley described the duo, who were dating at the time, as the most popular faces of that era. "They were so famous — the coolest kids ever. They were boyfriend-girlfriend; they were everything," she said.

At the height of High School Musical's success, Miley said that Efron and Hudgens were among Disney's biggest stars. Everyone wanted to be close to them, given their admiration across pop culture. Luckily, Cyrus was chosen by the Disney heartthrob couple to tag along.

Exclusive Access To High School Musical Events

The Flowers hitmaker shared that her friendship with the pair gave her access to a glamorous side of the industry. She recalled being picked up in luxury cars and accompanying them to major press events for the hit film series.

She added that her maturity at a young age helped her bond with the couple, who welcomed her into their inner circle. "They loved me because I was mature for my age. So then they picked me up, and I got to go in a black car with Vanessa and Zac and roll up to the High School Musical press events. That was a prime time of Disney," she revealed.

Both Hannah Montana and High School Musical were massive hits around 2006, dominating viewership and shaping Disney's pop culture dominance at the time.

Hannah Montana Turns 20

Miley Cyrus rose to fame as a child star in Disney's popular sitcom Hannah Montana. The drama helped her rise to fame, eventually becoming one of the most influential figures in the global music industry. As the beloved series marks two decades, fans can revisit the nostalgia with the anniversary special now streaming on Disney+.

Dhurandhar 2 6 Days Collections: 1000 Crore Loading

The movie Dhurandhar 2 is creating a huge storm at the box office. In just six days, the film has collected an unbelievable amount and surprised everyone in the film industry. Starring Ranveer Singh, this action-packed film is getting strong support from audiences across the world.

The movie opened with a bang on Day 1 by earning around ₹145 crore. This powerful start helped the film build strong momentum. On Day 2, the collections were ₹83 crore, which is still a very good number. The film picked up again on Day 3 with ₹117 crore and continued the strong trend on Day 4 by collecting ₹121 crore. Even on weekdays, the film remained very steady. On Day 5, it earned ₹66 crore, and on Day 6, it added another ₹57 crore. Usually, films see a big drop during weekdays, but Dhurandhar 2 managed to stay strong and consistent. After six days, the total worldwide box office collection has reached around ₹958 crore. This is a huge achievement and shows the massive popularity of the film. It has also beaten many records and performed better than several recent big films. One of the biggest highlights is that Dhurandhar 2 has crossed the collections of Pushpa 2 in the same time period. This is not an easy task, as Pushpa 2 was also a blockbuster film with strong collections. However, Dhurandhar 2 has managed to stay ahead with its impressive numbers. The film is doing well in multiple languages, especially in Hindi. It is also getting decent support from Telugu, Tamil, and other markets. Overseas collections are also strong, which is helping the total numbers grow quickly. With such strong performance in just six days, trade experts believe the film will soon cross the ₹1000 crore mark. If this trend continues, Dhurandhar 2 could become one of the biggest hits in Indian cinema history.

