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Sooryavanshi, Archer, Burger demolish CSK

STADIUM 11

What did Toxic actor Kiara say about her role



BOX -OFFICE 12



Members of the Digambar Jain community take part in a grand Golden Chariot procession on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti from the Glass Temple in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, on Monday

INDORE

SHORT TAKES



BORED OF SHIM-LA & MANALI? TRY THESE..

Ditch the sweltering plains and over-crowded tourist traps this summer. While popular spots lose their luster to heavy traffic and high prices, these hidden mountain gems offer misty mornings and untouched beauty. Experience true tranquility with a slower, more meaningful alpine escape.

FOCUS POINT 10



PDS TO DISTRIBUTE KEROSENE IN 21 REGIONS

The Government has issued a gazette notification allowing the distribution of Superior Kerosene Oil under the Public Distribution System to 21 States and Union Territories, citing the prevailing geopolitical situation affecting energy supplies worldwide.

MONEY MATTERS 09



THE ETERNAL MESSAGE OF NON-VIOLENCE

The life and philosophy of Lord Mahavira, who proclaimed "Ahimsa Parmo Dharma" (Non-violence is the highest DHARM), are not confined to a single religious tradition but serve as a timeless source of guidance for all humanity.

OPINION 06

THE DAILY MANTRA

RISE @ RESISTANCE.



"BRING ON THE HARDSHIP, IT'S JUST SHARPENING THE BLADE FOR THE REAL FIGHT."

- Struggle is preparation, not punishment
- Hardship isn't the enemy — it's a tool
- Difficult experiences build strength
- Challenges develop resilience
- Adversity sharpens skills like a blade
- Growth comes through facing difficulties

Collected by

Venna Srinivasa Reddy

KCR is My 'Shakuni'

CM Revanth credits KCR for his recognition but warns of "cobra-like" threats within the BRS



HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stated that he owes his recognition to BRS Chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. "In the Mahabharata, there is no Krishna without Shakuni; similarly, there is no 'me' without KCR. It is solely because of KCR that I gained recognition," Revanth Reddy said.

In an informal chat with media persons in the Assem-

bly Hall on Monday, Revanth Reddy further remarked that former minister and BRS MLA T. Harish Rao is more dangerous than a cobra. "In any industry, it is the producer who determines the price of a product. However, a farmer cultivating a crop is denied this very opportunity. Taking advantage of the farmers' needs, middlemen engage in exploitation. To safeguard the rights of farmers, the Congress-led government intro-

duced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Act in the country. The illegal hoarding of essential commodities is a crime even more heinous than murder. To curb those who seek to profit from the hunger of the people, the Congress government enacted stringent legislation back then," he said. The Chief Minister stated that the government has realised that providing coarse rice entailed nothing but an expense for the government, offering no real

benefit to the poor.

Consequently, it has decided to provide the poor with fine-grain rice—which is palatable and suitable for consumption—and thus launched the Fine Rice Scheme," he said.

"To this end, we encouraged farmers to cultivate fine-grain paddy by offering them a bonus of ₹500 per quintal. A staggering 33.9 crore people—representing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

DELAY, DOUBT, AND A CALCULATED SILENCE: BJP'S TAMIL NADU LIST BECOMES THE REAL STORY

BY C SUBRAHMANYAM

BJP has yet to release its candidate list for 27 seats in Tamil Nadu, exposing underlying tensions between alliance constraints, internal power centres, and electoral strategy. While tentative names are circulating, the delay reflects careful calibration rather than confusion. The party's approach will determine whether it emerges as a serious contender or remains a marginal player within the AIADMK-led alliance.

The newsroom whispers are getting louder, the political corridors are buzzing, and yet the official word from Bharatiya Janata Party remains conspicuously absent. As Tamil Nadu hurtles towards the April 23 Assembly showdown, the BJP's undeclared candidate list for its allotted 27 seats has become the most intriguing blank space in an otherwise crowd-



ed electoral canvas.

This is not just delay. This is calculated ambiguity. Or worse, internal friction dressed up as strategy.

THE ALLIANCE EQUATION: BJP IN A TIGHT CORNER
With in the AIADMK-led NDA framework, the BJP is clearly the junior partner,

operating within tightly negotiated political boundaries. The lion's share of seats sits firmly with AIADMK,

leaving the BJP to contest in pockets where it has either historical presence or perceived upward traction. But here lies the contradiction. The BJP wants to project expansion.

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BRS Meets Governor Over Mining Row



HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

A delegation of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) comprising MLAs and MLCs met Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan here on Monday, submitting a complaint alleging illegal mining and land grabbing by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. The BRS delegation held a detailed meeting with the Governor for nearly an hour, during which they presented documentary evidence related to alleged large-scale irregularities, including illegal mining operations

and unlawful land encroachments, linked to the Minister.

The delegation presented documents claiming large-scale irregularities linked to Raghava Constructions, the company relating to Ponguleti, and demanded the Minister's immediate dismissal along with a judicial probe under a sitting High Court judge. The said company has been carrying out illegal mining activities in violation of established norms, including operations in restricted zones such as catchment areas of twin reservoirs.

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BRS MLCs SUSPENDED AMID UPROAR IN COUNCIL

HYDERABAD, MARCH 30

High drama unfolded in the Telangana Legislative Council on Monday as members of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) staged a protest demanding a House Committee probe into alleged illegal mining linked to Raghav Constructions and sought the dismissal of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

The protesting MLCs stormed the Chairman's podium with placards, disrupting proceedings. Legislative affairs minister D Sridhar Babu said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had already ordered a CB-CID inquiry into the issue, and urged members to cooperate. Despite repeated appeals from Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy, the protest continued, prompting the government to move a suspension motion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Renounce Violence... Join the Mainstream

DGP B.SHIVADHAR REDDY APPEALS TO MAOISTS

Hyderabad, March 30: Telangana state Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy has made a heartfelt appeal to the underground leaders and cadres of the CPI (Maoist) party to renounce violence, lay down their arms, and join the democratic mainstream to lead safe and dignified lives.

Recalling the earlier appeal made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the DGP urged them to come out of underground, return to their families, and embrace a peaceful life within society.

DGP stated that, owing to sustained efforts by the Telangana Police over the past two years, as many as 721 Maoists of various ranks from Telangana and Chhattisgarh have surrendered and rejoined the mainstream. This includes four Central Committee members, 19 State Committee members, and 36

Divisional Committee members (DVCs).

The DGP further informed that all surrendered individuals have been extended financial assistance and other benefits under the State Government's comprehensive rehabilitation policy, enabling them to lead respectable lives in their native villages.

DGP B. Shivadhar Reddy made a special appeal to Telangana natives currently active in Maoist groups in other states—Muppalla Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathi (72), Pusunuri Narahari alias Santosh (57), Vartha Shekhar alias Mangthu (51), Jode Ratnabai alias Sujatha (68), Nakka Susheela alias Relu (51), and Rangaboina Bhagya alias Ruphi (43)—to return and avail the benefits of the rehabilitation scheme.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

VICAT
TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

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Rajasthan community's role in national development is invaluable: Governor

HYDERABAD: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said that the contribution of the Rajasthan community to the development of the nation is invaluable. Addressing the Rajasthan State Formation Day celebrations at Lok Bhavan on Monday, organised under the Ek Bharat – Shreshtha Bharat initiative, the Governor noted that Rajasthan holds a distinctive place in India's cultural and traditional heritage. The event saw enthusiastic participation from members of the Rajasthan community residing in Hyderabad. The Governor, accompanied by his wife Janaki Shukla, attended the programme as the chief guest. In his remarks, he praised the Rajasthan community for their significant role in national progress and cultural enrichment, observing that their service to the country's growth and traditions is of immense importance. Following the Governor's address, a series of Rajasthan cultural performances enthralled the audience. The celebrations were attended by Governor's Joint Secretary K. Shashi Kiranachari, representatives of Rajasthan, and senior officials of Lok Bhavan. (NSS)

FLASH SILENT PROTEST



Honorariums should be paid without lapsing to 50,000 enumerators and supervisors who conducted the comprehensive caste survey. Honorable CM and Honorable Deputy CM are requested to respond

At Secretariat Media Point PTA TG Team

HYDERABAD

In the state of Telangana, to increase reservations for backward classes, a historic

Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political, and Caste Census (SEEEPC) survey was conducted in November 2024 using a scientific method. For this, 94,863 enumerators and 9,628 supervisors were appointed, including primary school teachers and women's federation members. Honorariums of ₹10,000 for enumerators and ₹12,000 for supervisors were proposed, with a total allocation of ₹105.41 crores. However,

even after 16 months since the survey was completed, around 50,000 enumerators and supervisors—particularly women's federation members and primary school teachers—have not yet received their honorariums. Last year, the funds allocated for SEEEPC survey honorariums lapsed, and there is a risk of lapsing again. Due to continuous follow-up over the past 11 months by the Primary Teachers Association Telangana (PTA

TG), and under the orders of the Honorable Deputy Chief Minister, ₹50,90,09,089 has been re-sanctioned. Currently, token numbers have been generated for all districts. Token numbers are available for GHMC Hyderabad, Gadwal, Jogulamba, and Mahabubnagar districts. Token numbers for the remaining 19 districts must be generated and payments completed by March 31. Otherwise, like last year, these funds may lapse again. Even after 16 months since the survey was completed, to bring the issue of honorarium token numbers for primary teachers and women's federation members to the attention of the Honorable Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, and to ensure payment by March 31, this flash silent protest has been organized.

Therefore, the PTA TG Team demands that the Honorable Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister respond immediately and issue orders to finance and planning department officials to release the honorariums.



Good roads are key to economic growth: Komatireddy

HYDERABAD

Asserting that quality road infrastructure is central to economic progress, Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Monday said that improved connectivity would significantly boost investments and generate employment across Telangana.

During a discussion in the Legislative Assembly, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy underlined that roads are not merely transport routes but critical drivers of development. He noted that better road networks enhance market access, support industrial expansion, and contribute to overall economic growth.

Highlighting the impact on rural areas, the Minister said improved roads enable farmers to reach markets faster, help students access educational institutions with ease, and ensure that patients can be transported to hospitals within the "golden hour."

He said such infrastructure also opens up new livelihood opportunities, particularly for the youth.

Expressing concern over rising road accidents, the Minister cited official data indicating that nearly 4.5 lakh accidents and 1.6 lakh fatalities were recorded across the country in 2025. In Telangana, 22,441 accidents led to 6,221 deaths. He pointed out that an average of 18 to 20 deaths occur every day, many involving young people, and termed the trend alarming.

Referring to a recent accident near Chevella-Mirzaganuda that claimed three lives from a single family, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy stressed the need for stronger safety measures. The government is implementing initiatives like the "Arrive Alive" programme to improve road safety and reduce fatalities.

Detailing progress in the sector, he said Telangana currently has a road

network of 34,062 km. Since the present government took office, works covering 1,835 km have been taken up at a cost of ₹7,590 crore, while 76 major bridges are under construction. Projects worth ₹13,051 crore are in various stages of execution, the Minister said.

Over the past 27 months, 595 km of roads and 51 bridges have been completed at a cost of ₹1,035 crore, in addition to 323 km of roads and 16 bridges completed with an expenditure of ₹485 crore, he said.

The Minister said the government is adopting the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) to accelerate infrastructure development, with a target of developing 12,000 km of roads. Phase I alone covers 6,092 km at an estimated cost of ₹13,006 crore, with a construction period of 30 months and maintenance for 15 years, he said.

Among major projects, the Minister listed the Hyderabad Regional Ring Road (RRR), Hyderabad-Vijayawada six-lane expansion, Amaravati-Bandar port greenfield expressway, and the Srisaikal elevated corridor. He said these projects would act as "game changers" for the state's economy.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy also announced plans for high-speed bullet train corridors connecting major cities such as Chennai, Pune and Bengaluru, with a proposed hub near Shamshabad as part of the Future City initiative.

He further informed the House that construction of the new Osmania Hospital and High Court buildings is progressing, while four major hospitals are being developed in Hyderabad at an estimated cost of ₹8,000 crore. The TIMS Hospital at Sanath Nagar is expected to reach a key stage of completion by June, he said. "Good roads are not just about connectivity—they ensure economic growth, safer lives and a better future," the Minister said.

Adluri leads passage of Parents Maintenance Bill in Council

HYDERABAD

In a significant move to strengthen the welfare of elderly parents, the Telangana government has introduced and secured passage of a Bill mandating financial responsibility on employed children, with provisions for direct deduction from salaries in cases of neglect.

The Telangana Legislative Council on Monday witnessed the introduction and passage of the Telangana Employees' Parents Maintenance, Accountability and Monitoring Bill, 2026, aimed at ensuring financial security and dignity for elderly parents.

Welfare Minister Adluri Lakshman Kumar, while introducing the Bill, said the legislation seeks to reinforce the moral and social responsibility of children towards their parents, in line with the Indian ethos of "Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava." He emphasised that parents, who dedicate their



lives to the upbringing and future of their children, deserve care, respect and security in their old age.

Highlighting changing social dynamics, the Minister noted that the decline of joint family systems and evolving lifestyles have left several elderly persons vulnerable to neglect and isolation.

Citing official data, Adluri Lakshman Kumar said the elderly population in the State, which stood at 32.69 lakh (9.27%) as per the 2011 Census, is now estimated to have risen to around 45 lakh.

He observed that while the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

is in force, gaps in implementation persist.

On average, around 1,800 cases are being registered annually at Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) offices, indicating the scale of the issue. Though a dedicated online portal has been introduced to streamline grievance redressal, elderly parents often continue to face difficulties in securing regular maintenance even after orders are issued, he pointed out.

The proposed legislation seeks to address these shortcomings through stricter enforcement mechanisms. As per the key provisions, if parents file a complaint before the district collector and neglect is established upon inquiry, up to 15% of the employee's monthly salary or ₹10,000 whichever is lower will be directly deducted and credited to the parents' bank account, he said.

The Bill applies to State government employees, personnel

of public sector undertakings, employees of institutions receiving government funds, as well as those working in licensed private establishments. It also extends to elected and nominated public representatives receiving salaries or allowances.

The Minister stated that the initiative reflects the vision and commitment of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy towards safeguarding the dignity and well-being of senior citizens. He said the legislation not only strengthens the existing legal framework but also reiterates the importance of family values and social responsibility.

Expressing gratitude to members of the House for their support, the Minister noted that the Bill was passed unanimously in the Council. Adluri Lakshman Kumar expressed confidence that the measure would ensure a more secure and dignified life for elderly parents across the State.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

BJP'S TAMIL NADU LIST BECOMES THE REAL STORY

FROM PAGE 1

The alliance arithmetic forces contraction. This uneasy balance is now playing out in candidate selection.

THE NAMES DOING THE ROUNDS: SIGNALS WITHOUT CONFIRMATION

Even without an official list, the grapevine is thick with probable names, each carrying its own political weight:

- * Tamilisai Soundararajan: Mylapore
- * Nainar Nagendhran: Sattur
- * L. Murugan: Avinashi
- * Amar Prasad Reddy: Thalli
- * T.S. Sankar: Tiruvannamalai
- * Krithiga Sivakumar: Modakurichi

* Bhojarajan: Udhagamandalam
These are not random selections. These are carefully floated trial balloons. Each name is being tested for local acceptability, caste arithmetic, and alliance compatibility. The delay, therefore, is not indecision, it is calibration.

WHAT IS HOLDING THE LIST BACK?

The answer lies in three pressure points:

1. Alliance Sensitivities
The BJP cannot afford to upset

the AIADMK appellation. Seat-level negotiations often spill into candidate-level vetoes. A wrong name in the wrong constituency can trigger silent rebellion.

2. Internal Turf Wars

The state unit, led by Nainar Nagendhran, has its preferences. The central leadership, guided by B. L. Santhosh, has its own calculations. Reconciling the two is not always smooth.

3. Winnability vs Visibility

Does the BJP field heavyweights to signal strength? Or local faces to maximise victory chances? This is the classic dilemma—and Tamil Nadu is amplifying it.

THE BIGGER QUESTION: IS BJP STILL AN OUTSIDER HERE?

Despite years of organizational push, the BJP in Tamil Nadu continues to operate as an aspirant rather than a dominant force. The delay in candidate announcement

only reinforces that perception. Contrast this with the swift, aggressive moves by rivals like Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and AIADMK. They are setting the narrative. The BJP is reacting to it. In politics, timing is messaging. And right now, the BJP's silence is speaking louder than any campaign speech.

"In Tamil Nadu, elections are not

just fought on the ground. They are fought in perception. And delay creates doubt."

BJP'S TAMIL NADU TEST

- * 27 seats to prove relevance
- * Alliance constraints tightening space
- * Leadership balancing state vs central priorities
- * Candidate list delay raising strategic questions

THE MURUGAN FACTOR

L. Murugan is emerging as one of the BJP's key cards in Tamil Nadu. His projected candidature from Avinashi is not merely electoral, it is symbolic.

A Dalit face, a Union Minister, and a known organizational player, Murugan represents the BJP's attempt to break traditional caste and regional voting patterns.

If fielded, his performance will be closely watched as a barometer of the party's grassroots penetration.

The BJP's candidate list is not just a procedural announcement. It is a statement of intent. A declaration of how seriously the party views Tamil Nadu; not as an ally's backyard, but as its own future battleground. Until that list is out, the question

hangs heavy: Is the BJP preparing a decisive strike or merely adjusting to alliance compulsions?

KCR is My 'Shakuni'

FROM PAGE 1

86 percent of Telangana's population—are currently benefiting from the Fine Rice Scheme. In the future, this figure could potentially rise to 90 percent. We have issued a ration card to every single person who requested one. We are not merely ensuring profitability for farmers; we are also satisfying the hunger of the poor," Revanth Reddy said.

He further stated that the distribution of fine rice has effectively curbed the black market mafia and this achievement is made possible solely through the continuous supervision of the Minister for Civil Supplies and the department's dedicated staff.

"Today marks the completion of one full year since the commence-

ment of the fine rice distribution programme. Our next objective is to provide students with both quality education and nutritious food," Revanth Reddy said. The Chief Minister said the State government is encouraging not only paddy cultivation but also other crops.

"We are encouraging farmers to shift towards commercial crops. We intend to create awareness among farmers regarding crop rotation practices. We will not exert pressure on farmers concerning crop rotation; instead, we will focus on creating awareness. Much like 'Eagle' and 'Hydra,' we will introduce a robust system to curb food adulteration. We will study the relevant laws across the country and implement a proper mechanism," Revanth Reddy said.

Renounce Violence... Join the Mainstream DGP B.Shivadhar Reddy appeals to Maoists

FROM PAGE 1

In particular, the DGP assured that the State Government would facilitate advanced medical treatment in Hyderabad for Central Committee member Ganapathi, who is reportedly facing health issues. He also recalled the Chief Minister's personal appeal to Ganapathi during a press conference held on March 7, when 130 Maoists had surrendered.

Highlighting the growing confidence in the State's rehabilitation

policy, the DGP noted that cadres from other states are increasingly showing willingness to surrender. He urged family members and relatives of those still underground to counsel them and guide them towards a peaceful path. Reiterating that lasting solutions can only be achieved through democratic means in the present context, the DGP B. Shivadhar Reddy once again called upon Maoist cadres to give up violence and become partners in the development.

BRS will intensify its agitation and continue its fight until justice is delivered to victims and illegal mining and land grabbing activities are stopped, he warned. Responding to the delegation, the Governor reportedly assured that the matter would be examined.

Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu's Strong Counter to BRS Members in the Council

HYDERABAD

Every member of this House carries the responsibility to cooperate with the Hon'ble Chairman in ensuring the smooth conduct of proceedings. Attempting to dictate the Chair is wholly inappropriate and unacceptable.

■ The undemocratic conduct of the BRS members is deeply regrettable. Let me remind you — the people are watching every action in this House very closely.

■ This is the Council of Elders, a forum that demands maturity and responsibility. Disrupting proceedings for narrow political interests does not befit this august House.

■ Let me assure you —

our government is fully prepared to answer every question transparently.

■ The government has already announced a CBCID inquiry into the mining irregularities since 2014. Despite this, it is highly unfortunate that BRS members are attempting to politicize the issue in the Council under the pretext of a House Committee.

■ Between 2014 and 2018, the then BRS government constituted three House Committees on similar issues. However, they failed to convene meetings properly and did not place any reports in the public domain.

■ It is indeed ironic and unfortunate that a party which ruled the state for ten years now claims to have no faith in the CBCID.

Transport operators protest GO 60, allege 'exorbitant radium costs'

HYDERABAD

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Telangana travel and tourist operators on Monday staged a protest at the State Transport Authority, Ambedkar Bhavan, opposing the implementation of GO No.60.

Led by JAC leaders Syed Nizamuddin, K. Gopal Reddy and KM Govind Raju, the JAC later met the Joint Transport Commissioner and submitted a representation seeking immediate suspension of the government order (GO) and allow continuation of the earlier system for affixing reflective tapes (radium) on commercial vehicles.

Pointing out that the operators are already facing a severe crisis due to prevailing war-like situation in the

country, they alleged that the new rule - mandating procurement of reflective radium only through empanelled vendors - has sharply increased costs from around Rs.1,200 to nearly

Rs.7,000 per bus. They termed the pricing 'exploitative' and demanded continuation of the earlier system of open-market procurement. The earlier cost of affixing ARI-approved radium for a bus was around Rs.1,000 to Rs.1,200, they noted. Citing diesel shortages and long queues at fuel stations, and an ongoing economic slowdown, the JAC said the additional burden could severely impact their livelihoods. The committee urged Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar to intervene, warning of further agitation if no action is taken.

BRS MLCs suspended amid uproar in Council

FROM PAGE 1

The Chairman then suspended 11 BRS MLCs for the day who included S. Madhusudhana Chari, Ravinder

Rao, Deshapathi Srinivas, L. Ramana, Yadava Reddy, Sunkari Raju, Naveen Kumar Reddy, Madhusudhan, Vani Devi, Pochampally Srinivas Reddy and M. Koti Reddy.

BRS Meets Governor over Mining Row

FROM PAGE 1

They further stated that these activities were being conducted without mandatory clearances such as mineral dealer licenses and so on.

The delegation also pointed out that when these issues were raised in the Assembly, the ruling Congress government chose to suspend and expel BRS

MLAs and MLCs instead of addressing the allegations. Even the government had admitted in the Assembly that notices were issued to Raghava Constructions, thereby acknowledging irregularities, they noted.

Speaking to the media later, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao accused the state government of suppressing the issue and likened the situation to "Emergen-

cy-like conditions". He expressed distrust in state agencies like CB-CID and called for an independent investigation.

BRS will intensify its agitation and continue its fight until justice is delivered to victims and illegal mining and land grabbing activities are stopped, he warned. Responding to the delegation, the Governor reportedly assured that the matter would be examined.

GITAM Hosts Cyber Awareness & Sensitisation Workshop

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organized a "Cyber Awareness & Sensitisation Workshop" for members of its Cyber Club (SPARC students) on 30 March 2026. The workshop was conducted by the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau in collaboration with India Future Foundation (IFF), New Delhi, and the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), Cyberabad.

The programme aimed to strengthen cyber safety awareness among students by equipping them with essential knowledge to prevent cybercrimes and encouraging them to act as responsible digital citizens who can further disseminate awareness within society.

The session featured expert insights from distinguished professionals, including S.V. Harikrishna, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Telangana Cyber Security Bureau; Venugopal Reddy, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sangareddy; Rashmi Srivastava Director, Strategic Pro-



grams, Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), Cyberabad; Shalini Rathore, Head of People & Culture; and Shikhar Dwivedi, Security Consultant (Cybersecurity), India Future Foundation (IFF), New Delhi. The experts delivered an engaging and hands-on training session, offering practical guidance on staying safe in the digital world.

Emphasizing responsible online behavior, the experts urged participants not to encourage any harmful or unethical digital activity and to report cybercrimes promptly through the national helpline (1930) or via cybercrime.gov.in.

As part of the programme, a "Cyber Hygiene Internship Program" was introduced, covering key ar-

enas such as cyber hygiene awareness, password management and authentication best practices, and safe usage of email, messaging, and social media platforms. Students were encouraged to actively participate in spreading cyber awareness within their communities through the SPARC initiative (Student Program for Awareness & Responsible Cyber Space).

Prof. Ramesh Vaddi, Director of Core Engineering, encouraged students to make the most of such opportunities by learning directly from industry experts. Prof. Sk. Mahaboob Basha, Head, Department of Computer Science and Systems Engineering, invited the experts to visit GITAM's Cyber Security labs and explore avenues for collaborative initiatives for public benefit.

The workshop was convened by Dr. V. Sireesha, Associate Professor & HoD, Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, and coordinated by Dr. T. Sasivardhan, Assistant Professor, Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

State Assembly urges Centre to intervene in West Asia conflict

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution, introduced by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, urging the Union Government to take proactive steps to halt the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel.

The House expressed deep concern over the escalating war in West Asia, noting that the conflict has taken multiple forms and is destabilizing the global economy. The resolution highlighted that disruptions in crude oil production and transportation are affecting supply chains worldwide, with significant implications for countries dependent on fuel imports, including India. "We all know that crude oil (petrol, diesel, gas) significantly influences the economic conditions of every country. Due to the impact of this war on crude oil production and transportation, supply chains are being disrupted", he added.

It further pointed out that the United States and Israel have been carrying out attacks on Iran and Lebanon, while Iran has been targeting US defence bases across the Gulf and Middle Eastern regions.

The use of advanced weaponry such as fighter bombers, ballistic missiles and drones has led to large-scale destruction and the loss of nearly 4,000 innocent lives. The Assembly warned that while the immediate human toll is concentrated in the affected regions, the economic fallout is global, with Asian countries facing heightened risks. India, too, is experiencing serious economic repercussions.

Successful Replantation of Near-Total Amputated Forearm at Medicover Hospitals



SECUNDERABAD

Doctors at Medicover Hospitals, Sangeeth, Secunderabad successfully performed a complex microsurgical replantation of a near-total amputated left distal forearm, saving the limb of a patient following a severe

traumatic injury. The patient, Mr. Mallesh, arrived at the emergency department with his forearm nearly amputated, attached only by a small soft tissue bridge. The injury involved complete damage to major blood vessels, nerves, tendons, and both forearm bones. The trauma surgery

team, including specialists from Plastic Surgery and Orthopedics, immediately undertook an emergency surgery that lasted around seven hours. The procedure involved bone stabilization with plates, repair of the ulnar artery and veins to restore blood flow, tendon reconstruction,

and precise nerve repair.

Following the surgery, the patient showed encouraging signs of recovery, including a warm hand and good capillary refill, indicating successful restoration of blood circulation.

He is currently stable and under close monitoring, and will undergo staged rehabilitation and physiotherapy.

Dr. K. Abhinav Kumar, Plastic Surgeon, said, "This was a highly challenging case that required timely intervention and meticulous microsurgical techniques.

Early presentation and coordinated teamwork played a crucial role in saving the limb. With proper rehabilitation, we are optimistic about functional recovery." The surgery was led by Dr. K. Abhinav Kumar along with Dr. Srinivas and the anesthesia team.

10 held for illegal LPG cylinder racket in Banjara Hills; 414 cylinders seized

HYDERABAD

In a major crackdown, the Commissioner's Task Force and Banjara Hills Police arrested 10 persons involved in the illegal storage and sale of LPG cylinders at inflated prices to needy customers in Banjara Hills area of the city.

The accused were caught red-handed near Nagarjuna X Road while dumping and selling HP gas cylinders in violation of safety norms. Police seized 414 cylinders of various capacities along with



multiple transport vehicles used in the operation.

The prime accused Mohd. Aamir allegedly operated a gas agency named "Metro Gas

Agency" and orchestrated the illegal storage at a graveyard, using labourers to supply cylinders to customers at higher rates. According to officials,

the racket not only violated regulations but also posed serious safety risks. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Task Force officials led by Inspector Ch. Yadendar along with Banjara Hills Police.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath confirmed the arrests and seizure of LPG cylinders worth Rs.21.88 lakhs, stating that strict action will be taken against those endangering public safety and exploiting consumers.

Governor launches mobile cancer screening van for Medak

HYDERABAD

Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla on Monday flagged off a preliminary cancer screening mobile unit at Lok Bhavan, urging the people of Medak to make use of the facility for early detection of the disease.

The mobile Van has been provided under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to serve people in the Medak Parliamentary constituency. The initiative follows a request from Member of Parliament Shri M. Raghunandan Rao, aimed at facilitating early diagnosis of cancer through accessible screening services.

Officials explained that the vehicle is equipped with essential facilities for preliminary cancer screening, comparable to those available in hospitals. Speaking on the occasion, the Govern-



nor emphasised the importance of early detection in effectively treating cancer and saving lives.

He noted that the mobile unit would play a crucial role in identifying the disease at an initial stage and providing timely intervention. He urged the people of Medak to avail themselves of the services offered by the unit.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of the Medak MP and commended

BDL for extending support through its CSR initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Raghunandan Rao said the initiative aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure the availability of cancer care facilities at the district level, and expressed satisfaction that the mobile screening unit has been introduced as a step in that direction. Officials of BDL were present at the programme.

BJP alleges diversion of panchayat funds, demands immediate release

HYDERABAD

BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao on Monday accused the state government of diverting Central funds meant for Gram Panchayats and demanded their immediate release.

After meeting the Sarpanchs' Joint Action Committee, the BJP leader, talking to newsmen, alleged that nearly Rs.640 crore under the 15th Finance Commission remains withheld, crippling village administration.

Taking a dig at chief minister A Revanth Reddy, the BJP state chief alleged that while in the opposition, the Congress party, specifically Revanth Reddy as PCC President, had promised justice and the release of pending bills.

However, even after two and a half years of Congress rule, those promises remain unfulfilled, he pointed out. He said panchayats are unable to pay salaries or execute basic works, pushing local bodies into crisis. The BJP extended full support to the Sarpanchs' agitation and to continue to fight for their just demands.

Uppal-Narapally elevated corridor named after Bandari Raji Reddy

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government has officially named the Uppal to Narapally elevated corridor as "Sri Bandari Raji Reddy Corridor", recognizing the late leader's contributions to public life and the Uppal constituency. The decision follows a proposal by the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation,

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice No. SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_25,
Dated: 28.03.2026

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_25, Dated: 28.03.2026
Description of Work	Works contract for General warehouse labour work at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Rolling Stock / Erode
For and on behalf of the President of India

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CARRIAGE & WAGON WORKS

Tender No: CWPER-SEATBERTH-27032026

For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600023 invites e-tender for the following work as per the tender notice given in e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in

Name of the Work:	SEAT AND BERTH ATTENTION WORK IN ICF AND LHB COACHES				
Approximate Cash Value	Bid Security / Earnest Money	Bidding Start Date	Tender Closing Date and Time	Cost of Tender Form	Period of Completion
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
₹ 1,99,79,072.77	₹ 3,99,600.00	06.04.2026	20.04.2026 15.00 Hrs	Nil	24 Months

Website Address: www.ireps.gov.in

Office Address: Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023

Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Chennai - 23

MANIPUR STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Secure Office Complex, 3rd Floor, A. T. Line, North AOC, Imphal West -795001)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No.2/103(DW-VF-Nilakuthi)/2025-MSPDCL-TECH/250326/01-08: Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited, a Govt. of Manipur enterprise, invites Sealed Tender from Electrical License contractor/Firms for the below work:

TS No. 96/2/2025 - "Supply, Erection & stringing of 11 kV line (0.24 kms) with ACSR (Rabbit) conductor & LT line using AB cable (3x95+1x70) 0.35 km and Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 1x250 kVA & 1x400 kVA Distribution transformer for Vacuum freezer dehydration unit and integrated pack house at Nilakuthi food park"

The tender details and documents shall be available on payment of cost of tender of **Rs. 500/- (non-refundable)** from 25/03/2026 to 07/04/2026 at the office of the **General Manager (Purchase), MSPDCL, Secure Office Complex, 3rd Floor, North AOC, Imphal West.**

Last date of Submission of Tender:

08/04/2026 (upto 11.00 A.M)

Date of Opening: 08/04/2026 (Time: 2.00 P.M.)

Venue: MSPDCL Conference Hall

sd/
General Manager (Purchase)
Imphal, 25th March 2026

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Thiruvananthapuram Division
Tender Notice No. & Date: GEM/2026/B/7373572
Dated: 23.03.2026

The Divisional Railway Manager / (Mechanical) / Southern Railway / Thiruvananthapuram - 14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender for the under mentioned work. For other details the tenderers are advised to refer the detailed tender on the below mentioned web-site.

S. No	Details	Description
1	Tender Notice No. & Date	GEM/2026/B/7373572 Dated: 23.03.2026
2	Name of work	Comprehensive linen management in nominated running trains based at Thiruvananthapuram depot of Thiruvananthapuram Division - Southern Railway for a period of four years
3	Advertised value	₹ 69,66,62,022.93
4	Period of Contract	48 months
5	EMD	₹ 36,33,320
6	Tender closing date & time	13.04.2026 at 11:30 Hrs
7	Website particulars	https://www.gem.gov.in

The firms registered in GeM portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. For details of bid submission - scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal "<https://www.gem.gov.in>"

It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any corrigendum issued for any correction, deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at "<https://www.gem.gov.in>".

Divisional Railway Manager / (Mechanical) / Thiruvananthapuram

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MILLION SQ.FT
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MILLION SQ.FT
UNDER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

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HAPPY RESIDENTS

20+
PROJECTS

ONGOING PROJECTS

RAJAPUSHPA
PROVINCIA
NARSINGI

RAJAPUSHPA
IMPERIA
TELLAPUR

RAJAPUSHPA
PREZIENTIA
KOKAPET

RAJAPUSHPA
AURELIA
TELLAPUR

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766 000 55 00 www.rajapushpa.in

SHORT TAKES

"Sanna rice biryani" steals the show in Assembly lunch

HYDERABAD: A special lunch featuring "Sanna rice biryani" brought a moment of warmth and camaraderie among the Telangana legislators in the Assembly. Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin praised the dish for its rich taste and fine quality, while Nampally MLA Majeed Hussain joined him during the meal. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, and senior leaders including N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ponnampaluri Prabhakar and G Vivek Venkateswamy, also appreciated the initiative. Further, many leaders described the rice as exceptionally fine, aromatic, and delicious, highlighting the effort put into maintaining high standards. The initiative by the Government of Telangana was widely welcomed as a commendable step to promote quality food and showcase the richness of local produce.

Kavitha Pens Open Letter to CM Revanth Demanding GO 317 Rollback

- **Kavitha demands policy rollback, calls local status changes 'unjust'**
- **From GO 317 to Sanitary pads, Kavitha hits out at Govt failures**
- **Restore Justice, transfer employees to their native places now**



HYDERABAD

Telangana Jagruthi President K. Kavitha has written an open letter to CM Revanth Reddy and demanded justice for employees and teachers affected by GO 317. She requested that employees be transferred to their native places under a one-time relief measure. She recalled that after the reorganization of districts in the state, government employees and teachers who were already working in various erstwhile districts and zones were given postings in new districts and zones based on seniority. In this process, employees and teachers with eight years or less service were allotted to one of the newly formed districts within the erstwhile districts. To facilitate this reallocation of employees district- and zone-wise, the then BRS

government issued GO No. 317 on 6th December, 2021. However, she pointed out that due to a lack of clarity regarding local status in the GO, thousands of employees and teachers are facing difficulties. She also reminded that Revanth Reddy, in his capacity as PCC President at the time, had written a letter to then Chief Minister KCR garu highlighting these issues. She criticized that despite promising during the 2023 Assembly elections to review GO 317 and ensure justice to employees and teachers if voted to power, the Congress government has not fulfilled that promise so far. She noted that a Cabinet Sub-Committee led by Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha was formed to address the issue, but its report has not yet been made public. She said only af-

ter the report is released will there be clarity on the number of affected employees. She further stated that the minister had assured on the Assembly floor that the issue would be taken up with the Central Government, but even that promise has not been fulfilled, as no letter has been sent so far. This, she said, reflects the lack of concern for employees' problems. She demanded immediate and clear directions to resolve the issues faced by GO 317-affected employees and teachers. *Injustice to local candidates due to changes in local status rules* Kavitha criticized that changes made by the Congress government in the rules determining local status have caused serious injustice to local youth. She expressed concern that un-

der the new rule—recognizing those who studied in Telangana for four years from Class 8 to Intermediate as locals and the students those who go to other states for Intermediate education are being treated as non-locals. At the same time, those who move to areas near Hyderabad and study there until Intermediate are being considered locals, thereby taking away opportunities meant for native candidates. She demanded that the previous rule, that is recognizing local status based on studying for seven years from Class 1 to 10 in a particular state or district should be reinstated.

Failure to provide sanitary pads to girl students Kalvakuntla Kavitha also criticized both the Central and State governments for failing to provide even basic sanitary pads to girl students studying in SC/ST welfare hostels and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). She made these remarks in a post on the social media platform X on Monday. She demanded that, just like under the PM SHRI scheme in other schools, free sanitary pads should be provided to girls in SC/ST welfare hostels and KGBVs. She also urged the government to release cosmetic charges to students every month.



Telangana passes comprehensive Gig workers welfare Bill

HYDERABAD

In a landmark step for the rights and security of gig workers, the Assembly on Monday passed the Telangana Platform-Based Gig Workers Registration, Social Security and Welfare Bill 2026. Labour, Employment and Mines Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkateswamy, who introduced the Bill, said the government has brought this legislation to give legal recognition to gig workers in the digital economy and protect their rights, dignity and livelihood. As per the Bill, platform companies will have to submit details regularly and file electronic returns every three months. Strict penalties have been prescribed for non-compliance — ₹50,000 for the first violation, ₹1 lakh for the second, ₹1.5 lakh

for the third, and up to five times the arrears thereafter. A special Welfare Board will be constituted for gig workers. Every registered gig worker will be given a unique ID. A welfare fund will be created through a 1-2% levy on transactions, from which insurance, pension and maternity benefits will be provided. A maximum of 5% of the fund can be used for the board's operating expenses, and there can be no arbitrary use of algorithms that affect workers. The Minister informed the Assembly that the government first discussed the problems of gig workers with unions and then prepared a draft bill, which was placed in the public domain for 30 days.

"Draconian tool to silence dissent": KTR slams Telangana hate speech bill

HYDERABAD

K.T. Rama Rao, working president of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), on Monday strongly criticised the proposed Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, terming it a "draconian tool" that threatens free speech and democratic values. KTR warned that the Bill's broad and vague definitions - such as "promoting ill-will" and "distorting harmony" - could lead to misuse against opposition leaders, journalists and citizens expressing dissent. He cautioned that subjective interpretation may criminalise legitimate criticism of the government. He raised serious constitutional, democratic and civil liberties concerns if the Bill becomes law. "While preventing genuine hate speech and maintaining social harmony is an important responsibility of any government, the present framework appears dangerously broad, vague and open to misuse", he remarked. Citing the landmark Shreya Singhal vs Union



of India judgment, KTR stressed that only speech inciting violence can be restricted, and any law exceeding this limit risks being struck down for violating Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, he added. He also raised concerns over provisions allowing authorities to determine "fake news", calling it a threat to democratic accountability. The proposed penalties - up to seven years imprisonment for first-time offenders - could create a chilling effect on public discourse, he said. KTR urged the government to reconsider the Bill, noting that existing laws already address hate speech and public order can be restricted. Mere criticism, advocacy, satire or disagreement cannot be punished. Any legislation that goes beyond this

constitutional threshold risks being struck down by courts for violating Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, he added. He also raised concerns over provisions allowing authorities to determine "fake news", calling it a threat to democratic accountability. The proposed penalties - up to seven years imprisonment for first-time offenders - could create a chilling effect on public discourse, he said. KTR urged the government to reconsider the Bill, noting that existing laws already address hate speech and public order can be restricted. Mere criticism, advocacy, satire or disagreement cannot be punished. Any legislation that goes beyond this

Uttam reviews scope for enhanced Public Transport in Hyderabad

to overcome Auto-LPG supply shortage

HYDERABAD

Telangana's Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday stated that the state government is exploring all options to overcome the shortage of auto-gas supplies impacting the urban transport system in Hyderabad. The Minister chaired the emergency meeting with senior government officials and representatives from major LPG suppliers, including IOCL, Go Gas, Total Energies (French company), Super Gas and Prime Gas. He reviewed the scope for stepping up the public transport operations to address the situation. The meeting was convened in the wake of reports that auto-gas shortage has impacted urban mobility in the city and auto-men were staging protests at places. The Minister stated that a final decision on contingency measures would be taken after consultations with the Chief Secretary and briefing the Chief Minister on the ground realities of the Auto-LPG supply situation. Uttam Kumar Reddy also wrote a formal letter to Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri requesting intervention to scale up supplies and resolve the crisis. Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) such as IOCL and HPCL have been



asked to ramp up supplies to bridge the shortfall faced from certain private players. The Minister also instructed Commissioner Stephen Ravindra to engage directly with representatives of the auto unions and explain the ground situation to them transparently, while urging them to maintain calm. Additionally, the Minister directed officials to explore ways to scale up operations of public transport, including the Hyderabad Metro Rail and Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) buses, to offset the challenges caused by the Auto-LPG shortage and reduce pressure on auto rickshaws. **Current Supply Situation** Normal daily requirement for Auto LPG in Hyderabad: 202 Metric Tonnes (MT) Current supply-147 MT Daily deficit- Approximately 55 MT(27-30% shortage) The shortage is primarily confined to the private sector, which commands about 75% of the Auto LPG market in the city. PSUs have so far maintained better supplies, with IOCL alone providing

its quota of 35 MT a day through its 23 outlets. Private players dominate the market with major companies including Super Gas, Go Gas, Total Energy, and Prime Gas reaching out to a major section of the auto operators. PSUs collectively hold only 25-30% market share. Hyderabad has a total of 143 Auto LPG outlets (116 inside the Outer Ring Road + 27 outside). Currently, around 25 outlets are non-functional, with 17 in the core city area. **Root Cause of the Crisis** The shortage has been triggered by 2-3 day delays in vessel arrivals carrying imported LPG, compounded by the prevailing geopolitical situation in the Middle East affecting global supply chains. Private companies source bulk LPG from ports such as Krishnapattanam, Jaigad (Maharashtra), Mumbai and terminals in Tamil Nadu. While some firms are exploring alternative international sources, firm timelines are yet to be confirmed.

CAG flags massive irregularities in Telangana PSUs, net worth plunges

HYDERABAD

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has exposed serious lapses in Telangana's public sector undertakings (PSUs), revealing widespread losses, poor governance, and audit non-compliance. Out of 83 PSUs, 16 are defunct or under liquidation, while 49 of the remaining 67 failed to submit annual accounts on time. Of the 18 audited entities, only six made profits, while 11 incurred heavy losses, eroding the net worth of nine firms. The combined net worth of PSUs has dropped sharply to Rs.50,930 crore against a government investment of Rs.98,572 crore. A special audit of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) uncovered contract flaws leading to excess expenditure of Rs.2,251 crore, along with additional losses due to regulatory failures and transport irregularities. The CAG report highlighted severe deficiencies in corporate governance within these entities. It is noteworthy that out of 15 organizations, nine lacked independent directors. Furthermore, no Board of Directors meetings were conducted in any of these entities. Additionally, five organizations lacked the Audit Committees, while nine were without a Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC). The CAG noted that the Singareni company failed to comply with environmental regulations and did not establish effluent treatment plants. The CAG also flagged weak corporate governance, including absence of independent directors, audit committees, and board meetings in several entities. The key recommendations by the CAG are that the state government must immediately conduct a review of the performance of loss-making entities.

Telangana hate speech bill sent to select panel, Shabbir Ali calls it 'bold move'

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Legislative Assembly has referred the Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2026 to a Select Committee, a move hailed by government advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir as a "bold and decisive step". The Bill, introduced by Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu on behalf of the Chief Minister, proposes a comprehensive legal framework to deal with hate speech and hate crimes. It provides

for imprisonment of not less than one year, extendable up to seven years, along with a fine of Rs 50,000, with harsher punishment for repeat offenders. All offences under the proposed law are non-bailable. Shabbir Ali said the legislation aims to address the growing threat of hate speech and protect social harmony, while respecting constitutional freedoms under Article 19. He emphasized that the law is intended to prevent incitement and hatred, not suppress

dissent. He said that while freedom of speech is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, it is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) in the interest of public order, morality and the integrity of the nation. He observed that the growing misuse of religion and identity-based narratives in public discourse has created an urgent need for clear legal intervention. Dismissing opposition concerns, he said safeguards and detailed scrutiny by the Select

Committee would ensure a balanced and constitutional-sound law. The Bill is expected to undergo extensive deliberations before being finalized, marking a significant step in strengthening legal measures against hate-driven offences in the state. Expressing confidence in the legislative process, Shabbir Ali said the Assembly and the Select Committee would deliver a balanced and effective law that reflects Telangana's commitment to secularism, equality and fraternity.

CMC Commissioner hosts Prajavani; 39 grievances received

HYDERABAD: The Commissioner, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, along with all heads of Departments (HODs) of CMC, conducted Prajavani at the CMC Head Office, NAC Building, on Monday. During the programme, a total of 39 applications were received from the applicants representing various parts of the city. The grievances primarily pertained to sanitation, drainage, roads, street lighting, town planning, and other civic-related issues. The Commissioner reviewed the applications on the spot and directed the concerned department officials to take prompt action for their redressal. Instructions were issued to ensure that all grievances are addressed in a time-bound manner, with priority given to urgent cases. Senior officials and staff of the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation were present during the programme.

Telangana minister rides EV to Assembly, pushes green mobility



HYDERABAD

In a push for eco-friendly transport, Telangana transport minister Ponnampaluri Prabhakar, along with MLA Danam Nagender, on Monday travelled to the Assembly in an electric vehicle to promote the state's EV policy. On this occasion, the minister praised Tata Motors for offering 10% to 20% discounts on EVs for government employees and highlighted that the state, as part of its EV policy, has waived 100% road tax and registration fees on electric vehicles, granting benefits worth nearly Rs.1,000 crore till date. "In

order to promote EV vehicles, the government is establishing charging stations and providing necessary infrastructure. I extend my gratitude to Tata Motors for responding to the government's appeal and coming forward today to announce concessions for the government employees," he added. Further, the minister noted that Companies such as Mahindra Electric, Graviton Motors, Ola Electric, and Ather Energy had already stepped forward and supported the initiative. "On behalf of the government, I appeal to more companies to come forward and contribute to the promotion of EV vehicles.

Release panchayat funds without diversion: BJP State Chief

HYDERABAD

BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy immediately release the Central funds to the Gram Panchayats without further diversion and clear all pending dues to the sarpanchas. He was speaking to media after meeting representatives of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the Telangana State Sarpanchs' Association who called on him at state BJP office here. The representatives of the JAC also submitted a memorandum seeking BJP support in favour of their demands. Rao said representatives of the JAC met him

and explained their struggles and expressed deep distress that Central funds are not reaching Gram Panchayats due to the state's stance. The BJP has consistently maintained that the state government is diverting funds released by the central government under the 15th Finance Commission, he said adding that we have witnessed the dire situation of Sarpanchs during the previous BRS regime. Due to the diversion of funds, many Sarpanchs were unable to pay for completed works leading to immense pressure and some even resorting to suicide. Taking a dig at CM Revanth Reddy BJP state chief alleged that while in the opposition, the Congress



party specifically Revanth Reddy as PCC President had promised justice and the release of pending bills. However, even after two and a half years of Congress rule, those promises remain unfulfilled. He pointed out that new Sarpanchas have already taken charge and

the 16th Finance Commission is approaching. Despite this, the State Government is diverting about Rs 640 crores released by the centre under the 15th Finance Commission which has led to severe crises at the village level. Rao further blamed that Panchayats are unable to pay salaries to staff or sanitation workers and small-scale developmental works have come to a complete standstill. Demanding immediate release of central funds meant for development of panchayats, he declared BJP's full support for the movement launched by the Sarpanchs' Association and will continue to fight for their just demands.

AP Powers India's Biggest Energy Efficiency Drive Under PMAY

VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 30:

In what is set to become the largest-ever energy efficiency initiative under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu has extended full support to the Union Government's call for a people-led national movement on energy efficiency and renewable energy. The landmark initiative was formally unveiled today, March 30, at Naidupeta in Tirupati district, marking a transformative step in India's climate and energy journey. At a time when global uncertainties—particularly the ongoing West Asia crisis—are placing immense pressure on energy supply chains, the Chief Minister underscored that energy efficiency is no longer optional, but essential. He called for collective responsibility, urging all stakeholders to actively participate in energy conservation efforts to ensure sustainable economic growth and ecological balance. Reaffirming India's leadership in climate action, the Chief Minister

recalled Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi's early warnings on the catastrophic risks of climate change nearly a decade ago. He highlighted India's ambitious commitments, including reducing one billion tonnes of carbon emissions, cutting GDP emission intensity by 45 percent by 2030, and achieving Net Zero by 2070. He stressed that these goals can only be realised through mass public participation. Aligning with national priorities, the Andhra Pradesh government has adopted the Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024—a comprehensive framework aimed at accelerating the transition to clean energy, promoting distributed renewable systems, and embedding energy efficiency across sectors. Within months, the State has signed multiple MoUs in the presence of Union Minister Sri Manohar Lal, spanning energy, rural and urban development, tourism, and industry. A notable success has been the collaboration with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power. Andhra Pradesh has



emerged as a national benchmark by taking a strong initiative to distribute energy-efficient induction cookstoves, along with utensils, to over 55,000 Anganwadi centres—significantly benefiting women and child welfare programmes. Taking this momentum forward, the State has now ushered in a new era in energy-efficient housing under PMAY. Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Limited (APSHCL), in partnership with EESL and AP SEEDCO, has entered into a tripartite MoU to facilitate energy-efficient, star-rated appliances for 5 lakh beneficiaries in the

first phase under PMAY—setting a model for the rest of the country. The MoU, originally signed at the India Energy Week (IEW) 2026 in Goa, was formally exchanged today in the presence of Chief Minister Sri Chandrababu Naidu, Housing Minister Sri K. Parthasarathy and Municipal and Urban Development Minister Sri K. Narayana at Naidupeta. Senior officials, including Special Chief Secretary (Housing) Ajay Jain, Principal secretary MA and UD S Suresh Kumar and Managing Director APSHCL Arun Babu, exchanged documents with EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit and CGM Animesh Mishra. In this connection the Chief Minister further said that the government is committed to provide permanent houses to all the eligible House holds by the end of 2029 in a saturation mode. At the same time as a responsible Government towards sustainable economic development and combatting climate change we are also keen to make these lakhs of households under PMAY as Energy Efficient with the support of the House holds. These measures will be improving the quality of life and ensured monetary savings to the Beneficiaries the Chief Minister said. Describing the initiative as a defining moment in India's sustainable housing journey, Ajay Jain highlighted its transformative impact. Under the programme, conventional electrical fixtures in PMAY homes will be replaced with energy-efficient appliances. Each beneficiary household, on a voluntary basis, will receive four 6-watt LED bulbs, two 20-watt LED tube lights, and two 30-watt BLDC ceiling fans. This transition reduces the total connected load per household from 266 watts to 124 watts—more than a 50 percent reduction. Annual electricity consumption is expected to drop from 1,013.72 kWh to 456.88 kWh, saving approximately 556.84 kWh per household every year. This translates into annual monetary savings of around ₹3,341 per household and a reduction of 456.61 kg of CO₂ emissions annually. Beyond cost savings, the initiative ensures improved indoor comfort, enhanced energy security, and significant environmental benefits. For economically vulnerable families, these are not marginal gains—they are life-changing. The programme also offers strategic advantages to the State's power sector, including reduced peak demand, lower stress on distribution networks, improved grid stability during high-demand periods, and more efficient long-term energy planning. It aligns seamlessly with Andhra Pradesh's vision of building a climate-resilient and future-ready power system.

Two arrested for gangrape of woman in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 30

In a shocking development, the Commissionerate Police on Monday arrested two persons on the charges of the gangrape of a woman in the Tamando area of the city during the intervening night of March 27 and 28.

The accused were identified as Narayana Swain (31) and Bichitra Sahoo (34) of Nayagarh district. The accused persons reportedly work as private Ambulance drivers in Bhubaneswar. Police sources revealed that the victim woman, hailing from West Bengal, who had been residing with her husband—a mason—at their rented accommodation in the Chandaka area of Bhubaneswar, was known to the prime accused, Swain. Their acquaintance stemmed from the fact that Swain frequently visited the house of one of his close relatives, who resides in the neighbourhood of the couple in Chandaka. This familiarity was misused by the prime accused to gain the victim's trust.

The sources also added that on Friday night, following a quarrel with her husband, the victim decided to leave for her home in West Bengal.

Meanwhile, the prime accused encountered her and offered a lift to the Bhubaneswar Railway Station.

However, instead of taking her to the Railway Station, Swain reportedly took the victim to his rental accommodation at Ranasinghpur area under the Tamando police station limits, where he stays with his roommate, co-accused Sahoo. The two accused allegedly subjected the victim to sexual assault. Following the act, they reportedly issued threats, warning her not to disclose the incident to anyone, thereby attempting to silence her through intimidation and fear.

However, after being freed from their clutches, the woman lodged a complaint with Tamando police, which launched an investigation into the matter by registering a case (102/26) in this regard on March 29.

Subsequently, the police swung into action and arrested the duo who were produced before the court that sent them to judicial custody on Monday.

Special train service between Hubballi-Kollam for Good Friday, Easter rush

HUBBALLI, MARCH 30

South Western Railway will operate a one-trip special train between SSS Hubballi and Kollam to clear the extra rush of passengers in view of Good Friday and Easter.

Train No. 07347 SSS Hubballi-Kollam Express Special will leave Hubballi at 07:05 a.m. on April 2, 2026, and reach Kollam at 07:00 a.m. on April 3. In the return direction, Train No. 07348 Kollam-SSS Hubballi Express Special will depart from Kollam at 10:45 a.m. on April 3 and arrive at Hubballi at 10:40 a.m. on April 4. En route, the trains will halt at SMM Haveri, Ranibenur, Harihar, Davangere, Birur, Arsikere, Tumakuru, SMVT Bengaluru, Krishnarajapuram, Bangarapet, Kuppam, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Podanur, Palakkad, Thrissur, Aluva, Ernakulam Town, Kottayam, Changanassery, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikara, and Kayankulam stations.

The special trains will comprise 17 coaches, including one AC two-tier, three AC three-tier, seven sleeper class, four general second class, and two SLR/D coaches.

Identify locations for Water Harvesting Systems in Haryana, Implement the same across all Government Departments- CM

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 30

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini while chairing a key meeting with the officers of the Urban Local Bodies Department here today directed them to identify suitable locations for installing water harvesting systems across the state. He said that waterlogging issues arise at several places during the rainy season, and therefore, concrete arrangements should be made in advance to address the problem. During the meeting, he reviewed in detail the pre-monsoon preparations, including drain cleaning, water drainage systems, and sanitation arrangements, and issued necessary directions to the concerned officers. He directed that ar-



ea's facing drainage issues should be identified and alternative solutions should be adopted. He particularly emphasized exploring the option of installing water harvesting systems at such locations to enable rainwater conservation and significantly reduce waterlogging problems.

The Chief Minister further directed the officers to prepare comprehensive and updated data related to water harvesting in the state. This

should include details of locations where such systems are already installed, how many are functioning properly, and where new installations are required. He said that these systems should be effectively implemented across all government departments, and where these systems have not yet been installed, it should be set up on a priority basis, especially in waterlogging-prone areas. The Chief Minister also

held detailed discussions on further improving the sanitation system in the state. The officers apprised the Chief Minister that modern technology, particularly implementing a radio frequency identification (RFID)-based system for door-to-door garbage collection, is being used to strengthen sanitation management, leading to improved monitoring and transparency. Continuous efforts are being made in this direction. Cameras to be installed for Monitoring Sweeping Machines

The Chief Minister also reviewed the GPS-based waste collection system and directed officials to ensure its effective monitoring. The officers informed that RFID technology is being used in this system to make the waste collection

process more organized and transparent. Providing details of steps taken to strengthen monitoring of sweeping machines, officials stated that four cameras will be installed on each machine—one facing forward, one on top, one below, and one at the rear. It was further stated that if the sensor installed underneath the machine is found to be non-functional during cleaning operations, payment to the concerned agency will not be made. Additionally, agencies will now be required to submit video footage of their work along with their monthly bills for verification, if required. A penalty provision of ₹1,250 per hour has also been introduced to ensure accountability of agencies and prevent negligence in work.

UP gov't cracks down on fuel, LPG black marketing

LUCKNOW, MARCH 30

The Uttar Pradesh government has swung into full action mode to ensure uninterrupted supply and prevent black marketing of petrol, diesel, and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) outlets across the state. Since March 12, authorities have conducted a massive 17,581 raids and inspections to curb illegal activities and hoarding. So far, 33 First Information Reports have been registered specifically against

liquefied petroleum gas distributors, while 189 have been filed in other cases, leading to the arrest of 17 individuals. There are 12,888 operational petrol pumps across Uttar Pradesh, and fuel sales between March 27 and March 29 were recorded in thousands of kilolitres. The government has appealed to the public not to panic or hoard fuel, stating that adequate quantities are available. The LPG supply position is also satisfactory. Cylinders are being deliv-



ered to consumers as per their bookings through a network of 4,107 gas distributors, with sufficient stock maintained at all levels. The government has also decided to rapidly expand

the City Gas Distribution network. In a high-level meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary, officials were directed to fast-track pending permissions and issue as many piped natural gas connections as possible. The Central Government has also approved an additional 20 per cent allocation of commercial LPG cylinders, effective from March 23, which will further ease pressure on domestic supply. To ensure strict monitoring, a 24-hour control room has been set up at the Commission-

er of Food and Civil Supplies' office. Similar control rooms are operational in all districts, where the situation is reviewed round the clock. District Supply Officers and local administration have been instructed to conduct regular field inspections to ensure consumers receive fuel and gas cylinders without delay or harassment. The government has made it clear that strict action will continue against black marketing, hoarding, or any attempt to disrupt the supply chain.

TREASURY ON TURBO MODE CASH RAINS BEFORE THE BALLOT STORM

Four major states are not tiptoeing into elections. They are charging in with cash power. More than ₹37,000 crore has been unleashed in a matter of weeks, with women and youth placed at the centre of a carefully engineered electoral push. Welfare has turned into a high voltage political instrument. The deeper question is no longer about intent. It is about consequence.

The pattern is too sharp to ignore. Just weeks before voters line up, state treasuries have swung open with astonishing speed. From Tamil Nadu to West Bengal, from Assam to Kerala, governments are not merely continuing welfare. They are accelerating it, advancing it, and amplifying it. Over ₹20,000

crore has already been credited directly into bank accounts in one concentrated burst. The rest is lined up in announcements that carry the unmistakable scent of electoral urgency. This is governance moving at campaign speed.

TAMIL NADU: A CASH ENGINE RUNNING AT FULL THROTTLE

Under M. K. Stalin, the State has executed a cash rollout that reads like a financial monsoon. ₹5,000 has landed in the accounts of 1.31 crore women under the flagship entitlement scheme. Add to that the Pongal transfer reaching over 2.22 crore families, and the total injection crosses ₹13,000 crore in a matter of days. The political arithmetic is direct and unapologetic. Women voters are not just participants. They are the pivot. Rivals are not resisting

this model. They are sharpening their own versions, promising higher payouts and wider coverage. This is no longer a contest of policies. It is a contest of scale.

WEST BENGAL: EXPANSION WITH INTENT, NOT HESITATION

Mamata Banerjee has chosen expansion over caution. Lakshmi Bhandar has been strengthened with higher monthly payouts reaching more than two crore women. A fresh youth allowance has been introduced. Honorariums for grassroots workers have been revised upwards. The financial footprint of these moves approaches ₹18,600 crore in commitments. The strategy is unmistakable. Secure loyalty where it matters most. Women first. Youth next. The state is stretching its fiscal muscle to sustain this push, even as



analysts raise quiet alarms about the pressure on revenues.

ASSAM: ONE DAY, ONE TRANSFER

ONE MESSAGE Himanta Biswa Sarma delivered a striking demonstration of state capacity. ₹3,600 crore moved in a single day to nearly 40 lakh women under an expanded scheme. It was not just financial delivery. It was a display of administrative command. Coverage has

more than doubled in recent years. The message is crisp. The state can reach deeper and faster when required. This is welfare as signal.

KERALA: CALM SURFACE, HEAVY UNDERCURRENT

Pinarayi Vijayan has taken a quieter route, but the scale is substantial. Pensions have been increased. A new income support scheme for vulnerable women and trans persons has been rolled out.

Payments are being advanced ahead of festival season. The language is continuity. The timing is unmistakably strategic. Kerala's approach may not carry spectacle, but it carries depth and reach.

THE REAL STRATEGY: LOCK THE WOMEN VOTE, STABILISE THE YOUTH

Across these states, a common thread binds every announcement. Women are the central electoral force. Youth is the second line of engagement. Direct benefit transfers have replaced traditional welfare pipelines. No intermediaries. No administrative friction. Just immediate visibility. Cash becomes communication. Every credit message is a political handshake.

THE HARD QUESTION THAT REFUSES TO GO AWAY

Where does this road lead? These payouts are not

emerging from surplus reserves. They are riding on borrowing, reallocation, and fiscal stretching. Capital projects can be postponed. Cash transfers cannot. But postponed investment carries a cost. Slower infrastructure growth. Reduced job creation. Increased debt servicing in the future. Today's relief may become tomorrow's burden.

THE NEW POLITICS OF THE BANK ACCOUNT

A quiet revolution has reshaped Indian elections. The bank account has replaced the rally as the most powerful political interface. Earlier, governments spoke through announcements. Now they speak through transactions. The immediacy of cash transfers has collapsed the distance between policy and perception. Delivery is no

longer judged by intent or paperwork. It is judged by the timestamp on a bank alert. This shift has altered voter expectations. Speed is now credibility. Regularity is now trust. Every party has taken note. Every government is adapting.

THE BALLOT WILL TEST THE BALANCE

This is not a quiet election season. It is a high voltage contest powered by direct cash. Governments have moved decisively. Voters are receiving benefits in real time. But elections are not settled by money alone. They are settled by memory, trust, and expectation. The treasury has spoken first. Now the electorate will deliver the final account. Money is not being spent quietly. It is being delivered loudly, with electoral clarity and surgical timing.

EDITORIAL

OPEN FORUM

MODIFIED UDAN:
A HIGHER FLIGHT PATH OR
JUST A COSTLIER ONE?

In a bid to revive the regional aviation sector, the Union Cabinet has signed off on a 'Modified UDAN' scheme with a sixfold higher outlay. The scheme had first been launched to expand aviation to interior areas, using scheduled commuter airlines. Even then, industry analysts and experts had complained that UDAN did not make a viable business case for small regional airlines due to a lack of supporting infrastructure, low or unpredictable passenger demand, insufficient coverage of operating costs, and lack of awareness. In Modified UDAN, the subsidy period for tier-II and tier-III routes has been increased from three years to five years, an extension at least one of the small carriers had sought under UDAN before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The exchequer will also fund the subsidies directly rather than having airlines levy an additional charge from passengers, with the government setting aside ₹10,043 crore over the next decade to this end. The government will also spend ₹12,159 crore to redevelop a hundred unused airstrips, ₹3,661 crore to build 200 helipads in remote areas, and purchase aircraft and helicopters for state carriers to boost last-mile connectivity to better match the mode of transport to actual demand and geography. The scheme will also pay for ongoing costs such as staffing and maintenance of low-traffic airports.

Regional aviation in India is structurally fragile and unlikely to become widely self-sustaining due to the unyieldingly high cost per passenger, price sensitivity, competition from rail and road transport, and operational inefficiencies. UDAN did not address them adequately and, sadly, Modified UDAN carries that failing over. The foremost one is weak underlying demand, with UDAN often picking routes with insufficient economic activity even as leisure and occasional travel could not sustain regular flights. Extending the subsidies, even if they are eased from the third year onwards, could keep routes alive for longer but will not of itself create demand. In this sense, the government's reluctance to revisit how it identifies and nurtures routes, and how different transport modes might substitute for air travel in low-density regions, seems inexplicable. The emphasis on last-mile connectivity and better planning also appears only partially incorporated as the details the Civil Aviation Ministry shared did not mention ground transport links or integrated scheduling, among others. Whether the decision to sustain connectivity using sustained government support, rather than cultivate a market that can stand on its own, will lead to lasting changes depends on whether route selection and integration with broader transport and economic networks improve in practice.

New Possibilities of Peace and
Balance through Freedom from Maoism

In a vast, diverse, and democratic nation like India, internal security challenges have always been multidimensional. Among these challenges, Naxalism or Maoist violence has remained a serious problem that affected the country's internal peace, development, and governance for decades. Particularly in tribal-dominated regions of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh, Maoist activities not only obstructed development but also led to the loss of thousands of innocent civilians and security personnel. However, today the situation appears to be at a decisive turning point. The surrender of top Maoist commander Papa Rao, who carried a bounty of ₹25 lakh, along with his associates in Bastar—once considered the strongest Maoist stronghold—is not merely an isolated incident but a historic signal. It would not be an exaggeration to say that India now stands at the threshold of freedom from Maoism.

Naxalism had its roots in social and economic inequality, neglect, and exploitation. But over time, the movement drifted away from its original objectives and transformed into a violent and destructive ideology. Maoist organizations not only obstructed development projects but also controlled local populations through fear and violence. Destroying schools, roads, and health centers became part of their strategy. This made it clear that the movement was no longer about public welfare, but about power and control.



The Government of India had set a target to make the country free from Naxalism by 31 March 2026, and that goal now appears to be in its final phase. Over the past decade, more than 10,000 Maoists have surrendered. Aggressive and strategic operations by security forces, along with rapid development in affected regions, have significantly weakened the Maoist movement. Incidents of Maoist violence have declined considerably in states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Maharashtra.

The success behind this transformation lies in the government's multi-dimensional strategy, which focused not only on security operations but also on development, rehabilitation, and administrative outreach. Construction of roads and bridges in Red Corridor areas, expansion of 4G mobile networks, establishment of schools and ITI institutes, and improved connectivity have helped integrate these regions into the national mainstream. The strategy of fortified police stations enabled security forces to penetrate Maoist strong-

holds and carry out decisive operations. At the same time, rehabilitation policies for surrendered Maoists—providing financial assistance, employment opportunities, and social reintegration—encouraged many cadres to lay down arms. The surrender of top leadership weakened the organizational structure from within, bringing the movement closer to collapse.

This achievement reflects strategic clarity, coordinated policy implementation, and strong political will. The approach of combining security and development has brought positive transformation in Maoist-affected areas. The increasing number of surrenders in Bastar indicates that Maoist organizations are now fighting for survival. The surrender of top leaders symbolizes not just the fall of individuals but the decline of an entire violent ideology. The biggest benefit of freedom from Maoism will be the establishment of peace and stability in regions that have suffered from violence for decades. When guns fall silent, the voice of development becomes

louder. Roads will be built, schools will function, health-care facilities will improve, and most importantly, a sense of security and confidence will return to people's lives. Tribal and rural communities, who lived for years in fear and insecurity, will finally be able to benefit from their rights and opportunities.

Furthermore, the end of Maoist violence will strengthen India's internal security. Only when a country is internally stable can it effectively deal with external threats. Problems like Naxalism often provide opportunities for anti-national and foreign elements, and eliminating such threats is essential for national interest and strategic stability. Now that Maoist influence is declining, this is a historic opportunity for the government to establish strong foundations of good governance in these regions. Local self-governance institutions must be strengthened, local leadership should be encouraged, and public participation must be increased. At the same time, Maoist ideology must also be challenged at

the intellectual level through education, awareness, and dialogue, emphasizing that violence can never be a solution in a democracy. Change must come through peaceful and constitutional means.

It is also important to ensure that the conditions that originally gave rise to this problem—social injustice, economic inequality, and neglect—do not re-emerge. Development in tribal regions must be inclusive and respectful of their culture, identity, and rights. Not only physical infrastructure but also social and cultural empowerment is equally important. Freedom from Maoism is not merely a security achievement; it is a victory of India's democracy, development, and governance. It symbolizes the nation's ability to resolve internal conflicts through determination, strategy, and inclusive development. The next step is to ensure that this achievement becomes permanent and that an environment of peace, prosperity, and balance is established across the country. When every citizen feels safe, respected, and empowered, only then can the dream of an ideal governance system truly be realized.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
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Special on Mahavir Jayanti (31 March)

The Eternal Message of Non-Violence:
Why Lord Mahavira Remains Relevant Even Today?

Guidance for a World Troubled by Violence

The life and philosophy of Lord Mahavira, who proclaimed "Ahimsa Parmo Dharm" (Non-violence is the highest DHARM), are not confined to a single religious tradition but serve as a timeless source of guidance for all humanity. While the modern age has undoubtedly reached remarkable heights in science, technology, and material advancement, humanity simultaneously finds itself grappling with moral, psychological, and environmental crises. In such times, the teachings and immortal words of Lord Mahavira have become more relevant than ever.

In today's fast-paced life, human beings, driven by selfishness, greed, and ego, are making decisions that not only affect their own lives but also disturb the balance of society and nature. Violence is no longer limited to physical acts; it has permeated thoughts, speech, and behavior. In the blind race of competition, individuals are becoming increasingly insensitive. In such a scenario, Mahavira's philosophy of non-violence calls upon humanity to return to compassion, tolerance, and self-discipline. The philosophy of Lord Mahavira is rooted in the fundamental belief that every living being is equal and that the soul resides in all. He made it clear that causing pain to any living being is, in essence, harming one's own existence. Today, as we face environmental crises, climate change, and the destruction of biodiversity, his principle that plants, water, air, and fire are also living entities deserving sensitivity appears profoundly meaningful.

Mahavira did not merely preach but demonstrated through his life that self-restraint, austerity, and discipline can purify the inner self. He explained the doctrine of karma, stating that every individual is responsible for their own actions. Karma determines the course of life, and accordingly, the soul moves through different forms of existence. This idea inspires individuals today to become more conscious and responsible in their conduct. His teachings provide guidance for every aspect of life. He emphasized that all living beings are equal and advocated the principle of "Live and Let Live." This is not merely a moral teaching but the foundation of social harmony and peace. If



every individual adopts this principle, violence, hatred, and conflict can naturally diminish.

Mahavira also declared that no vow is greater than non-violence. In a world where wars, terrorism, and social unrest prevail, this message holds immense significance. He clearly stated that one who commits violence, encourages it, or supports it ultimately invites enmity and suffering. This reinforces the sense of moral responsibility and social accountability in modern society. His concept of religion was not limited to rituals but was based on inner purity. He emphasized that true religion lies in the purity of the soul, and external practices, though helpful, are not essential. This idea is particularly relevant today, when religion is often reduced to outward display. Mahavira's message guides us back to the essence of true spirituality—inner purity and righteous conduct.

Mahavira identified four major flaws of human nature—anger, pride, deceit, and greed—as the root causes of downfall. He explained that anger destroys love, pride destroys knowledge, deceit destroys relationships, and greed destroys all virtues. In today's stressful

world, where maintaining mental balance is crucial. The essence of his teachings is that no living being should be harmed through thought, word, or action. This is the true religion and the highest form of spiritual practice. He also taught that the soul is eternal, the body is transient, and the ultimate goal of life is liberation of the soul. This perspective helps individuals understand the deeper purpose of life. In today's world, where humanity faces multiple challenges—moral decline, environmental crises, and mental unrest—the teachings of Lord Mahavira serve as a guiding light. His philosophy not only improves individual life but also inspires the establishment of peace, harmony, and balance in society and the world.

Mahavir Jayanti is not merely a religious celebration but an opportunity for introspection and self-improvement. It encourages us to look within and reflect on whether we are truly following the path of non-violence, truth, discipline, and compassion. If we incorporate Mahavira's principles into our lives, not only will our personal lives gain meaning, but society and the world will also become more peaceful and humane. Therefore, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the immortal teachings of Lord Mahavira will remain eternally relevant. They are a priceless heritage for humanity—one that transcends time, circumstances, and eras, continuing to guide us forever.



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

(Author is a senior journalist with 36 years of experience & author of book "Sagar Se Antariksh Tak: Bharat Ki Raksha Kranti")

NECTAR OF WORDS



Words are never mere sounds they are quiet truths felt beyond silence. They rise like sacred mantras, born in the stillness within. Parents timeless in their presence their words shape the course of life, their eyes become our guiding light. Marriage—not a ritual alone, but a shared journey of two souls seeking something higher. Love cannot be held in language; it is a silent depth, endless and abiding within. Trust not a passing shadow, but a sacred space where hearts find rest. Patience a gentle music, softly holding life

in perfect harmony. Walking together not only through light and joy, but through pain and shadow yet when hands remain entwined, even darkness turns to moonlight. A woman not merely beauty, but a presence to be honored. A man not mere pride, but strength that shelters and sustains. Life not a fleeting dream, but a poem slowly written by time. If words are pearls, hearts are oceans within their depths flows the quiet sweetness of love. Marriage not an agreement, but a living story beautifully written by two hearts as one.

... Dr. Peruka Raju ...
7810032847

Amit Shah declares India has become free from Naxals

NEW DELHI, MAR 30:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday declared that the country has become free from Naxals with the apex body of the Maoists and the central structure almost completely dismantled, and accused the Congress of doing "nothing" to end the long spell of violence perpetrated by the ultras. Replying to the debate in the Lok Sabha on 'Efforts to free the country from left-wing extremism (LWE)', Shah also alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was seen multiple times in public with sympathisers of Naxals and even posted videos "sympathetic" to the Maoists from his social media handle. Targeting the Congress, the Home Minister claimed that former prime minister Indira Gandhi had accepted the support of the Naxals in an election in the 1970s in then undivided Andhra Pradesh and remained "influenced" by the Maoist ideology. "Experts say without the support of those in power, the Red Corridor could not have

been created," he said, referring to the region affected by Naxalism across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The debate was held a day before the deadline declared by Shah for the elimination of Naxal violence. Last year, Shah had announced that the LWE would end in the country by March 31, 2026, and a major operation had been organised against the Naxals. Giving details of the success achieved by the security forces against the Naxals, the Home Minister said all members of the state committees of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh have surrendered and of the four remaining in Odisha, one has surrendered and three have been killed. He said in Telangana, six have surrendered, three have been killed and now not a single one remains there. "Their Politburo and central structure have been almost completely dismantled. Our goal was a Naxal-free India by March 31. The

country will be informed once the entire process is formally completed, but I can say that we have become Naxal-free," he announced on the floor of the House. "It is the policy of our government that talks are held only with those who lay down their arms and a bullet is answered with a bullet," he said. The Home Minister said 12 states had turned into the Red Corridor with no rule of law, 12 crore people lived in poverty for years and 20,000 people, including 5,000 security personnel, were killed due to the Naxal violence.

"In the end, who is responsible for this. I want to ask, in 75 years, you ruled for 60 years, why have the tribals still been deprived of development? The development of tribals is now being done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he told the opposition. He alleged that for 60 years, the Congress "did not give the tribals houses, didn't give them water, didn't build schools, didn't extend bank facilities." "So first look a little into your own reign and see who is at fault," he said in



response to some opposition members blaming the Modi government for the violence. Shah said the then prime minister Manmohan Singh had acknowledged that Naxalism was a bigger challenge than the Kashmir and North-East problems before the nation, but the "Congress did nothing about it". Be it in Naxal-affected areas, Jammu and Kashmir or the Northeast, the Modi government will not tolerate any kind of violence and will take strong action against anyone indulging in such acts, the Home Minister asserted in the Lok Sabha. The Home Minister made it clear that

the Modi government will not spare anyone who picks up arms. "The biggest achievement of the Modi government is a Naxal-free India; any researcher will accept this," he said. He said those advocating Naxalism should know that people who take up arms will have to pay a price. The solution for addressing injustice is prescribed in the Constitution. Taking up arms is not the answer, he said. Claiming that several frontal organisations of the Maoists participated in Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' (in 2022-23) and he has records on this, the Home Minister alleged that the Lead-

er of Opposition in Lok Sabha has been seen multiple times with Naxal sympathisers in public platforms. "When (Naxal leader) Hidma, who killed 172 soldiers, was eliminated, slogans were raised at India Gate... 'How many Hidmas will you kill, a Hidma will emerge from every home', and Rahul Gandhi himself tweeted this video," he said, adding the Congress supported the Naxals from 1970 up to March 2026. "I just want to ask those people who were advocating for Naxalism here, why was it not resolved from 1970 until now," he said. He said that the development in Bastar had stalled because the shadow of red terror loomed there. "Now this shadow is lifting and Bastar is developing," he said while lauding security forces and tribals for the success against the Naxals. Shah also said that all credit for the success against the Maoists goes to the Central Armed Police Forces personnel, especially the brave soldiers of Cobra and CRPF, security agencies, Chhattisgarh Police, DRG

personnel and tribal inhabitants. He said after the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014, "every poor person in the country got a house, got gas, got clean drinking water, got health insurance up to 5 lakh, got 5 kg of free grain per person per month but why were those living in Bastar left out".

"I am saying this because the truth is being denied. These people in Bastar were left out because the shadow of red terror loomed there, so development could not reach there. "In the Modi government today, that shadow has been lifted, and therefore Bastar is developing today. This is the Narendra Modi government, which will settle the score with anyone who picks up arms," he said. The Home Minister said he had said it many times to the Naxals that they should lay down arms and complete arrangements for their rehabilitation would be made. "It is the policy of our government that talks are held only with those who lay down their arms and a bullet

is answered with a bullet," he said. Shah said many innocent villagers were labelled as 'enemy informers' by them and killed. The Naxals set up a system called 'people's court', where they themselves would pass judgments and also give punishments, he said, adding, in this country, the rule of the Constitution prevails and justice can only be administered in the courts. The Home Minister said the Maoists established a parallel government in Bastar; had their own 'home minister' and a separate 'food supply minister' to distribute the looted grain. "Some people do not yield to discussions. Force has to be used against them. Innocent citizens have to be protected from their atrocities. "They planted bombs in the farmers' fields, crippling them. Raids were conducted in schools and children were recruited as Naxals. Under the Modi government, the security of every citizen has been ensured. If someone understands this, that is fine. Otherwise, the forces are created for this very day," he said.

Over 11,000 cases pending in Armed Forces Tribunal in 5 years: Govt in RS

NEW DELHI: (Mar 30)

A total of 44,622 cases were registered with the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) from 2021 to January 2026, with 11,097 -- about 24 per cent -- cases pending, the government informed Parliament on Monday. Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth was asked in a query in Rajya Sabha about the total number of cases registered and pending in the AFT during the last five years, and year-wise data on the number of cases disposed during this period. In his written response, Seth shared data for the cases registered, pending and disposed.

Congress candidate attacked in Assam's Naduar constituency

GUWAHATI: (Mar 30)

Congress candidate from Assam's Naduar assembly constituency Sunil Kumar Chetry was allegedly attacked and injured by unidentified persons while he was campaigning on Monday, party sources said. The candidate's convoy was allegedly attacked at Napalm Bypass of the constituency in the evening and a scuffle followed. Chetry fell to the ground and was seen groaning before he was rushed to a private hospital for treatment.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya & DGCA Sign MoU to Revamp Aircraft Maintenance & Create Jobs

Both will Work Together to Design a Three-year B.Sc. Course in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering

Sh. Ashwini Vaishnav Calls for Setting up of a Centre of Excellence for Manufacturing Technologies at GSV, which will Benefit 1,000 Students Every Year

Civil Aviation Minister Praises GSV for Developing a Skilled Workforce Equipped with Global Standards & Supporting the Evolving Needs of Fastest Growing Aviation Sector

Partnership Aims to Standardize Education in Aircraft Maintenance, Enhance Quality Benchmarks, and to Equip Youths with Future-ready Skills

Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), India's leading university for the transportation and logistics sector and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) at Rail Bhawan today. This significant MoU was signed by Sh. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai (DG, DGCA) and Prof. Manoj Choudhary (VC, GSV) in the presence of Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav & Union Civil Aviation Minister Shri K. Ram Mohan Naidu. The Chairman of Railway Board, Sh. Satish Kumar and the Union Secretary of Civil Aviation, Sh. Samir Kumar Sinha were present amongst other top officials of Railways and Civil Aviation.

This strategic collaboration aims to support and enable the fast-growing Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) sector in India by strengthening human capital and revamping Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) training. The partnership will focus on standardizing AME education, enhancing quality benchmarks, and making MRO careers more aspirational for the youth through the introduction of an undergraduate degree in Aviation Maintenance Engineering. Speaking at the event, Sh. Ashwini Vaishnav suggested establishing a Centre of Excellence at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya focused on manufacturing



technologies, particularly those requiring high levels of precision such as in aviation, railways, and marine sectors. The training required in these domains demands a different level of technical accuracy and expertise. Industry-oriented courses play a crucial role in ensuring that students are job-ready upon graduation, with access to diverse employment opportunities. He further emphasized that global benchmark standards should be followed to guide the development of such programs. Highlighting the potential impact, he noted that at least 1,000 students could benefit annually from such initiatives, and assured that adequate funding support would be arranged to realize this vision. Sh. Ram Mohan Naidu in his address said, "India's aviation sector is the most progressive sector

in the country today, growing at over 10-12% annually, a pace that is expected to continue for the next 15 years. The recent expansion in operational airports, passengers, and aircraft in the national fleet underscores the need to develop a workforce that meets global standards and supports the sector's evolving needs. He highlighted that the recent inauguration of Jewar Airport reflects the scale and pace of development, aligned with the vision of establishing seamless multimodal connectivity across highways, railways, ports, and airports." He further noted that Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya embodies this integrated approach by bringing together diverse logistics sectors that have traditionally functioned in silos. Emphasizing the broader scope of aviation, he underlined that

the sector today extends beyond passenger travel to include MRO, skilling and training, and indigenous aircraft component manufacturing, contributing to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He added that the MoU will help in creating the right talent pool, which, along with proper funding under initiatives like the Udaan scheme, is crucial for sustaining growth and ensuring a skilled workforce for the future. GSV has already established formal collaborations with leading global and national aviation players including Airbus, Safran, and GMR School of Aviation. The university is also in the process of finalizing partnerships with ENAC France and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. These collaborations have contributed significantly to the development of a robust, industry-relevant academic curriculum.

Under the MoU, GSV and DGCA will jointly design a future-ready three-year B.Sc. (AME) program that integrates academic rigor, regulatory compliance, and industry-aligned competencies. The program aims to create a highly skilled workforce equipped to meet the evolving demands of India's aviation sector.

The pilot phase of the program will commence in the academic year 2026-27 at a select group of premier AME institutions, including GMR School of Aviation and Air India AME Academy. This phase will serve as a model for academic and regulatory excellence before a structured nationwide rollout. As part of its role as a nodal centre, GSV will collaborate with DGCA as a research partner in emerging areas such as Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and related domains. The university will also conduct specialized training programs to support the capacity building and upskilling of DGCA personnel. The partnership establishes a structured bridge between regulation, academia, and industry. While DGCA will continue to define licensing standards under CAR-66 and CAR-147 frameworks, GSV will function as a national academic anchor for curriculum innovation, faculty development, research integration, and industry-linked apprenticeship models. This scalable and replicable framework aligns with India's vision of reducing dependence on foreign MRO facilities and building strong indigenous maintenance capabilities.



NFR Deploys Advanced OFC-Based Communication System at Level Crossing Gates

MALIGAON, 30 MARCH, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has introduced an advanced OFC-based Integrated Voice-Data Communication System at Level Crossing (LC) Gates to enhance safety and operational efficiency. The system is being implemented across 50 LC Gates using the robust Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network of Indian Railways, ensuring reliable and uninterrupted communication between Station Masters and gate operators.

The system has already been installed at Senchoa Station and Barpathar station connecting non-interlocked and interlocked gates. With this system, Station Masters can monitor real-time gate status, including opening and closing, directly from the SM room, significantly improving control and coordination.

Equipped with high-quality voice communication, integrated voice logging, an

IP-based Public Address system and CCTV integration, the system enables both audio and visual monitoring of LC Gates. It features single-touch calling, group communication and battery health monitoring to enhance operational efficiency. A key technological advancement is the AI-enabled noise filtering at the master console, which effectively removes ambient sounds such as train horns and station announcements during critical operations. The system also supports centralized monitoring of all LC Gate cameras and facilitates public address announcements through additional IP-based PA units installed at gate locations, ensuring seamless and reliable communication.

This initiative underscores Northeast Frontier Railway's commitment to leveraging modern technology for enhanced safety, improved communication and efficient management of railway operations, particularly at vulnerable Level Crossing Gates.

8 Indians died, 1 missing in various incidents amid Middle East war: Govt

Amid the escalating Middle East war, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that eight Indian nationals have been killed and one remains missing in various incidents across the region. Amid the escalating West Asia conflict, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday said eight Indian nationals have lost their lives while one remains missing in "various incidents" in the region. At an inter-ministerial briefing here on the West Asia situation, Additional Secretary (Gulf), MEA, Aseem R Mahajan, also said, "Yesterday, an Indian national unfortunately lost his life in an attack in Kuwait." However, he did not elaborate on the circumstances of this death. "We express our deepest condolences to the family of the deceased. Our Mission in Kuwait is in touch with the family of the deceased and is coordinating closely with the local authorities to render all support and for the early return of his mortal remains to India," he said. On March 20, at an inter-ministerial briefing on the West Asia situation, Mahajan had told reporters that six Indian nationals had lost their

lives while one remained missing in "various incidents." On Monday, he shared an update, saying, "Eight Indian nationals have unfortunately lost their lives and one Indian national remains missing in various incidents." The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia recently said that an Indian national was killed in Riyadh due to the "recent events of March 18." The ministry also shared that since February 28, around 5.5 lakh passengers have returned from the region to India. The MEA on Monday reiterated that it continues to closely monitor the evolving situation in the Gulf and West Asia region. "We continue to call for restraint and de-escalation, and at the same time emphasize on dialogue and diplomacy, as a means to an early end to the conflict," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. He also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 28, spoke to the Crown Prince and PM of Saudi Arabia, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and discussed with him the ongoing conflict in West Asia and agreed on the need to ensure freedom of navigation.

Signal & Telecom Dept of North Eastern Railway holds seminar

GORAKHPUR, MARCH 30, 2026:

Under the guidance of the General Manager, North Eastern Railway, Mr. Uday Borwankar, a seminar was organized by the Signal and Telecommunication Department on March 30, 2026, at the General Manager's conference hall 'Chaitanya' in Gorakhpur. The seminar was attended by Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineers from all three divisions.

On this occasion, Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Mr. M.L. Makwana, Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer Mr. Tushar Kant Pandey, heads of various departments, senior officers from headquarters, Deputy Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineers (HQ and divisions), and Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineers were present. Addressing the seminar, General Manager Mr. Uday Borwankar stated that the Signal and Telecommunication Department plays a



vital role in railway safety. He emphasized that no shortcuts should be taken in matters of safety. He urged continuous improvement in the quality of maintenance of signal and telecommunication equipment and encouraged the use of updated technologies in all areas of work. He further stressed the importance of keeping operational positions updated, maintaining coordination with other departments, and adopting innovative practices to ensure uninterrupted train operations. He also highlighted the need to study technologies used in other railways for effective implementation

in North Eastern Railway. From a safety perspective, he directed that works related to earthing, lightning arresters, electronic interlocking, automatic signaling, and the 'Kavach' system should be expedited. He also emphasized training for supervisors and technicians of the Signal and Telecommunication Department. The General Manager further stated that significant steps are being taken for the protection of wildlife (especially elephants) on North Eastern Railway. A plan is underway to deploy innovative technology—Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled Intrusion

Detection System (IDS)—to prevent elephants from coming onto railway tracks during train operations, and work on this should be accelerated. Earlier, Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Mr. M.L. Makwana reviewed various aspects including safety improvements, train operations, level crossing gates, umbrella works, increased production of signal equipment at the Signal Workshop in Gorakhpur Cantonment, measures to prevent cable cuts in the field, Kavach, electronic interlocking, automatic signaling, axle counters, training programs for supervisors and technicians, and other related issues. He provided necessary guidelines to headquarters and divisional officers. During the seminar, heads of other departments discussed challenges faced in the divisions and offered suggestions for resolution and necessary improvements in coordination with the Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer and Senior Divisional Engineers.

Hema Malini seeks special package for Mathura tourism boost

MATHURA, MARCH 30

Mathura Lok Sabha MP Hema Malini demanded a special package to develop Mathura as an international tourist destination, and requested its inclusion in the FY 26-27 budget, on Friday in Lok Sabha.



She said that Mathura is a popular tourist destination in India now, and Vrindavan is also witnessing a record number of tourists. The number is expected to go up since an airport is coming up in Jewar.

Mathura has the potential to become a key cultural and religious tourism destination. A special package is therefore needed to ensure world-class tourist facilities, to enhance Road and Rail connectivity, to provide for standard amenities, to develop the Yamuna Riverfront, and to develop and beautify Brij 84 Kos Parikrama, Hema Malini said.

Hema Malini said, we

have seen a gradual rise in the number of foreign visitors and visitors from India. We need to upgrade our infrastructure if we aspire to become international tourist destination. My request to hon'ble Minister to include the package in this year's budget will speed up the process.

"It's my longstanding wish to highlight and preserve the route and major locations of Brij 84 Kos Parikrama," she said. The package will help to preserve one of the richest cultural and religious heritages of the city.

The 84 Kos Parikrama covers a distance of 252 km and have major temples in UP and Rajasthan.

Nepal SC denies relief to ex-PM Oli amid protests

BY SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU: (Mar 30) Nepal's Supreme Court on Monday refused to provide interim relief to former Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, arrested over the 2025 Gen Z movement crackdown, even as protests continued in Nepal over his detention.

Oli and former home minister Ramesh Lekhak were arrested on Saturday for their alleged involvement in suppressing the Gen Z movement of September 8 and 9 last year, in which 76 people were killed. In response to a habeas corpus petition filed by Oli's wife, Radhika Shukya, claiming her husband's detention is unlawful, a single bench of Justice Meghraj Pokharel refused to issue an interim order for Oli's release.

Russia's Lavrov cautions against drawing Gulf monarchies into alien war

BY VINAY SHUKLA

MOSCOW: (Mar 30)

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Monday cautioned against drawing Gulf monarchies into "someone else's war" and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in West Asia. Speaking in a video conference with his counterparts from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, Lavrov expressed Russia's "unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of friendly Arabian monarchies." He "emphasised the inadmissibility of drawing these countries into someone else's war, as well as the unacceptability of attacks on their civilian infrastructure, including energy and other vital facilities," the Russian foreign office said in a statement.

3,000 Sikhs to visit Pakistan for Baisakhi

BY M ZULQERNAIN

LAHORE: (Mar 30) Around 3,000 Indian Sikh pilgrims are expected to visit Pakistan to participate in the Baisakhi festival starting on April 10, an official said on Monday.

The main ceremony will be held on April 14 at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal, in the country's Punjab province.

"As many as 3,000 Sikh yatrees are arriving here from India in connection with Baisakhi festivities," Evacuee Trust Property Board spokesperson Ghulam Mohyuddin told PTI.

US strike hits India-bound aircraft at Mashhad airport; Iran calls it war crime

NEW DELHI: MAR 30, 2026

The plane was stationed at Mashhad International Airport when it was struck during the reported airstrike, disrupting the planned aid operation. The aircraft was expected to be part of efforts linked to ongoing humanitarian coordination between India and Iran.



An Iranian civilian aircraft bound for India was reportedly hit in a US strike at Mashhad airport, reported news agency ANI, quoting Iranian sources. The aircraft, operated by Mahan Air, had been scheduled to fly to New Delhi as part of a humanitarian mission, carrying or facilitating the transport of medicines and medical supplies, the sources said.

The plane was stationed at Mashhad International Airport when it was struck during the reported airstrike, disrupting the planned aid operation. The aircraft was expected to be part of efforts linked to ongoing humanitarian coordination between India and Iran. There was no immediate confirmation from the United States on the reported strike. The development comes at a time when India and Iran have been co-

ordinating humanitarian efforts. Earlier this month, New Delhi dispatched aid consignments to Iran, highlighting what it described as longstanding civilisational and humanitarian ties between the two countries. The disruption of the planned flight is likely to impact ongoing relief logistics.

VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: IRAN
In a strongly worded response, Iran's Civil Aviation

Organisation termed the incident a "war crime" and a clear violation of international law. In a statement shared by Iran's mission in India on X, the organisation said the aircraft was carrying medicines and medical equipment sourced from multiple countries and was engaged in a humanitarian mission.

It said targeting such a civilian aircraft constituted a "blatant violation" of international aviation regulations and ran contrary to the principles of humanitarian law.

Citing global legal frameworks, the body referred to the Chicago Convention (1944) and the Montreal Convention (1971), which classify acts endangering civilian aircraft as international criminal offences. It also invoked Article 52 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, under which attacks on civilian ob-

jects – including aircraft carrying humanitarian aid – may amount to war crimes.

The Civil Aviation Organisation called on international bodies to urgently investigate the incident, prosecute those responsible and ensure safeguards to prevent similar threats to civil aviation.

Mahan Air, one of Iran's largest private carriers, has been under US sanctions for years, with Washington alleging links to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and accusing it of transporting personnel and equipment linked to regional conflicts—a claim Tehran has consistently denied.

The reported strike adds to growing risks for civilian aircraft operating in conflict zones, with previous incidents during the ongoing war also damaging aviation infrastructure across Iran



Pak's forums their own, Iran didn't participate: Tehran rebuffs mediation claims

NEW DELHI: MAR 30, 2026

Iran has rejected claims of participating in Pakistan-mediated talks, with Esmail Baghaei stating there are no direct negotiations with the US and dismissing Washington's proposals as "excessive and unrealistic".

Iran on Monday rejected claims of participating in Pakistan-facilitated talks to end the ongoing conflict, asserting that any such forums are "their own" and that Tehran was not involved.

In a statement amplified by the Consulate General of Iran in Mumbai on X, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said there were no direct talks with the United States, adding that Tehran had only received "excessive and unreasonable demands" through intermediaries. "Pakistan's forums are their own; we didn't participate," the statement said, while adding that although regional calls to end the war are welcome,

"one must remember who started it." Baghaei's clarification came after Pakistan had announced on Sunday that it would soon host talks between the US and Iran, though there was no immediate confirmation from either Washington or Tehran, and it remained unclear whether any discussions would be direct or indirect. Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said Islamabad would be "honoured to host and facilitate meaningful talks" after a meeting of top diplomats from Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in Islamabad. However, the diplomatic effort appeared uncertain, with Pakistani officials offering no further clarity and Iran's UN mission declining to comment. Islamabad has positioned itself as a mediator in recent weeks, citing its ties with both Washington and Tehran, triggering a sharp reaction from India as the Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar called Pakistan a dalal (broker) nation.

Trump interested in Arab partners footing Iran war bill: White House

NEW DELHI: MAR 30, 2026

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Trump would be "interested" in calling on countries in the Middle East to contribute towards the cost of military operations. Iran has already made it clear it is not ready to step back from the conflict without compensation.

US President Donald Trump is interested in calling on Arab countries to help bear the financial burden of the ongoing war with Iran, the White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Monday. Speaking to reporters, Karoline Leavitt said Trump "would be interested" in calling on Arab countries to help cover the cost of the war,

adding that the President is likely to speak further on the issue.

Iran has already made it clear it is not ready to step back from the conflict without firm conditions being met. In a televised address, senior military adviser Mohsen Rezaei had said Tehran would not end hostilities without full accountability from its adversaries. "The war will continue until we receive full compensation for all our losses, all economic sanctions are removed, and we receive international legal guarantees that Washington will not interfere in our affairs," he said.

However, the White House struck an optimistic tone on diplomacy. According to the Press Secretary, indirect talks with Iran are moving forward despite public posturing from Tehran. "Despite all of the



public posturing talks are continuing and going well," Leavitt said, adding that "what is said publicly is much different than what's being communicated to us privately."

She also described Iranian negotiators as "more reasonable behind the scenes than perhaps some of the previous leaders who are now no longer on planet Earth."

TRUMP THINKS WAR WILL LAST FOUR TO

SIX WEEKS: LEAVITT

The White House also offered a clearer sense of how long the conflict could last. Leavitt said Trump has maintained from the outset that the war would run for around four to six weeks -- and that timeline has not changed. "We're on day 30 today," she noted.

While the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz remains a priority, Leavitt said it is not the sole benchmark for winding down operations. She stressed that the US is actively working towards restoring safe passage through the strategic waterway, but made it clear that achieving the broader military objectives takes precedence.

BOOTS ON GROUND NOT RULED OUT

On the question of deploying US troops on the ground in Iran, Leavitt said Trump

has "declined to rule out" the possibility, though no decision has been made. She said the Pentagon is preparing multiple options for the US President. Leavitt was also asked about Trump's remarks on potentially targeting desalination plants in Iran -- facilities critical for civilian water supply. She said the US military would operate "within the confines of the law", but added that Trump remains committed to achieving the full objectives of the operation. "President Trump is going to move forward unabated," she said. She made clear that Washington is prepared to escalate if negotiations fail. "This is another historic opportunity for Iran to do the right thing or, again, they will see the grave consequences of the United States Armed Forces," she said.

India slams UN peacekeepers' deaths in Lebanon blast

NEW DELHI: MAR 30, 2026

The attack, which left one Indonesian peacekeeper dead and another injured, was also denounced by Antonio Guterres, who called for accountability and warned that such incidents could amount to war crimes.

India on Monday condemned recent attacks on United Nations peacekeepers in Lebanon, calling on all parties to ensure the safety and security of personnel deployed under the UN flag. An Indonesian peacekeeper was killed and another critically injured after a projectile



struck a position of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) near Adchit Al Qusayr on March 29, news agencies reported. In a statement, India's Permanent Mission to the UN said it "strongly condemns" the attack and paid homage to the fallen "Blue Helmets". "We urge all parties to ensure

the safety and security of the peacekeepers," it said. Highlighting its long-standing role, the mission said UN peacekeeping represents "multilateralism in action", carried out in difficult conflict zones under an international mandate. It added that India, one of the largest contributors to

UN peacekeeping operations and among those that have suffered the highest casualties, remains committed to strengthening accountability. India also referred to UN Security Council Resolution 2589, adopted in August 2021 during its presidency of the Council, which calls for action against those responsible for crimes against peacekeepers and urges member states to ensure accountability. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also condemned the incident, expressing condolences to the family of the deceased peacekeeper and the government of Indonesia, and wishing a swift recovery to the injured personnel. A

statement from his office noted that the attack was among several recent incidents that have endangered peacekeepers amid escalating hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah. Guterres stressed that attacks on UN personnel may constitute war crimes and called for accountability. He urged all sides to de-escalate and uphold international law, emphasising the need to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of UNIFIL personnel. As of February 2026, UNIFIL comprises over 7,500 peacekeepers from 48 countries, including 642 personnel from India, making it one of the largest troop contributors to the mission.

US thinking World War II, Iran fighting today's war

NEW DELHI: MAR 30, 2026

The US has overwhelming firepower, but experts warn that Washington's outdated strategy might help Iran. By prolonging the conflict and exploiting global energy chokepoints like Hormuz, Tehran could trigger a graver global crisis. The US is stuck in a World War II mindset. Iran is fighting today's war.

War drums are getting louder in the Middle East. The US is on the cusp of ground operations in Iran. Tehran, too, has blared a blunt warning. "Welcome to hell", it said on the front page of its state-run daily, Tehran Times, as the US marines arrived in the Middle East. However, despite the wrath that the US armada can unleash on the energy sites

in Iran, experts believe the situation still seemingly favours Iran. The US has everything. Marines, stealth fighters, aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, precision-guided munitions, intelligence, money, strategists. Everything, but seemingly the fight. The fight that Iran is fighting for its survival. Donald Trump has extended the pause on energy strikes, but experts say the US' strategy is quite outdated. Even the idea of a ground invasion, on targets like Kharg Island, seems like a throwback to past mistakes. Mistakes that were very costly, for the countries that were ravaged by America, and for America itself. Former senior adviser to the Secretary of Defence under Trump, Colonel Douglas McGregor (Retd), has been vocal about this. In an interview with India Today TV, McGregor said the "break" announced by the US Presi-



dent is to build up air power and missiles. The goal, he said, is a punishing strike intended to cause "the disintegration of the Iranian state", followed by attempts to seize islands in the Persian Gulf, including Kharg Island, which is Iran's primary oil hub, which handles 90% of Iran's oil exports. Reports suggest smaller islands could also be targeted to gain leverage over the Strait of Hormuz.

US IS THINKING WORLD WAR II WAY, IRAN IS THINKING LIKE TODAY
McGregor said that the US' plans carry enormous risks and show the Trump administration's flawed thinking. "This is World War II thinking at its worst and it's not an answer and it won't work," he said. Iranian forces benefit from precision strikes and persistent surveillance, making any ground

operation by light infantry Marines or Army units highly vulnerable. "Whatever you put on the island can be destroyed from a distance," he explained. "The weapons that can sink ships, destroy islands... can be 150 km away," he said. Iran has adapted to 21st-century form of warfare. "Missiles, unmanned systems... linked to overhead space-based surveillance that is constant and uninterrupted. That is a very lethal combination. And the Iranians are proving that they don't need a navy. They don't need an army. They don't need an air force," McGregor also said. Strategically, he, like many other experts, believes Iran holds the upper hand. "Iran is in the driver's seat," McGregor said. The US knows how to strike, assault and devastate nations, but past campaigns in Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, and even World War II attacks on Germany and

Japan show it has struggled to break national will, except with nuclear weapons in the latter case. MIT professor Caitlin Talmadge, a leading expert on Persian Gulf military operations, has also warned that seizing Kharg Island or similar positions would be "extremely high-risk" and "likely to result in significant casualties". Inserting and sustaining US light infantry so close to Iran's heavily defended coastline, she notes, is a mission "in search of a strategic rationale". Admiral James Stavridis, former Nato Supreme Allied Commander and a frequent CNN analyst, has described any attempt to take Kharg as "a big risk for little reward". Iranian forces, he points out, would use drones, missiles, mines and swarming tactics to inflict maximum damage. "The Iranians are clever and ruthless," Stavridis said.

Oil market well supplied, US to retake control of Hormuz, says Scott Bessent

NEW DELHI: MAR 30, 2026

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has said Washington expects to regain control over the Strait of Hormuz over time to safeguard one of the world's most critical oil routes even as the conflict with Iran continues to escalate. Speaking in an interview with Fox News, Bessent struck a measured tone on market stability, insisting that the global oil market remains "well supplied" despite the ongoing crisis. Bessent said the United States is preparing for a scenario where it would ensure safe passage through the strategic waterway, either through direct naval escorts or a broader multinational effort. "Over time, the US is going to retake control of the Straits and there will be freedom of navigation, whether it is through US escorts or a multinational escort," he said. The Strait of Hormuz has become the flashpoint of conflict. Iran has blocked the passage of vessels, which has



triggered energy crisis across the world. The narrow passage is a key transit route for global oil shipments. Despite the risks, Bessent maintained that oil supply levels remain adequate for now. He said authorities are seeing increased availability of crude as several countries have struck arrangements with Iran, allowing more oil to enter the market. Bessent also stood by Donald Trump's approach, saying the United States has the financial strength to sustain military operations if needed. He added that the administration is looking to secure additional support from Congress to keep its strategy on track.

Sensex Crashes, Nifty Slips Below 22,350

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended the last trading session of the 2025-26 fiscal year sharply lower on Monday as the ongoing war in West Asia and surging crude oil prices kept investors' sentiment fragile.

Weak trends in Asian markets and unabated foreign fund outflows also added to the bearish trend in domestic equities. Declining for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,635.67 points or 2.22 per cent to settle at 71,947.55. During the day, it plunged 1,809.09 points or 2.45 per cent to 71,774.13.

The 50-share NSE Nifty slumped 488.20 points or 2.14 per cent to end at 22,331.40.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, InterGlobe Aviation, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the biggest laggards.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra and Power Grid were the gainers. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 2.18 per cent to USD 115.1 per barrel. In the 2025-26 financial year, the BSE benchmark plunged 5,467.37 points, or 7 per cent, and the Nifty dropped 1,187.95 points, or 5 per cent.

In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi



and Japan's Nikkei 225 index plunged nearly 3 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also settled lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended in positive territory. Markets in Europe were trading marginally higher.

The US market ended significantly lower on Friday. The Nasdaq Composite index tanked 2.15 per cent, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 1.73 per cent and the S&P 500 declined by 1.67 per cent.

"Indian equities extended their decline, with benchmark indices falling over 2 per cent, underscoring a deepening sell-off sentiment driven by persistent global uncertainties and rising crude oil prices," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Live-long Wealth, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,367.30 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth Rs 3,566.15 crore.

Foreign investors have pulled out Rs 1.14 lakh crore (about USD 12.3 billion) from domestic equities in March, making it the worst monthly outflow, weighed down by escalating tensions in West Asia, a weakening rupee and concerns over the impact of elevated crude oil prices on India's growth.

On Friday, the Sensex tanked 1,690.23 points or 2.25 per cent to settle at 71,947.55. The Nifty dropped 488.20 points or 2.14 per cent to end at 22,331.40.

NavIC Constellation Likely to Take 15-18 Months for Partial Restoration: Parliamentary Panel

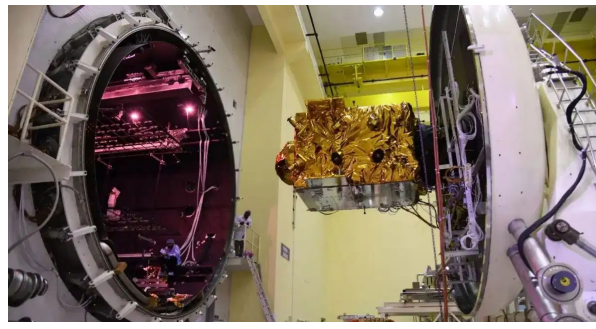
BY VENKATACHARI JAGANNATHAN

India's strategic satellite navigation system, NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), may require another 15 to 18 months to regain partial operational strength, according to a recent report by a parliamentary committee.

The department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, in its report on the Demands for Grants for 2026-27, highlighted delays in replenishing the country's regional navigation satellite constellation. The report was presented in the Rajya Sabha and laid on the table of the Lok Sabha on March 25.

"The replacement satellites NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05 will be launched over the next 15-18 months," the committee noted, indicating a prolonged timeline for restoring the system's capabilities.

Out of the 11 navigation satellites launched by India so far, only three — IRNSS-1B, IRNSS-1I, and NVS-01 — are currently capable of delivering position, navigation, and timing (PNT) services. Even these, however, are not con-



sistently reliable.

The constellation's challenges are compounded by ageing satellites. IRNSS-1B, launched in 2014, has already exceeded its intended 10-year mission life, while IRNSS-1I, launched in 2018, is nearing that threshold.

Earlier this month, on March 13, ISRO confirmed that IRNSS-1F had completed its mission life, with its onboard atomic clock failing. Although the satellite continues to function in a limited capacity, it is now restricted to messaging services.

Originally developed as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), NavIC was designed to provide accurate PNT services across India and up to 1,500 km beyond its borders. Its Standard Positioning Service (SPS) offers positional accuracy better

than 20 metres and timing precision within 40 nanoseconds.

The initial NavIC architecture required a constellation of seven satellites — four in geostationary orbit and three in geosynchronous orbit. However, multiple satellite failures, particularly due to faulty atomic clocks, have hindered its performance. Between 2013 and 2018, six satellites experienced such failures, while replacement launches have not kept pace with operational needs.

The committee expressed concern over these delays and urged the Department of Space to ensure timely replacement of non-functional satellites. It also called for improved reliability and operational readiness of the NavIC system to enable it to function at its full potential.

Electronics & IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw hands over approvals to companies under ECMS

NEW DELHI, MAR 30

Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw today handed over approvals to companies under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) in New Delhi. A total of 29 applications have been approved at an investment of over seven thousand one hundred crore rupees. This is expected to foster employment for more than 14,200 people. These projects are expected to gen-

erate production of more than 84 thousand five hundred crore rupees.

Talking to the media, Mr Vaishnaw stated that there are now 75 projects that are approved under the ECMS programme with an investment of 61,000 crore rupees. He added that out of these approved projects, 28 have already begun construction. Mr Vaishnaw also said that these projects are expected to generate approximate-

ly 65,000 direct jobs in the country.

The Minister also called it a significant milestone in the country's electronics manufacturing journey. He said that under the approvals, the project for the first rare-earth permanent magnet has also been approved. He further noted that in a very comprehensive manner of developing the electronics industry, the country today has reached a level where it is able to man-

ufacture finished products, modules, sub-modules, and now components.

The ECMS scheme aims to develop a robust component ecosystem by attracting large investments (global/domestic) in the electronics component manufacturing ecosystem, increasing Domestic Value Addition (DVA) by developing capacity and capabilities, and integrating Indian companies with Global Value Chains (GVCs).

ONGC begins gas production from \$1-bn Daman project



NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has commenced gas production from its Daman Upside Development Project in the Arabian Sea, strengthening India's domestic energy supply amid global disruptions. In a regulatory filing, the firm said the project, located about 180 kms north-west of Mumbai and about 80 kms south of Pipavav, Gujarat, "achieved a significant milestone on March 29 by monetisation through flowing gas from Platform B-12-24P". "This platform has been successfully commissioned and gas sent to Hazira Plant," it said, adding that the project was executed in less than two years from the date of award.

Rupee hits 95 mark against dollar amid oil surge, RBI curbs

NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

The Indian rupee on Monday crossed the 95 dollar mark for the first time, hitting 95.2 against the US dollar, down 0.3 per cent.

It ended at a record closing low of 94.83 per dollar, compared to Friday's close of 94.81.

The currency has depreciated by 4.4 per cent against the US dollar in the March quarter.

The rupee, which had opened on a strong note after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the net open position limit that banks can keep overnight to \$100 million, erased its gains and fell 160 paise from its opening level.

Moreover, the rupee fell about 1 per cent last week, its fourth consecutive weekly decline of a similar magnitude to hit a record low of 94.84 against the dollar.



After market hours on Friday, the central bank said banks must ensure that by April 10, their net open rupee positions in the onshore deliverable market do not exceed \$100 million at the end of each business day.

Estimates suggest that the magnitude of these positions ranges from \$25 billion to over \$50 billion.

Worries over elevated oil prices have put Indian stocks on course for their worst monthly drop since March 2020 and bonds on track

for their weakest fiscal year since 2023.

Escalation in the West Asia conflict has also pushed up global crude oil prices.

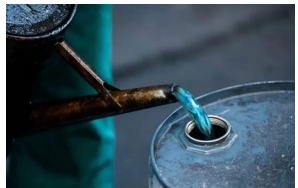
Brent crude futures jumped 3 per cent to an intra-day high of \$116.70 per barrel, nearing a fresh 52-week high. Meanwhile, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) rose over 3 per cent to cross \$103 per barrel.

In March, the rupee fell by more than 4 per cent amid the geo-political tensions.

PDS to Distribute Kerosene in 21 Regions

NEW DELHI, MAR 30

The Government has issued a gazette notification allowing the distribution of Superior Kerosene Oil under the Public Distribution System to 21 States and Union Territories, citing the prevailing geopolitical situation affecting energy supplies worldwide. The move is aimed at supporting cooking and lighting needs in areas where kerosene had been phased out under nor-



mal conditions. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has allowed designated fuel stations in kerosene-free States and Union Territories to store and distribute Superior Kerosene Oil for household use. The

move aims to support cooking and lighting needs in areas that had phased out kerosene under normal conditions. In a notification issued by the Ministry, up to two fuel stations per district, preferably company-owned outlets of public sector oil firms, can store up to five thousand litres of kerosene.

Dealers and transporters have also been exempted from certain licensing requirements to enable faster distribution,

while safety and monitoring norms will continue to remain in force. The Ministry has stated that this arrangement will apply only to kerosene meant for cooking and lighting in households. It will be implemented in 21 States and Union Territories, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. The notification has come into effect immediately and will remain valid for 60 days or until further orders.

Medicover Successfully Performs Complex Surgery

Restores Speech in 65-Year-Old Throat Cancer Patient

Hyderabad, March 30: Doctors at Medicover Hospital successfully performed a highly complex surgery on a 65-year-old throat cancer patient from near Karimnagar, removing recurrent cancer and restoring his ability to speak. The details were shared on Monday by senior ENT and Head & Neck Surgeon Dr. Ashok Prithviraj. The patient had been battling throat cancer for over a year and had earlier undergone radiation therapy at another hospital. Despite treatment, the cancer progressed and spread extensively to the larynx (voice box), leading to severe difficulty in speaking and breathing.



led by Dr. Ashok Prithviraj, along with ENT and Head & Neck Cancer Surgeon Dr. G. V. Nagarjuna Reddy and Chief Anesthesiologist Dr. Venugopal, carried out the intricate procedure. The team successfully removed the entire cancerous growth.

In a significant development, doctors also placed a voice prosthesis during the surgery, enabling the patient to regain his speech. This intervention has markedly improved his quality of life.

"This was a challenging recurrent throat cancer case, especially as the patient had previously undergone radiation therapy. Such cases are more complex due to scar tissue and disease spread.

With meticulous planning and teamwork, we were able to completely remove the cancer and restore speech using a voice prosthesis," said Dr. Ashok Prithviraj.

Dr. G. V. Nagarjuna Reddy emphasized the importance of early diagnosis, noting that symptoms such as persistent hoarseness, difficulty in swallowing, throat pain, or breathing issues should not be ignored. The patient is currently recovering well under medical supervision and is expected to gradually resume normal activities. Medicover Hospital is a leading tertiary care centre known for advanced medical infrastructure and expertise in managing complex cancer and head and neck surgical cases.

Yoda Summit Focuses on Early Autism Detection

NEW DELHI, MARCH 30,

Yoda Diagnostics hosted the 'Yoda Early Mind Summit', a Continuing Medical Education (CME) event, marking its expansion into North India while emphasizing the importance of early autism detection and clinical awareness.

The summit brought together leading doctors, paediatricians, and researchers from across northern states, including Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, to deliberate on advancements in the early diagnosis and management of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The event was led by Ravi Rajeshkara Rao and Aditi Ohri, in collaboration with Dr. Deepak Gupta, Senior Consultant - Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and Founder & Director of the Centre for Child and Adolescent Well-being (CCAW).

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Deepak Gupta highlighted the importance of

early intervention, stating that timely identification—particularly within the first 1,000 days—can significantly improve outcomes for children with autism. He noted that increased awareness among parents during this critical period can make a meaningful difference.

Speaking on the initiative, Aditi Ohri said the organisation's expansion into North India aims to address the growing need for structured awareness and early diagnostic support, especially amid rising identification of autism cases. She added that the focus is on enabling earlier detection and more informed care pathways for both clinicians and families.

The summit featured expert sessions, case discussions, and a panel comprising specialists including Dr. Manushree Gupta, Dr. Puja Kapoor, Dr. Nabanita Sen Gupta, Dr. Priyanka Kalra, Dr. Himani Narula Khanna, Dr. Praveen Kumar, and Dr. Rakesh Kumar Jain.

Discussions focused on emerging biological insights in autism, including methylation imbalances and cerebral folate deficiency, and how these can enhance early diagnosis and personalised treatment approaches. Experts also emphasised integrating such findings into routine clinical practice to improve early identification.

A key highlight of the summit was the introduction of the Folate Receptor Antibody Test (FRAT), an emerging diagnostic tool that may help identify underlying biological conditions associated with autism and support tailored care strategies.

Dr. Puja Kapoor noted that autism care is becoming increasingly proactive, with evolving tools such as FRAT offering valuable insights, particularly for pregnant women with a prior child on the spectrum and for children showing early symptoms. She added that timely intervention remains beneficial even when diagnosis occurs later.

REC Limited Wins ESG Honour at Net Green Foundation Earth Awards 2026



New Delhi, March 30, 2026: REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has been awarded the prestigious "ESG and Responsible Business Award" at the Net Green Foundation Earth Awards 2026 held in New Delhi.

The award recognises the company's outstanding contribution to green energy financing and its consistent efforts toward inclusive and sustainable development. The ceremony took place at UNESCO House, where the honour was presented by Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Minister for Industries, Food, Environment

and Forest, Government of Delhi, along with Benno Boer.

This marks REC Limited's fourth ESG-related recognition in 2026, further cementing its leadership in sustainable financing and responsible business practices. The accolade highlights the organisation's role in supporting India's transition to a low-carbon economy while promoting inclusive growth.

REC Limited has been actively advancing initiatives in green energy financing, ESG excellence, and sustainable development, reaffirming its commitment to powering India's energy transition and building a greener future.

Which City Is Called The End Of The World?

Standing at South America's southern tip, where the Andes meet the sea, penguins outnumber people, and Antarctica lies next. This is Ushuaia, Argentina, "El Fin del Mundo"—The End of the World. Officially, the southernmost city on Earth with over 80,000 residents, it feels like civilisation's edge. The Beagle Channel stretches south, the Martial Mountains loom north, and the sky dazzles in golden hour. Once a prison colony, it now attracts adventurers. Ushuaia is the gateway to Antarctica cruises and the Pan-American Highway's end. For Indian travellers, it's a 30+ hour journey from Delhi or Mumbai, but worth every connection.



Why "End of the World"?

The title isn't marketing. Geography backs it up. Ushuaia sits at 54°48'S latitude on Tierra del Fuego island's southern coast. Beyond it lies the Drake Passage, then Antarctica. The city earned its dramatic nickname from its extreme remoteness. In the late 1800s, Argentina established a penal colony here precisely because escape was impossible—prisoners faced freezing waters, impassable mountains, or endless wilderness.

The indigenous Yámana people lived here for over 10,000 years before European contact. They adapted to brutal conditions, developing resistance to cold that amazed early explorers. Today, Ushuaia museums preserve their history, though the tribe was nearly wiped out by diseases brought by settlers.

HOW TO REACH USHUAIA FROM INDIA

Latest and Breaking News on NDTV

By Air (Most Practical):

1. Fly Delhi/Mumbai to Buenos Aires (20-24 hours with connections via Dubai, Istanbul, or São Paulo)
2. Fly Buenos Aires to Ushuaia (3.5 hours direct)

By Overland (For the Adventurous):

Bus from Buenos Aires to Río Gallegos (30 hours), then bus to Ushuaia (8 hours including Strait of Magellan ferry and Chile border crossings). Only recommended if you're exploring Patagonia extensively.

Visa Requirements For Indians

Argentina Tourist Visa:

Apply at the Argentine Embassy in Delhi or the Consulate in Mumbai

No visa fee (free for Indians)

Processing: 10-12 days

Required documents: Valid passport (6+ months), completed application form, passport photos, round-trip flight bookings, hotel reservations, bank statements (last 3-6 months), income proof

Interview required

A visa is typically granted for 90 days

Pro Tip: Apply 3-4 weeks before travel. Argentina reciprocates India's free visa policy, so there's no fee.

When to Visit Ushuaia

Summer (December-March): Best time. Temperatures 10-16°C, longest daylight (18+ hours in December), all activities operational, penguin colonies active. Peak season means higher prices and crowds.

Autumn (April-May): Fewer tourists, autumn colours stunning, temperatures drop to 5-10°C. Some tours reduce frequency.

Winter (June-August): Ski season! Cerro Castor offers South America's longest ski season. Temperatures -2 to 5°C. Winter sports replace hiking. Shorter days (only 7 hours of daylight in June).

Spring (September-November): Wildflowers bloom, nature awakens, fewer crowds, temperatures 5-12°C. Good balance

of weather and affordability.

Reality Check: The weather is unpredictable year-round. Locals joke: "Four seasons in one day." Pack layers always.

TOP THINGS TO DO IN USHUAIA

1. Beagle Channel Boat Tour

Sail the waters Darwin navigated aboard HMS Beagle. Tours visit sea lion colonies on Isla de los Lobos, cormorant rookeries, and the iconic Les Éclaireurs Lighthouse (often called "End of the World Lighthouse"). Longer tours reach Penguin Island (Isla Martillo), where Magallanic and Gentoo penguins waddle about.

Cost: Short tours (3-4 hours) ₹3,000-4,500. Full-day with penguins ₹8,000-12,000.

2. Tierra del Fuego National Park

Argentina's southernmost national park (63,000 hectares) offers hiking trails through lenga forests, along lakes, and to rugged coastline. The Coastal Path (Senda Costera) follows the Beagle Channel shoreline. Lapataia Bay marks the actual end of the Pan-American Highway, which begins in Alaska.

Don't Miss: The southernmost post office in the world—a tiny wooden structure on the bay where you can mail postcards stamped "Fin del Mundo."

Entry: ₹1,200 per person. Accessible by bus, taxi, or the famous train.

3. End of the World Train (Tren del Fin del Mundo)

Once the "Prisoners' Train" transporting inmates to logging sites, this tourist train now chugs 7 km through the forest and over wooden bridges into Tierra del Fuego National Park. Guides narrate the region's dark prison history.

Cost: ₹6,000-8,000 per person. Book combined tours that include train + park exploration.

4. Laguna Esmeralda Trek

This moderate 9 km round-trip hike (4-5 hours total) leads through beaver dams, peat bogs, and valleys to an emerald-green glacial lake surrounded by snow-peaked mountains. The trail is muddy and requires good boots.

Access: Taxi from Ushuaia to the trailhead (20 min, ₹1,500 one-way). Arrange pickup time.

5. Martial Glacier

Just 7 km from the city centre, Martial Glacier offers chairlift access (winter) or hiking (summer) with panoramic views of Ushuaia, Beagle Channel, and surrounding peaks. The glacier itself is accessible via a moderate hiking trail.

Tip: Two excellent cafés at the base serve hot chocolate and medialunas (Argentine croissants).

6. Museo Marítimo y del Presidio

Housed in the original prison building, this museum complex includes four museums: the Maritime Museum (scale ship models), the Prison Museum (prisoner stories and reconstructed cells), the Antarctic Museum (exploration history), and the Art Museum.

Entry: ₹900 per person. Allow 2-3 hours.

WHAT TO EAT IN USHUAIA

King Crab (Centolla): Ushuaia's signature dish. Fresh from Beagle Channel waters, served grilled, in pasta, or as crab casserole.

Cordero Patagónico (Patagonian Lamb): Slow-roasted lamb, incredibly tender.

Merluza Negra (Black Hake): Local fish, buttery and delicious.

Beagle Beer: Locally brewed, try at Dublin Pub or Kuar Restaurant.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How Long to Stay: Minimum 3 days to see highlights. Ideal: 4-5 days. Hardcore hikers: 7-10 days.

Money: ATMs available. US dollars and credit cards are widely accepted. Argentine peso fluctuates wildly; check rates before exchanging.

Language: Spanish. English is spoken in tourist areas, hotels, and tour agencies. Download Google Translate.

Getting Around: Taxis are reasonable (₹300-500 for city trips). Remises (radio taxis) for longer distances. City buses connect main attractions. Many book tours include transport.

What to Pack:

- Waterproof jacket (non-negotiable)

- Layers (fleece, thermal, down jacket)
- Waterproof hiking boots
- Sunscreen & sunglasses (UV heavy, snow glare intense)
- Warm hat & gloves
- Backpack for day hikes

Weather Reality: Temperature reads 10°C, but the wind makes it feel like 0°C. Windchill is real here. Four-season clothing in one bag isn't paranoid, it's necessary.

Internet: Available in hotels and cafés. Consider buying an Argentine SIM card in Buenos Aires for data.

THE PLACE AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Ushuaia isn't convenient or cheap. It demands multiple flights, visa applications, and significant travel time from India. Yet, standing at Earth's southernmost city, watching penguins waddle, hiking to empty glaciers, and realising you've reached the world's literal end offers something unique, a genuine sense of remoteness and geographical limit. Mailing a postcard from the world's southernmost post office, seeing "Fin del Mundo" on your passport, and gazing south at endless ocean and ice reveals why it's special. Ushuaia isn't just a destination; it's a pilgrimage to the edge. For Indian travellers, it proves extraordinary places reward those who venture furthest. The End of the World awaits. How far will you go?



Bored Of Shimla And Manali? These 8 Offbeat Hill Stations Are Calling This Summer

As soon as summer sets in, the urge to escape to the mountains becomes irresistible. The thought of cool breezes, misty mornings, and lush green landscapes pulls travellers away from the scorching heat of the plains. While Shimla and Manali remain popular choices, their charm often fades amid heavy crowds, traffic jams, and overpriced hotels during peak season. Long highway delays and packed viewpoints can easily take away the peace you are looking for. But this summer, why not choose differently? There are several offbeat hill stations where you can enjoy pleasant weather, untouched natural beauty, and rich local culture, without the chaos. These hidden gems offer the perfect balance of tranquillity and exploration for those who want to unwind in a slower and more meaningful way.

8 OFFBEAT HILL STATIONS TO VISIT THIS SUMMER

Jibhi, Himachal Pradesh

Tucked away in the serene Tirthan Valley, Jibhi is a quiet retreat surrounded by pine forests, wooden cottages, and hidden waterfalls. Life here moves slowly,



making it ideal for travellers who want to disconnect from busy routines. Popular spots like Jalori Pass and Serolsar Lake offer beautiful views and peaceful trails. Jibhi is perfect for nature lovers seeking calm surroundings and minimal crowds.

Chamba, Himachal Pradesh

Located on the banks of the Ravi River, Chamba is known for its old-world charm and deep cultural roots. The town is home to ancient temples, tradi-

tional architecture, and vibrant local festivals. Unlike nearby tourist centres, Chamba remains largely untouched by mass tourism. It is an excellent choice for travellers who appreciate history, culture, and scenic valley views together.

Kausani, Uttarakhand

Often called the "Switzerland of India," Kausani offers sweeping views of the Himalayan peaks. Sunrises over mountains like Nanda Devi create unforgettable moments. The town is peaceful, clean, and far removed from commercial noise. Kausani suits photographers, writers, and anyone seeking quiet time in nature.

Munsiyari, Uttarakhand

Nestled in the Kumaon region, Munsiyari serves as a gateway to high Himalayan trekking routes. It offers stunning views of the Panchachuli peaks and remains cool even during peak summer. The raw landscapes, alpine meadows, and fresh mountain air make it ideal for adventure lovers and serious mountain enthusiasts.

Chikhaldara, Maharashtra

The only hill station in the Vidarbha region, Chikhaldara surprises visitors with its greenery and wildlife. It features scenic viewpoints, coffee plantations, and access to the Melghat Tiger Reserve. The weather stays noticeably cooler than nearby cities, making it a refreshing summer escape. It is well suited for wildlife lovers and offbeat explorers in central India.

Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh

Araku Valley is known for its rolling coffee plantations and rich tribal culture. The scenic train journey through tunnels and valleys is one of its biggest highlights. Waterfalls, limestone caves, and lush greenery make the region visually stunning. It is ideal for travellers who want a mix of nature, culture, and unique local experiences.

Kalimpong, West Bengal

Perched near Darjeeling, Kalimpong offers colonial-era charm combined with peaceful surroundings. The town is famous for monasteries, flower markets, nurseries, and scenic viewpoints. It is far less crowded than Darjeeling but equally scenic. Kalimpong is perfect for travellers seeking calm, comfort, and cultural richness.





IPL 2026: Sooryavanshi, bowlers power RR to thumping eight-wicket win over CSK



GUWAHATI

Built on incisive new-ball spells from Jofra Archer and Nandre Burger, a double-strike from Ravindra Jadeja, and a blistering 52 from teenage opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Rajasthan Royals launched their IPL 2026 campaign with a commanding eight-wicket victory over Chennai Super Kings at the ACA Stadium on Monday.

CSK, missing MS Dhoni and Dewald Brevis, were bundled out for just 127 after being rocked early on a red-soil pitch offering swing and seam to Archer and Burger. Jadeja struck twice in his first over and marked a successful return to RR after 17 years, while debutant Brijesh Sharma chipped in with a breakthrough.

Only Jamie Overton showed resistance, counterattacking at number eight to hit 43 off 36 balls to drag CSK past 120 from 84/8 and save them from the ignominy of being bowled out for below 100, though the end total was

still below-par. In reply, Sooryavanshi turned the chase into a one-man exhibition. Dropped for nought, he raced to a 15-ball fifty - the third fastest in IPL history - with four fours and five sixes, powering RR to 74 without loss in the Powerplay. Though he fell soon after for 52, the damage was done. Yashasvi Jaiswal (38 not out) and skipper Riyan Parag (14 not out) calmly finished the chase with 47 balls to spare.

Archer began by swinging the ball both ways to trouble Sanju Samson and Rituraj Gaikwad in the opening over. Nandre Burger then made the first breakthrough by knocking over Samson for 6 with a delivery that shaped away and crashed into the off-stump.

Archer returned to remove Gaikwad in his second over - the CSK skipper backed away to access the off-side but missed a straight ball and was bowled for six. Burger intensified the collapse in the third over as Ayush Mhatre fell for a golden duck - gloving a bouncer to keeper Dhruv Jurel, as RR got the deci-

sion in their favour on review. Sarfaraz Khan came in as the impact substitute and began his resistance by pulling Burger for four and six in successive balls. After debutant Brijesh Sharma impressed by conceding only six runs in the fourth over, Sarfaraz kept counterattacking to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Sandeep Sharma struck immediately in the final over of power-play as Matthew Short, who struggled to get going, chipped a slower ball straight to mid-wicket for two, as CSK closed the power-play at 41/4. Post that, CSK suffered two major blows - Sarfaraz attempted a sweep off ex-CSK stalwart Ravindra Jadeja, but missed it and was trapped lbw for 17, while Shivam Dube holed out to long-off.

CSK's slide continued as Brijesh Sharma beat Kartik's inside edge, and trapped him plumb lbw for 18, while Noor Ahmed edged behind to Jurel off Archer and Ravi Bishnoi took a sharp caught and bowled chance after foxing

Matt Henry with a googly. But thanks to Jamie Overton nailing boundaries alongside Anshul Kamboj, CSK were able to cross the 120-mark, before a complete confusion resulted in the former being run-out. RR had a flying start as Matt Henry's opening over went for 18 runs, with Sooryavanshi pulling and driving for boundaries (including Kartik Sharma dropping him for zero) while Jaiswal glanced him fine for four. Khaleel Ahmed thought he had Sooryavanshi lbw on the first ball of his spell, but review showed the ball going over leg stump. Jaiswal played watchfully even as Sooryavanshi continued to attack to keep the runs flowing.

Henry's second over was taken apart by Sooryavanshi - slashing a slower ball over backward point for six, while Jaiswal muscled Khaleel straight over mid-off for four. Anshul Kamboj was greeted with three boundaries as Sooryavanshi ramped and tickled him over third man and fine leg before smashing a six over long-on.

I think everyone executed plans really nicely: Parag

GUWAHATI

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag hailed his side's collective execution after they crushed Chennai Super Kings by eight wickets in their IPL 2026 opening game at the ACA Stadium on Monday.

"I got lucky with the toss, but I think the way we executed it, we had like a couple of days' practice, I think, before CSK arrived, and it was a red-soil wicket, but then it was a lot of rain as well, so we knew the moisture was going to play a part. I think everyone executed plans really nicely.

"Definitely like this better. A lot of preparation has gone into this. I know me being captain is one part which I should be happy about and I should thank the franchise for it, but then the goal this year is to win the trophy, and we've put in a lot of time towards planning, strategizing.

"I've said this in an interview before that we want to be a team that plays smart cricket. We want to assess conditions really well and adapt to it and I think that we did that pretty well today," said Parag at the conclusion of the game.

RR bowled out CSK for just 127 before Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's fireworks - 52 off 17



vballs - ensured the chase was wrapped up in just 12.1 overs, giving Parag a perfect start to his tenure as full-time captain.

Parag praised the pace duo of Jofra Archer and Nandre Burger for their fiery spells, lauded Sandeep Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja for their control, and singled out debutant Brijesh Sharma for his composure in front of a packed Guwahati crowd.

"Everyone who came in, Jofra and Nandre, we expect that from them every single time, they were rapid. Sandy bhaiya doing his job. Jaddu bhaiya coming in, I think Guwahati suited him a little bit more. Then Brijesh, the youngster, I think him coming in first game against CSK with the packed crowd, what he did was

insane, so I'm really looking forward to the season."

Asked on his conversations with Sooryavanshi, Parag said, "What I tell him is that you're going to play 14 games and regardless of what goes on in the game, it shouldn't bother you. What goes around in the media shouldn't bother you. You just go out there. He loves to bat.

"I've made sure I've told the coaches that he gets as much batting as he wants and he goes and does some things like that. So I think me and Dhruv, when we were sitting there till the fourth over, we were just in awe. Like, what is happening? Like, how is he doing this? But then I'm really happy to have him in my team.

Somnath Ghosh appointed as coach for India's TT team for World Cup

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based Table Tennis coach Somnath Ghosh has been appointed as the coach of the Indian team for the ITTF Men's and Women's World Cup being held in Macau from 30th March to 5th April.

He has also been selected as the coach for the 100th ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals scheduled to be held in London from 28th April to 10th May 2026.

In preparation for the World Championships, the following training camps are scheduled: - SAI Centre, Bangalore from 13th April to 19th April - Sheffield (London) from 20th April to 26th April



"Happy to be the coach of Indian team for two key tournaments in which my trainee Akula Steeja is one of the team

members," Somnath said while thanking the TTFI and Telangana State TT Association for the recognition.

India eye first-ever victory in Kochi as Blue Tigers return after 10 years to face Hong Kong



KOCHI

It's been 3,654 days since the Indian men's national team last played in Kochi. The wait of 10 years and two days for the Kerala faithful will come to an end when the Blue Tigers take on Hong Kong, China, in their last Group D clash of the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Final Round at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Tuesday.

On March 29, 2016, a Sandesh Jhingam header had put India ahead against Turkmenistan, but the visitors responded with a couple of second-half goals to take the win in Kaloor. A meagre crowd of just over 3,000 people had turned up on that night, but a lot more will be expected to throng the JLN on Tuesday when the Blue Tigers return to town.

It may have been a decade since India last played in Kochi, but what was the last time India won a game there? Never. That's a piece of history Khalid Jamil's men will be out to write. During the 1980s, 1990s and the early 2000s, India played against

many giants of not just Asian but world football in the Nehru Cup in Kochi. Teams like Italy, Hungary, Morocco, Uruguay, Algeria, Iceland, Korea Republic, Uzbekistan, Ghana, Iraq, and China have graced this football-crazy city. But India could not register a win against any. Tuesday could be a day of many firsts. A first Blue Tigers win in Kochi in 18 attempts, a first win for India in the 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers, and a first home win for Khalid Jamil since taking over as head coach last August.

India may be out of the reckoning for a place in the next Asian Cup, but the message in the camp is clear - finish strong, stay focused, and deliver at home. Speaking ahead of the clash during the pre-match press conference, head coach Khalid Jamil underlined the importance of the occasion.

"This is a very important match for us," he said. "We must not take it lightly. We are ready for this game, and we need your support, especially this time. We should not think too much about the past. Even though we

are out, we want to finish on a good note." Hong Kong arrive with a relatively new setup, different from the Ashley Westwood-led side that snatched a last-minute penalty winner against India in the reverse fixture in Kowloon last year. Roberto Losada was named head coach last December, and this will be his first official match in charge of Hong Kong.

However, India are not looking to overanalyse the opposition. "They have done well. They have a new coach. We don't have too much information about them. So we must focus on our own game. That will be best for us," Jamil said.

Sharing his excitement about the national team playing in Kochi after 10 years, Jamil said, "We are very happy to be here. Kerala has produced many good players. It's always a great feeling to play here." Forward Edmund Lalrindika, who accompanied Jamil in the press conference, echoed that sentiment. "Tomorrow, we will be playing in Kerala, which is one of the homes of football in India," said the 26-year-old.

Fisher, O'Rourke, Tickner return to NZ squad for Bangladesh white-ball series

NEW DELHI

New Zealand has strengthened their pace attack with the return of Matt Fisher, Will O'Rourke, and Blair Tickner. All three have been named in the Blackcaps squads for the upcoming white-ball tour of Bangladesh later this month.

These fast bowlers are making their comeback after injuries disrupted their home summer. O'Rourke returns from a back issue to join the ODI squad. Fisher is back from a shin injury for the T20Is, while Tickner, who had an ankle problem, is included in both formats. Blackcaps head coach Rob Walter welcomed their return and highlighted their hard work. "Will, Blair, and Matt have been working very hard over the past few months to get themselves back.

Naseem Shah fined Rs 20 million for violation of PCB's central contract terms: Report



NEW DELHI

Young fast bowler Naseem Shah has been fined Rs 20 million (US 7100 dollars) for a derogatory tweet on chief minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz and directed to terminate his social media influencer.

"Naseem had shown ignorance over a tweet asking why Ms Nawaz was treated

like a "Queen of Lords" at the opening ceremony of the Pakistan Super League on Thursday," sources told Telecom Asia Sport. Sources said Ms Nawaz had accepted Naseem's apology and was ready to pardon the youngster for his offence but the disciplinary committee was not ready to forgive Naseem.

Naseem's stance that his tweeter account was hacked was not accepted,

said sources. "The disciplinary committee proceedings pertaining to breaches of various clauses of Naseem Shah's Central Contract and the PCB Social Media Guidelines," said PCB.

The PCB had issued a show cause notice dated 27th March 2026 outlining the violations and sought a response for Naseem. A personal hearing was then held by a three member Disciplinary Committee on 30th March 2025 after Naseem Shah's reply had been received and reviewed.

Pursuant to the hearing and evaluation of Naseem's submissions the Committee has determined as under: Whilst noting the unconditional apology tendered, Naseem is found to have breached various clauses of his Central Contract and a fine of PKR 2 crores has been imposed. It was noted that Naseem Shah's social media adviser has already been terminated by Naseem and shall be blacklisted by the PCB from associating with any player falling under the PCB's jurisdiction.

Theme Cafe's 6-Month Celebration Fueled by Chess and Community

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Theme Cafe in KPHB Colon is marking a milestone season of growth and community spirit, evolving from a tea and snacks bar into a buzzing hub for chess enthusiasts and casual attendees alike. Over six months, loyal customers have helped shape a space where conversations flow as freely as coffee, and last weekend's Chess Tournament brought that energy to a fever pitch.

The tournament drew 30 keen players who tested their skills in a fast-paced, friendly environment, ranging from casual newcomers to seasoned hobbyists. Their energy kept spectators engaged, turning the venue into a lively chess arena. Entry was ₹500 per participant, with proceeds fueling future community events, while intense matches were matched by courteous conduct, un-

derscoring a day of strategy, patience, and camaraderie.

The prize structure honored the top finishers, with First Prize of ₹2000, Second Prize ₹1500, and Third Prize ₹1000. Medals and certificates were awarded to all participants, alongside trophies for the top finishers, celebrating effort, sportsmanship, and the shared love of the game. Beyond the board, the event highlighted Theme Cafe's role as a community space. It was a celebration of connection—laughter, conversations over coffee, and the joy of a well-played game. Theme Cafe emphasizes that it's more than a place to eat and drink; it's a space where neighbors become friends and ideas flourish.

Inspirational note from the founders of Theme Cafe's Ramya and Pavan, the proprietors of Theme Cafe, addressed the partici-



pants with warmth and encouragement: "Thank you for bringing your passion to Theme Cafe and turning every moment here into a memory. Your dedication to strategy, sports-

manship, and community reminds us why we opened this space. May you carry the discipline you showed on the board into every challenge you face, and may this cafe continue to be a place where dreams are brewed as boldly as our coffee." They added, "To all the players and supporters: your energy is the heartbeat of Theme Cafe. We're honored to host you, and we can't wait to celebrate many more milestones together."

Looking ahead, the success of this event signals more exciting happenings on the horizon. Tea, snacks, and now chess will continue to weave into a broader calendar of community-driven activities that keep the cafe buzzing. The team extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and supported Theme Cafe, acknowledging that the collective enthusiasm fuels ongoing plans and fresh memories.

NAG PICKS UP QUALITY ACTRESSES OVER GLAM GIRLS

One of the most unsaid things right now in Tollywood is none other than senior star Akkineni Nagarjuna's 100th film. Being directed by Tamil filmmaker Ra Karthik, whose recent film *Made In Korea* was released on Netflix, this 100th film of Nag is currently leakproof of any details. The star hero wants to complete the total shooting of the movie, and once the post-production gets over, he might release an announcement about the film's commencement, is what insiders are saying.

Though Nagarjuna's 100th project is being silently made under Ra Karthik's direction, it's coming out that the casting details of it are going to be quite interesting. Reports are doing rounds that there are three heroines in the movie, including senior starlet Tabu, Aishwarya Rajesh, and Kannada beauty Sushmitha Bhatt. Rather than roping in those starlets who are very beautiful and glamorous, Nagarjuna got performers on board, if we look at the names. In his previous films, while some hot and happening beauties used to take the leading lady's role, right now it looks like Nagarjuna is looking only at performers.

Tabu will be playing a guest role as per the reports, and after crossing her prime, she has picked up intense roles that are performance-centric. At the same time, Aishwarya Rajesh is known for her intense performances, and that would be quite a game-changing project for the Sankranthiki Vastunnam heroine. Similarly, with her debut Kannada film, Sushmitha Bhatt proved herself big time by grabbing lots of awards. So we have to see the kind of roles designed for them in Nag's 100th, and how Nagarjuna's role itself is going to be amidst all of these talented beauties.



What did Toxic actor Kiara Advani say about her role of Nadia in film? Read here

A Fairytale for Grown-Ups, headlined by Yash, continues to build curiosity, especially around its female characters, as the makers gradually reveal more about the film's world. While early promotional material has largely focused on Yash, Kiara Advani has now shared insights into her role, offering a glimpse into what the film holds.

In an interview with Grazia, Kiara said, "Nadia is the most unique character arc I have ever read. The way Geetu (Mohandas), my director, has written this character and shaped her journey truly excited me. I felt ready to take on this challenge and see how I could bring this role to life under her vision."

The makers of *Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups* have recently released the film's first single, *Tabaahi*, featuring Yash and Kiara Advani. However, only the audio version of the track has been made available so far, with the video yet to be released.

Composed by Vishal Mishra, the song has been launched in multiple languages, with Raj Shekhar (Hindi), Yogaraj Bhat (Kannada), Ramajogayya Sastry (Telugu), Vignesh Shivan (Tamil), and Rafeeq Ahammed (Malayalam) contributing lyrics for their respective versions.

Meanwhile, the film's release plans have undergone a change due to ongoing instability in the Middle East, which has affected cinema operations in key overseas markets, particularly the Gulf region. The film was initially scheduled to release on March 19 alongside *Dhurandhar: The Revenge*, but will now arrive at a later date, allowing for a wider and smoother global rollout.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas and co-written by Yash, the film features an ensemble cast including Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Rukmini Vasanth, and Tara Sutaria. Positioned as a multi-language release, *Toxic* is expected to target a broad international audience once it hits theatres.



Nabha Natesh shares BTS from 'Namo Re' song in Nagabandham

Hyderabad: Actress Nabha Natesh, who plays one of the leads along with Virat Karana and actress Iswarya Menon in director Abhishek Nama's much-awaited mythological action drama *'Nagabandham'*, has now shared BTS videos of the popular number 'Namo Re' from the film. Taking to her Instagram page, she wrote, "Sharing some BTS from the Namore song shoot. Honestly, what an experience this was... Close to 5K dancers, a massive temple set, and the presence of Shri Ranganatha — it truly felt like being part of a living festival."

She went on to say, "Dancing to @ganeshacharyaa master's choreography has always been a dream, and @srasthivarma master's classical guidance just helped me feel and express every movement so much more beautifully. Every time I stepped onto the set, @abhisheknaama sir's massive vision had something new to surprise me with."

She complimented the film's producers for backing such an effort. She wrote, "So much love to our producers @kishore.annapureddy @nishithanagireddy for backing this with such passion — you can actually feel it in the scale and soul of the song. And the frames... just stunning. @soundar16 sir's cinematography that you can't take your eyes off. @dakshanaagarkar, had the best time dancing with you, babe. And Junaid & Abhe... your music just stays with you... so soothing, so heartfelt. Aaaaah... the joy of it all. #Nagabhandam. #nagabhandamonjuly3rd." For the unaware, the number is an emotional musical piece that celebrates Lord Narayana. It aims to connect deeply with audiences through themes of devotion, faith, and resilience.

Composed by the talented duo of Junaid Kumar and Abhe, blending traditional and contemporary musical styles, the song has lyrics by Sri Harsha Emani. The lyrics evoke deep spirituality, encouraging reflection on personal faith and divine connection. The song has been rendered by Sindhuja Srinivasan and Aishwarya Daruri.

A highlight of 'Namo Re' is its outstanding choreography by Ganesh Acharya and Shrasti Verma. Featuring around 5,000 dancers performing various Indian dance forms, the choreography creates a lively and visually striking presentation that celebrates India's cultural legacy.

The film, which has triggered huge interest among fans and film buffs, is a dream project of Abhishek Nama.

The movie features an impressive ensemble cast that includes Nabha Natesh and Iswarya Menon as female leads, and Jagapathi Babu, Jayaprakash, Murali Sharma, and BS Avinash in supporting roles.

The movie explores the hidden secrets of India's ancient Vishnu temples, specifically focusing on the sacred practice of Nagabandham. Inspired by recent treasure discoveries at temples like Padmanabhaswamy and Puri Jagannath, the story dives into the captivating mythology surrounding these divine locations and the enigmatic rituals designed to safeguard them. The film brings these age-old mysteries to life with a fresh, modern narrative.

Cinematography for the film is by Soundar Rajan S, while Abhe and Junaid Kumar have provided the music. The film's dialogues have been written by Kalyan Chakravarthy, with Santosh Kamireddy handling the editing. Ashok Kumar has contributed as the art director of the film.

'Nagabandham' is to be released in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam languages on July 3 this year. The film, which is fast taking shape as an epic adventure, has the tagline "The Secret Treasure."



Confused Nithin Took A Good Call Finally

Though it was heard earlier that the film "Ishq" first and the film "Bheeshma" later had revived the dying career of handsome hero Nithin, somehow the hero hasn't lived up to those expectations later. He has come up with many high-budget entertainers like *Extra Ordinary* and *Thammudu*, but nothing worked at the box office, thus leaving the actor in a thinking mode. However, he's said to be talking to some established and young directors who have scored hits, but nothing concrete has come out.

After walking out of the film "Yellamma" for reasons unknown, actually, Nithin wanted to do films with the likes of Vikram K Kumar (Ishq, Namam), Sai Marthand (Little Hearts), and other directors. He hasn't finalised any movie, but kept hearing stories from many other directors whose first films have worked out well at the box office. But finally, he's going with a newcomer with Sithara Entertainments, as per the reports. A duo of directors, who have made short films earlier, are likely to direct this movie in which Nithin will feature.

These are the days when routine commercial entertainers will not work out at the box office, but only content-driven films that are laced with some commercial masala are being liked by the audience. Rather than sitting with many directors and thinking about a lot of stories, maybe Nithin should think about his choice of films first. Anyway, as the hero picked up a new project, we have to see if that will give him relief from the purple patch.



Despite Flops, Salman Commands a Hefty Price

Producer Dil Raju appears unfazed by the ongoing recession in the Telugu film industry as he secures Salman Khan for his next big-budget project, reportedly a Rs 550-crore Hindi-Telugu bilingual action film. According to industry sources, Dil Raju has agreed to pay the actor his full market price of Rs 120 crore, a fee that many Mumbai producers are now reluctant to offer following the superstar's recent box-office failures.

An insider familiar with the deal says Salman's remuneration goes beyond the up-front Rs 120 crore. "His fee is actually much higher than 120 crore. In addition to the up-front amount, he will also receive a share of the profits from satellite, music and other rights," the source explains. Regardless of his recent string of flops, Salman's camp believes there's no reason to reduce his fee. "When Salman doesn't increase his fee after a hit, why should he decrease it after a failure?"



says a close friend of the actor. "He knows that even his underperforming films generate revenue and he's not wrong."

The Dil Raju-produced film, titled *Dil, Dimag, Jigar Se*, will be directed by Vamshi Paidipally and is scheduled to go on floors in April. Salman Khan officially announced the project on his X handle, posting a picture with Paidipally along with the caption: "Dil, Dimag, Jigar se along with this April with @directorvamshi and #DilRaju. #Shirish @SVC_official @kuldeepprathor9 #RafiKazi"