



# Gulf crisis: GAIL halts gas supply to Yelahanka power plant; generation may be hit

Bengaluru: The Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has completely stopped gas supply to the Yelahanka gas-based power plant in Bengaluru since March 12 at 6 AM, the officials in the Energy Ministry confirmed on Thursday. The 370 Mega Watt Yelahanka plant, set up by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL), is the State's only gas-based power generation facility, and any disruption in gas supply could affect its output, they stated. The Yelahanka gas-based unit, which was set up primarily to supply electricity to Bengaluru, has been operating continuously since December last year. However, the natural gas shortage triggered by the West Asia conflict may affect power production at the plant, the officials stated. The officials further stated, power generation in Karnataka may be disrupted due to reduced natural gas supply, following the



Central government's decision to prioritise other sectors amid nationwide shortages caused by the West Asia Israel-Iran conflict. With LPG supplies across the country disrupted due to the West Asia conflict, the Centre on Tuesday issued a gazette notification prioritising natural gas allocation, placing domestic consumption at the top of the list. Sectors such as transport and fertiliser have been given the next level of priority, while power generation has been placed at the lowest priority. To ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during peak demand, the State government has been generating power from all avail-

able sources, they stated. Karnataka's daily electricity demand currently stands at around 355 million units, which is being met through a mix of thermal and hydel power plants, solar and wind energy, and power drawn from the Central grid. The State is also meeting part of its demand through power exchange arrangements with Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. However, further curtailment of gas supply to the Yelahanka plant could lead to minor disruptions in power supply, the officials stated. Invoking powers under the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Centre has notified priority sectors for the allocation of natural gas to address the current LPG shortage. Top priority has been given to domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG), LPG production, CNG used for transport, and essential

pipeline operations, which must receive 100 per cent of their average gas consumption over the past six months. Fertiliser plants have been placed in the second priority category and will receive around 70 per cent of their average gas consumption during the same period. Industrial and commercial consumers, including tea manufacturers, fall under the third priority category, while City Gas Distribution companies supplying gas to industrial and commercial users have been placed in the fourth priority category. These sectors will receive 80 per cent of their average gas consumption over the past six months. Since power generation has been placed in the lowest priority category, gas supply to this sector is likely to remain restricted until the natural gas shortage eases.

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## Telugu families thank govt for repatriation from Bahrain



Telugu families have expressed their gratitude to both the Central and Telangana governments for their swift action in repatriating 60 Indians stranded in Bahrain. They extended special thanks to Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for organising a special flight from Dammam, Saudi Arabia, to Kochi. The families praised the Indian government's diplomatic efforts, noting that transit visas were issued from Saudi Arabia through effective coordination. The Bahrain Telugu Association and Gulf Air served as vital intermediaries between the affected families and the officials overseeing the repatriation. The Telugu community in Bahrain also demonstrated remarkable unity during this challenging period.

## Chief Minister Emphasises Proper Water Use and Investment Focus



Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu stressed the importance of using water wisely, stating it is essential that future generations are not burdened with problems. The second day of the Collectors' Conference commenced under his chairmanship at the Secretariat, where topics including investments, healthcare, welfare, revenue, education, and skill development were discussed. The CM outlined district-wise investment opportunities and job creation prospects, emphasising the need to transform the state into an industrial hub. He urged officials to utilise available resources effectively and improve the ease of doing business. Chandrababu criticised the previous YSRCP government for failing to attract investments and allowing existing companies to relocate. He warned that resources must be used efficiently to avoid waste. In the afternoon, the CM will review law and order matters, with the DGP and district SPs attending the session.

## Kodandarama temple, a treasure of wonderful sculpture



Tirupati / Vontimitta: Sri Kodandarama Swamy Temple at Vontimitta in Kadapa district is well known for its wonderful stone sculptures. The carvings in this temple reflect the rich artistic style of the Vijayanagara period. The Yali pillars in the Ranga Mandapam especially attract the devotees and visitors. The way huge stone blocks were shaped into Yali pillars shows the remarkable skill of the ancient sculptors. Yali pillars are seen in many temples built during the Royal dynasty. However, in Vontimitta temple each pillar has a hollow space in the middle where a person can sit, which is a unique feature. The pillars in the Ranga Mandapam are beautifully carved with scenes from Puranas and attract devotees. Two pillars in particular are designed in the traditional Petrus style and stand out for their artistic beauty. History of Vontimitta Sri Kodandarama Temple: According to legend, during the Treta Yuga, Lord Sri Rama travelled through the Dandakaranya forest along with Sita and Lakshmana. When Sita Devi felt thirsty, Lord Rama shot an arrow into the ground and a spring of water emerged. That sacred water source is believed to be the present-day Rama Theertham at Vontimitta.

## Unseasonal rains and heatwave alert issued in AP and Telangana

The scorching sun has intensified in the Telugu states before mid-March, with temperatures rising sharply. People find it difficult to step outside due to the intense heat. The afternoons see deserted roads, and the Meteorological Department has issued warnings of significant weather changes in the coming weeks, including heavy rains in many districts. In Telangana, unseasonal rains are expected to begin from 16 March. According to the Hyderabad Meteorological Centre, moist southeasterly winds will bring cooler conditions across the state, with rain forecast from

16 to 23 March. Officials warn that thunder and lightning may occur in North and East Telangana, with some areas experiencing heavy rainfall and gusty winds. Farmers are concerned about the potential impact of these untimely rains during the harvest season. Warnings of hailstorms have been issued for districts such as Rangareddy, Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar, and Adilabad. Authorities advise farmers to safeguard their crops against possible damage. While the intense heat is expected to persist until 14 March, winds blowing at 30 to 40 km/h from 16 March may provide

some relief.

Similar weather patterns are affecting Andhra Pradesh, due to a strange cycle in the Bay of Bengal. Instead of dissipating, a low-pressure system is lingering, sending cold, gusty winds to coastal regions. Rain is likely in Uttarandhra and coastal districts from 15 to 17 March, with sudden weather changes and dust storms possible.

Doctors warn residents to be cautious of fevers and health issues associated with these abrupt weather shifts.



# Cardiac patient undergoes successful rebirth off-pump bypass...

**Cardiac Surgeon  
Dr. Vengal Reddy**

**Kodada March 12  
Metro Morning :**

Renowned heart surgeon Dr. Vengal Reddy said that a 61-year-old woman suffering from severe heart disease and long-term complications was saved by performing the most complex surgery at Malakpet Yashoda Hospital. He spoke at a press conference organized at Kodada Public Club on Thursday. He said that this case has



become very dangerous due to the presence of blockages in the main blood vessels, problems like sugar and BP. The patient was saved from the risk of death by performing bypass surgery in the 'off-pump' method without stopping the heart. It was explained that the ventilator was removed on

the day of the surgery and she is currently in full health. He stated that with state of the art technology and experienced medical team we successfully complete any complex cases. All people want to be treated in hospitals with all kinds of facilities and medical team. He said that very soon the journalists will organize a mega free health camp at Kodada for their family members. DGM Laxman Srikanth, Senior Manager Vasu Kiran Reddy and others participated in this program.

# GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg visited the TSR Complex Day & Night Shelters,



GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg visited the TSR Complex Day & Night Shelters, which are jointly operated by AYUTD and GVMC. During the visit, he inquired about the issue of blocked bathrooms in the shelter. Upon the Commissioner's instructions to fix the problem immediately, it was found that a manhole behind the shelter building was clogged. The neces-

sary repairs were carried out, and the toilets were restored. The completion of the repairs was subsequently informed to the Commissioner's office. On the night of the 11th, a 60-year-old woman named Satyavati, who had been given shelter through the police, shared her grievance with the Commissioner. She explained that she had been cheated after work-



ing in an orphanage. Acting on the Commissioner's directions, UCD PD Sarojini Madam also visited the shelters and conducted an inquiry into the issue of Satyavati, who belongs to Kailasapatnam in Narsipatnam. AYUTD organization secretary Pragada Vasu facilitated the payment of ₹30,000 in pending wages that Satyavati was sup-

posed to receive from the "Manaswini" Old Age Home management. The amount was handed over to her, and she was sent back to Narsipatnam by bus. Satyavati expressed her heartfelt thanks to the GVMC Commissioner, UCD PD Sarojini, AYUTD, and the Two Town Police staff, and happily returned to her home.

# Sudha Bank 5 star rating for best services.

**Managing Director  
Peddireddy Ganesh.....**

**Kodada March 12  
Metro Morning**

Peddireddy Ganesh, Managing Director of Sudha Bank, said that the International High Quality Haim rating organization has announced a five star rating for providing the best services to its bank customers. He participated and spoke as the chief guest at a spiritual meeting organized in Kodada town on Thursday. He said that for the last 26 years, it has been providing reliable services to clients in 9 branches with a turnover of 300 crores. He said that the people of the rural areas are also given loans and support for their economic development. Everyone wants to take advantage of this



opportunity as they are offering gold, home, personal and business loans at low interest compared to commercial banks. They are paying high interest on deposits. In

this meeting Chairman Meela Mahadev, Vice Chairman Kakkireni Chandra Shekhar, Directors Thota Shyam, Swami Venkateshwarlu, Irukulla

Chenna Kesava Rao, Vempati Venkata Ramana, Bank Manager Chennuru. Ravi Kumar, and the bank staff participated in...

## A Saraswati Puja program was organized for the students of GVR Karate Academy



**Hyderabad March:12 (Metro udayam)**

A Saraswati Puja program was organized for the students of GVR Karate Academy who are studying in various educational institutions and are preparing to appear for their 10th class annual examinations. The main objective of the program was to build confidence among the students and give them the mental strength to face their examinations with courage.

On this occasion, the students offered prayers to Goddess Saraswati with devotion, seeking blessings for knowledge, wisdom, and success in their examinations.

The program was attended by Mahalaxmi Ramanna Goud as the chief guest. Addressing the students, she encouraged them to face their examinations with confidence and discipline and strive to achieve good results.

During the event, the guests felicitated the students and distributed study materials such as pencils, pens, and scales.

The program was conducted under the guidance of Dr. G. S. Gopal Reddy. The Saraswati Puja rituals were performed by Pandit Rangarao, who offered prayers and blessings for the students' academic progress and success in their examinations.

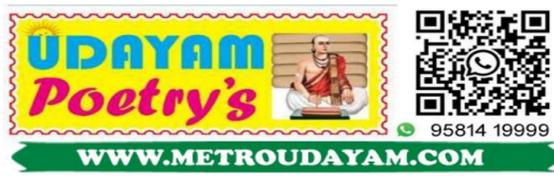
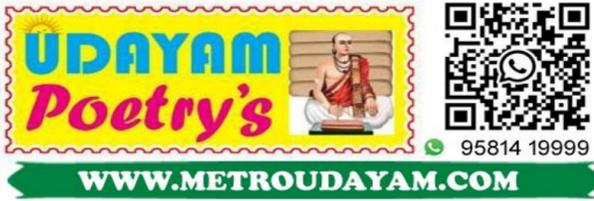
Students of the academy who participated in the puja included Jessy and Venkat Reddy (Keshav Memorial High School), Meghana (Government School, Musheerabad), Nandini (St. Paul's School), Shreya (Oxford Grammar High School), and Tejanshi (Rosary Convent High School). Academy black belts Amrutha Reddy, Gana Santhoshinee Reddy, Anagha, Saanvi, and Dwaita, along with other academy students and their parents, also participated in the program.

## The services of Swarna Bharati Trust are appreciated....



**Kodada March 12 Metro Morning**

Sarpanch Alasakani Bhavani Sarabheshwara Rao said that the efforts of Swarna Bharati Charitable Trust in providing medical services to the poor people are commendable. In Nallabandagudem village on Thursday, Aishu Products head Chakka Haribabu inaugurated a free medical camp courtesy of Yashoda Hospital in memory of Chakka Channaiah. Around 400 people were given free sugar, BP, ECG, 2D echo and thyroid tests and medicines were distributed in the camp. The efforts of Swarna Bharti Trust in social service are commendable. In this program, where Paydimarri Satya Babu participated as a special guest, Trust General Secretary Chargundla Praveena Rajasekhar, Oruganti Kittu, Yadha Sudhakar, Trust members Haimavathi, Srinivasa Rao, Kothuri Srinivasa Rao, Anil Village Heads Vice Sarpanch Yaramala Aruna, Srinivasa Rao, Former Sarpanch Sushila Benjamin, Ranga Rao, Nallapati Narasimha Rao and others participated.....



## भारतीय नारियों की अद्भुत शक्ति एवं वीरता



नारी शक्ति: भारतीय महिलाओं की अनमोल ऊर्जा, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के अवसर पर, आइए नारी शक्ति की अनमोल ऊर्जा को सलाम करें। भारत में महिलाओं ने सदियों से अपनी शक्ति, साहस, और समर्पण से देश को गौरवान्वित किया है। आइए, नारी शक्ति की कहानी को विस्तार से जानते हैं।

प्राचीन भारत: नारी शक्ति का उदय  
प्राचीन भारत में महिलाएं समाज में सम्मानित और समृद्ध थीं। वे गृहिणी, शिक्षिका, और शासिका के रूप में अपनी भूमिका निभाती थीं। वेदों और उपनिषदों में महिलाओं की शिक्षा और उनके योगदान की बात कही गई है।

गर्गी वाचकनी: एक महान विदुषी और दार्शनिक, गर्गी ने याज्ञवल्क्य के साथ शास्त्रार्थ में भाग लिया था। मैत्रेयी: एक महान विदुषी और याज्ञवल्क्य की पत्नी, मैत्रेयी ने आत्मज्ञान की प्राप्ति के लिए अपने पति से ज्ञान की याचना की थी। लोपामुद्रा: एक महान विदुषी और ऋषि अश्विनी की पत्नी, लोपामुद्रा ने अपने पति के साथ मिलकर वेदों की रचना में योगदान दिया था।

मध्ययुगीन भारत: नारी शक्ति की परीक्षा  
मध्ययुगीन भारत में महिलाओं को कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ा। फिर भी, उन्होंने अपनी शक्ति और साहस से समाज में अपनी जगह बनाई। रजिया सुल्ताना: दिल्ली की पहली महिला सुल्तान, रजिया ने अपने शासनकाल में न्याय और समृद्धि को बढ़ावा दिया। चौद बीबी: अहमदनगर की रानी, चौद बीबी ने मुगल आक्रमण का सामना किया और अपनी बहादुरी से इतिहास में अपना नाम दर्ज कराया। मीराबाई: एक महान कवयित्री और भक्त, मीराबाई ने अपनी भक्ति और कविता से भगवान कृष्ण को प्रसन्न किया।

स्वतंत्रता संग्राम: नारी शक्ति का उभार  
भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में महिलाओं ने बड़-चढ़कर भाग लिया। उन्होंने अपने प्राणों की आहुति दी और देश को स्वतंत्र कराने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

रानी लक्ष्मीबाई: झाँसी की रानी, लक्ष्मीबाई ने अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ी और अपनी बहादुरी से इतिहास में अपना नाम दर्ज कराया। बेगम हजरत महल: 1857 के सिपाही विद्रोह की एक प्रमुख नेता, बेगम हजरत महल ने अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ी।

सरोजिनी नायडू: एक महान कवयित्री और स्वतंत्रता सेनानी, सरोजिनी नायडू ने देश के लिए अपने प्राणों की आहुति दी। आधुनिक भारत: नारी शक्ति का स्वर्णिम युग  
आधुनिक भारत में महिलाओं ने हर क्षेत्र में अपनी प्रतिभा का लोहा मनवाया है। वे राजनीति, समाज सेवा, विज्ञान, कला, और साहित्य में अपनी छाप छोड़ रही हैं।

इंदिरा गांधी: भारत की पहली महिला प्रधानमंत्री, इंदिरा गांधी ने देश को एक नई दिशा दी। विजयलक्ष्मी पंडित: एक महान राजनयिक और स्वतंत्रता सेनानी, विजयलक्ष्मी पंडित ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा की अध्यक्षता करने वाली पहली महिला बनकर इतिहास रचा। सुचेता कृपलानी: एक महान स्वतंत्रता सेनानी और राजनीतिज्ञ, सुचेता कृपलानी उत्तर प्रदेश की पहली महिला मुख्यमंत्री बनीं।

समकालीन भारत: नारी शक्ति का उदय आज, भारतीय महिलाएं हर क्षेत्र में अपनी प्रतिभा का लोहा मनवा रही हैं। वे अंतरिक्ष से लेकर खेल तक, और विज्ञान से लेकर कला तक, हर जगह अपनी छाप छोड़ रही हैं।

कल्पना चावला, एक महान अंतरिक्ष यात्री, कल्पना चावला ने अंतरिक्ष में जाने वाली पहली भारतीय महिला बनकर इतिहास रचा। सुनीता विलियम्स एक महान अंतरिक्ष यात्री, सुनीता विलियम्स ने अंतरिक्ष में कई रिकॉर्ड बनाए हैं।

अरुंधति रॉय: एक महान लेखिका और सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता, अरुंधति रॉय ने अपने लेखन और सामाजिक कार्य से दुनिया भर में अपनी पहचान बनाई है। नारी शक्ति के क्षेत्र में चुनौतियों, नारी शक्ति के उदय के बावजूद, महिलाओं को अभी भी कई चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है। इनमें से कुछ प्रमुख चुनौतियाँ हैं:

शिक्षा की कमी: आज भी कई क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं को शिक्षा से वंचित रखा जाता है।

भेदभाव: महिलाओं के साथ भेदभाव आज भी समाज में एक बड़ी समस्या है। महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा एक गंभीर समस्या है, जिसे रोकने के लिए सख्त कानून और जागरूकता की आवश्यकता है।

नारी शक्ति भारतीय महिलाओं की अनमोल ऊर्जा है। उन्होंने सदियों से अपनी शक्ति, साहस, और समर्पण से देश को गौरवान्वित किया है। आइए, हम सभी नारी शक्ति को सलाम करें और महिलाओं के अधिकारों और उनकी प्रतिभा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए काम करें।

सिफारिशें: लड़कियों की शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए। महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा को रोकने के लिए सख्त कानून बनाने चाहिए। महिलाओं को विज्ञान और तकनीक के क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए। महिलाओं के सम्मान और समानता के लिए समाज में जागरूकता फैलानी चाहिए।

दुर्गम तिरुमला  
(एस ए हिंदी)  
के जी वी टी  
बेजूरु।



## इमाम अली इब्न अबूतालिब अलैहिससलाम ने अपने जीवन की अंतिम घड़ियों में एक वसीयत (मृत्युपत्र) की है। ... (शकील उवाच -६४३)

पवित्र रमजान महीने के 19 तारीख को एक षडयंत्र के तहत अब्दुल रहमान इब्न मुलजिम लानती (श्रापित व्यक्ति) ने पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले जानशीन हजरत इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिससलाम को जहरीले (विषैले) तलवार से जख्मी किया जिस के कारण आप अलैहिससलाम 21 रमजान को शहीद हुए। इस कत्ल की साजिश किसने रची, क्यों रचा और इस कत्ल के पीछे कौन कौन था यह सब बातें इतिहास में सुरक्षित है। आप खुद इतिहास में देख लीजिए और कत्ल करने वाले, कत्ल की साजिश करने वालों पर लानत भेजिए।



इमाम अली इब्न अबूतालिब अलैहिससलाम ने अपने जीवन की अंतिम घड़ियों में एक वसीयत (मृत्युपत्र) की है। उस समय अब्दुल रहमान इब्न मुलजिम की जहर में बुझी हुयी तलवार से किए घाव के कारण आप अलैहिससलाम बिस्तर पर थे। और परलोक की यात्रा की प्रतीक्षा कर रहे थे। इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिससलाम के अनुरोध पर उनके सभी बेटे उनके पास बैठे हुए थे। और साथ में बनी हाशिम खानदान के सभी बड़े व समझदार लोग भी उपस्थित थे।

इस अंतिम समय में इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिससलाम ने अपने रोने वाले कुनबे (खानदान) को हिम्मत दी और उन्हें ढारस बंधाते हुए कहा के धैर्य रखो, रोओ मत! यदि जान जाओ कि मैं क्या सोच व देख रहा हूँ तो कदापि दुखी न होंगे। जान लो कि मेरी बस यही इच्छा है कि यथाशीघ्र अपने सरदार पैगम्बर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पास पहुँच जाऊँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि अपनी दयालु व त्यागी पत्नी फातिमा जहरा सलामुल्ला अलैहा से जल्दी से जल्दी मुलाकात करूँ।

हजरत अली अलैहिससलाम सबको देखा फिर पैगम्बर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) की अधिक झलक नजर आने वाले इमाम हसन अलैहिससलाम से कहा, ऐ बेटा हसन (अ.)! और मेरे निकट आओ! तुम्हारे अलैहिससलाम के हवाले किये और उपस्थित लोगों को गवाह बनाते हुए कहा, "तुम सब गवाह रहो! मेरे बाद पैगम्बर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के नवासे ये हसन (अ.) इमाम और मार्गदर्शक हैं।

फिर इमाम अली अलैहिससलाम ने एक संदूक लाने का आदेश दिया। उस संदूक से जुल्फेकार नामक तलवार, पैगम्बर इस्लाम मोहम्मद (स्व.) की पगड़ी व चादर, मोहरबंद पुस्तिका और स्वयं एकत्रित किया गया पवित्र कुरआन थे। उन सब को एक एक करके इमाम हसन अलैहिससलाम के हवाले किये और उपस्थित लोगों को गवाह बनाते हुए कहा, "तुम सब गवाह रहो! मेरे बाद पैगम्बर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के नवासे ये हसन (अ.) इमाम और मार्गदर्शक हैं।

फिर इमाम हसन अलैहिससलाम को संबोधित करते हुए कहा, मेरे बेटे! मेरे बाद तुम इस समाज के जिम्मेदार होंगे। यदि मेरे हत्यारे को छोड़ने का निर्णय लो तो तुम्हें अधिकार है और यदि उसे उसके कुकर्म का दंड देने का निर्णय लेना तो उसके सिर पर केवल एक ही वार करना, (क्योंकि उस लानती (श्रापित और धिक्का रित व्यक्ति ने भी एक ही वार किया था)। ध्यान रहे कि बदला लेने में अल्लाह (ईश्वर) के बनाए नियमों, सीमाओं से कभी आगे न निकलना।

और कागज व कलम मंगवाकर इमाम हसन अलैहिससलाम से वसीयत को लिखवाना आरंभ किया "अल्लाह (सु.) के नाम से जो अत्यंत कृपाशील व दयावान है। यह वह लिखित बात है जिसकी अली (अ.) वसीयत कर रहा है उसकी पहली वसीयत यह है कि वह गवाही देता है कि अनन्य ईश्वर के अतिरिक्त कोई पूज्य नहीं है। वही ईश्वर जो अकेला है जिसका कोई सहभागी नहीं और इस बात की भी गवाही देता हूँ कि मोहम्मद साहब (स्व.) ईश्वर के बंदे (दास) और उसके पैगम्बर हैं।

## Minister Narayana Praises Foundation of Maritime Shipbuilding Centre

Minister Narayana expressed pride in Minister Lokesh for laying the foundation stone of the Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding Systems Centre in Nellore. He stated that the project would enhance India's indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities. He added that the centre would promote innovation in maritime technology, strengthen coastal surveillance, and improve defence preparedness. Minister Narayana congratulated Minister Lokesh for his efforts in realising this important initiative.



## 'Leader Of Opposition Not Above The House': Om Birla's Swipe At Rahul Gandhi



Om Birla said the Leader of the Opposition is not "above the House" as he resumed duties as Speaker of the Lok Sabha on Thursday, a day after the Opposition's no-confidence motion against him was defeated. In his first remarks after returning to the Speaker's chair, Birla said he has always tried to ensure that every Member of Parliament gets an opportunity to speak while strictly following the rules of the House. His statement was widely seen as a dig at Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition.

"Some members believe that the Leader of the Opposition stands above the House and can speak on any subject. However, no one enjoys such special privilege. The House functions according to its rules," Birla said. He also pointed out that even the Prime Minister and Union ministers must give prior notice under House rules before making statements.

The remarks came a day after Opposition parties moved a no-confidence motion against the Speaker, accusing him of being partisan during the Budget session. The motion was defeated by a voice vote after nearly 12 hours of debate in the Lok Sabha.

During the session, the Congress had repeatedly accused the Speaker of not allowing Rahul Gandhi to speak on certain issues, including former Army chief M. M. Naravane's unpublished memoir. The dispute had triggered protests in the House and escalated further after eight Congress MPs were suspended. Rejecting allegations of bias, Birla said he has always conducted the proceedings with impartiality, discipline and balance. He also dismissed claims that he controls the microphones of MPs in the House.

"The Chair never has a switch to turn microphones on or off. The microphone is activated only for the member who has been permitted to speak," he explained.

Birla added that he has consistently encouraged members, especially those hesitant to participate, to speak during debates while following parliamentary procedures.

## Anam pays courtesy visit to Sringeri seer at Srikalahasti



Tirupati: Endowments Minister Anam Ramana Reddy visited the Sri Kalahasteswara Swamy Temple in Srikalahasti to meet Sringeri Peetadhipathi Jagadguru Vidhushekhara Bharathi Mahaswamiji, who had arrived at the temple town on Wednesday.

The minister met the seer following the directions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on behalf of the state government and received his blessings.

The minister prayed that the blessings of the Sringeri guru should always remain with the people of the State and wished for peace and prosperity for all. The Seer will take part in various programmes in the next couple of days in Tirupati.

Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy, Devasthanam Chairman Kotte Sai Prasad, Temple Executive Officer BK Venkatesulu, RDO Bhanu Prakash Reddy, temple trust board members, along with local public representatives and officials, participated in the programme.

## Rebala Geetha Reddy receives "Adarsha Mahila Puraskar"



**Chikkadapally, March 12 Metro Udayam** : A grand ceremony of presenting Adarsha Mahila Puraskar to prominent personalities was held in Tounhuhalu under the auspices of Savitribai Phule Educational Charitable Trust and All India Organ and Body Donors Association on the occasion of Savitribai Phule's death anniversary and Women's Day. On this occasion, the chairperson of the organization, Dr. G. Seetha Mahalakshmi, and GST Assistant Commissioner Dr. C. H. Usha Kiran, felicitated Rebala Geetha Reddy with a shawl, memento, certificate of appreciation, garland and crown, appreciating the efforts of Geetha Reddy, a spiritual singer and servant from Nellore. Ande Srinivasulu, Sheikh Riyaz Basha, S.V. Ramesh Babu, organizers Muralimohan Raju, Cheedarala Chennaiyya, and others participated in this program.

## LS Speaker Birla breaks silence after no-confidence motion rejected; emphasises rules of House



New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla, on Thursday spoke for the first time in the House after the no-confidence motion against him was rejected, expressing gratitude to members of the House for participating in the debate and sharing their views. He emphasised that the functioning of Parliament is guided strictly by established rules and procedures. Addressing the Lok Sabha, Om Birla said the discussion on the motion continued for more than 12 hours and provided an opportunity for members to express their concerns and opinions. "There was a discussion for more than 12 hours on the motion against the Lok Sabha Speaker. The purpose of the debate was to understand the concerns and viewpoints of every member of the House," Birla said. He highlighted that the Lok Sabha represents the democratic will of the people of India.

"This House reflects the sovereign will of India's 140 crore citizens. All the members present here have been elected with the mandate of lakhs of people and have come here with the responsibility of fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the citizens," he said. Birla stated that during his tenure he had consistently tried to ensure that all members get an opportunity to speak and present their views. "I have always tried to ensure that every member gets a chance to express their views in the House. I have also encouraged those members who hesitate to speak, to come forward and present their thoughts. In my two terms as Speaker, I have repeatedly requested members who were reluctant to participate in debates to speak in the House, as this strengthens the foundations of democracy," he said. He added that the Lok Sabha strives to act as the voice of the last citizen of the country and that he had continuously worked towards maintaining this spirit. Referring to constitutional provisions, Birla noted that the office of the Speaker is established under Article 93 of the Constitution. "Article 93 of the Constitution provides for the office of the Speaker, and I have been elected to this position twice. I have always tried to conduct the proceedings of the House with transparency, discipline, balance and adherence to rules. I have fulfilled my responsibility of maintaining orderly and peaceful proceedings," he said. Birla also mentioned that members of the Opposition had submitted a notice of no-confidence against him on February 10, 2026. Following the submission of the

# INTRODUCTION OF PODANUR-DHANBAD-PODANUR WEEKLY AMRIT BHARAT EXPRESS

In a significant step towards enhancing long-distance connectivity, Indian Railways has decided to introduce a new weekly Amrit Bharat Express service between Podanur and Dhanbad. As per the notification issued by East Coast Railway, Train No. 16619/16620 Podanur-Dhanbad-Podanur Amrit Bharat Weekly Express will commence service later this month, providing improved travel facilities for passengers travelling between Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and adjoining regions.

**Train Details**  
1. Train No. 16619 Podanur – Dhanbad Amrit Bharat Express will leave from Podanur every Saturdays starting 21 March 2026 at 06.15hrs which will reach Duvvada at 04.43hrs on the next day and departure at 04.45hrs and will reach Dhanbad at 04.00hrs on

**Composition**  
The train will run with a 22-coach composition of Amrit Bharat Coaches, including: 8 Sleeper Class coaches, 11 General coaches, 2 Second Class luggage cum Divyangjan coaches, 1 Pantry Car coach

**Important En-route Stoppages**

The train will halt at several major stations including Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Tiruttani, Renigunta, Nellore, Ongole, Vijayawada,

Mondays.  
2. Train No. 16620 Dhanbad – Podanur Amrit Bharat Express will leave from Dhanbad every Monday at 14.00hrs starting 23 March 2026 which will reach Duvvada at 13.00hrs on the next day and departure at 13.02hrs which will reach Podanur 11.20hrs on Wednesday.

**Composition**  
The train will run with a 22-coach composition of Amrit Bharat Coaches, including: 8 Sleeper Class coaches, 11 General coaches, 2 Second Class luggage cum Divyangjan coaches, 1 Pantry Car coach

**Important En-route Stoppages**

The train will halt at several major stations including Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Tiruttani, Renigunta, Nellore, Ongole, Vijayawada,



Eluru, Rajahmundry, Samalkot, Duvvada, Kottavasa, Vizianagaram, Bobbili, Parvathipuram, Rayagada, Muniguda, Kesinga, Titlagarh, Balangir, Bargarh Road, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Hatia, Ranchi, Muri, Bokaro Steel City, Chandrapura, Katrasgarh between Podanur and Dhanbad. The introduction of this new Amrit Bharat Express service is expected to significantly improve connectivity between southern and eastern parts of the country and provide a comfortable travel option for passengers along the route. Passengers are advised to check the detailed timetable and reservation availability through official railway websites.

## Illegal soil transportation.. Tippers, JCBs seized

- Strict action will be taken if soil is transported illegally: Adibhatla CI Ravikumar

**Thukkuguda, March 12 metro udayam** : The police have cracked down on illegal soil excavation and transportation taking place without any government permission in the outskirts of Ravirala village in Maheshwaram mandal. The incident took place under the jurisdiction of Adibhatla police station. According to reliable information, at 1 am on Thursday, it was reported that soil on government land in Survey No. 243, Chinakanche, was being illegally excavated and transported. When the police went to the scene, they found that some people were digging soil with the help of a JCB and secretly loading it into a nearby tipper. There were 2 JCBs and five tippers there. Two of the tippers were filled and the other two were ready to be filled. While they were being caught, a person



ran away from the JCB. When they saw the JCB number (TS31K6340) there, they asked the name of the driver in it and said Rahul Kumar, and when they asked the name of the owner next to it, he said Nandakumar. The police detained them and seized 2 JCBs and 5 tippers used for soil excavation. Later, the Adibhatla police said that a case has been registered against the accused and the investigation is ongoing. Speaking on this



occasion, Adibhatla Inspector B. Ravikumar said, "We have warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone who digs or transports soil illegally without government permission."

motion, he said he kept himself away from the proceedings for a few days to allow discussions to take place impartially. "In the last two days, members of the House expressed different views and opinions on the issue. I listened carefully to every member," he said. He thanked all members who participated in the debate, regardless of whether they supported or opposed him. "I express my gratitude to everyone who spoke during the discussion — those who supported me and those who spoke against me. In a democracy, every viewpoint has importance.

The post of Speaker does not belong to any individual; it represents the collective will of the House and the dignity of this great institution," he said. Birla also addressed allegations raised by some members that Opposition MPs were not being allowed to speak. "I want to clarify that every member of this House has the opportunity to speak, but it must be done according to the rules. Some members believe that the Leader of the Opposition is above the House and can speak on any matter at any time, but no such privilege exists," he said. He stressed that the House must func-

tion according to established parliamentary procedures. "These rules have not been created by the ruling party or the Opposition. They are part of our parliamentary heritage," he said. Birla further stated that under constitutional provisions, members must give notice and seek the Speaker's approval before raising certain issues in the House. "According to Article 372, members must give notice and obtain prior approval from the Speaker before presenting certain matters," he said, reiterating his commitment to maintaining transparency and discipline in the functioning of the Lok Sabha.

## Ponnam Prabhakar inspects Karimnagar dumping yard, assures relocation

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar inspected the municipal dumping yard in Karimnagar on Wednesday and stated that the State government was committed to relocating the facility in view of the difficulties faced by residents living in the surrounding areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the dumping yard had been causing inconvenience and health issues to nearby residents for several years. He noted that the matter had earlier been brought to the attention of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy by local leaders. Prabhakar recalled that during a public meeting held in Choppadandi, the Chief Minister had assured the public that the dumping yard would be shifted from its present location.

The Minister said the government was prepared to permanently relocate the dumping yard and had been examining suitable alternatives. He personally visited the site to understand the problems being faced by



residents living close to the facility. According to him, people in the nearby localities had been suffering from respiratory ailments and other health concerns due to the continuous dumping of waste at the site. Prabhakar stated that waste collection and disposal had become a significant challenge for several cities. He pointed out that during an earlier visit to Karimnagar by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, a request had also

been raised to shift the dumping yard as it was posing health hazards to local residents. The Minister said the government was considering establishing a new dumping facility between Karimnagar and Warangal so that waste management could be carried out effectively without creating inconvenience for residents of either city. He added that the existing dumping yard had been in use for nearly four decades and therefore relocating it required careful

planning. However, Prabhakar expressed confidence that the process of shifting the dumping yard would be completed within a year.

Karimnagar MLA Medipally Satyam, SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narender Reddy, Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai, former MLA Arepalli Mohan, corporator Anjan Kumar and several other corporators and leaders were present during the inspection.

## Women did good business during Medaram Jatara

Hanumakonda: The Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara 2026 at Medaram scripted a remarkable chapter in women empowerment and rural economic transformation, as hundreds of women entrepreneurs successfully ran business units and generated significant profits during the week-long tribal festival. Often described as the Kumbh Mela of Telangana, the Jatara witnessed an unprecedented transformation this year as it evolved from a purely spiritual gathering into a vibrant business hub for rural women. The initiative was implemented under the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme with the support of the Telangana government. The programme was carried out under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, with special initiatives taken by Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Women & Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka and close supervision by District Collector T. S. Divakar. Their efforts ensured that the Jatara became a massive

“Business Expo”, boosting the confidence and economic independence of rural women. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from various villages established different business outlets and operated them in their own innovative styles. Their entrepreneurial skills attracted large numbers of customers visiting the Jatara and resulted in impressive earnings. Within just one week, women entrepreneurs collectively generated net profits of more than Rs 3 crore. Their success demonstrated the growing business capabilities of rural women when provided with institutional support and opportunities. Several individual success stories emerged during the festival. Kadari Sandhya from Reddigudem village, a member of Saraswathi SHG, earned Rs1.25 lakh profit by selling Bamboo Chicken near Jampanna Vagu after taking a bank loan of Rs0.75 lakh. Similarly, the Sammakka-Saralamma Producers Group from Kondaparthi village earned a profit of Rs4.05 lakh by



selling Mahua flower laddus after investing Rs1 lakh through Community Investment Fund support. The Indira Mahila Shakti Canteen at Mallampalli, managed by Emburi Avanti of Gayatri SHG, recorded a profit of Rs1.50 lakh after investing Rs2 lakh. In Jangalapalli, Bayya Mallamma from Himabindu SHG earned Rs1.20 lakh through a fish outlet established with an investment of Rs1 lakh. Other ventures also performed well. B. Tirupatamma from Pragathi SHG earned Rs1.50 lakh profit through tea and cool drink sales in the

Errigattamma area. Alam Prashanthi from Sammakka SHG at Medaram gained Rs2.06 lakh profit through a jaggery shop after investing Rs3.75 lakh. Jyothi from Narlapur village, a member of Venkateswara SHG, earned Rs1.10 lakh through a cool drinks and general store on the Narlapur-Oorattam Road. Meanwhile, Poleboyina Shruti from Varalakshmi SHG in Kothur village achieved a profit of Rs1.40 lakh by operating a grocery shop and water plant outlet. In total, 565 business units were established during the Medaram Jatara.

## Gaurav Gogoi opposes removal of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed's name from Barpeta Medical College



Guwahati: Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi on Thursday strongly criticised the Assam government's reported decision to remove the name of former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed from the Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital in Barpeta, calling the move an insult to a distinguished Assamese personality and freedom fighter. In a statement posted on social media, Gogoi expressed deep concern over the decision, alleging that the move undermines the legacy of one of Assam's most prominent figures.

He said that Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was not only a respected freedom fighter but also the first Assamese to serve as the President of India.

Ahmed, who served as the fifth President of India from 1974 until his death in 1977, is remembered for his contributions to the country and for representing Assam at the highest constitutional office.

Gogoi said removing his name from the Barpeta Medical College raises serious questions about the rationale behind the government's decision. “The Assam government's decision to remove the name of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed from the Barpeta Medical College is extremely unfortunate and deeply hurtful to the sentiments of the people of Assam,” Gogoi said.

He further alleged that the move may be politically motivated and questioned whether the state government was attempting to pursue divisive politics for electoral gains.

According to the Congress leader, such actions risk erasing the legacy of eminent Assamese personalities who have contributed significantly to the nation.

Gogoi said the decision not only disrespects a former President but also undermines the contributions of a prominent freedom fighter and an eminent son of Assam who served the nation with distinction.

Calling on the state government to reconsider the move, Gogoi urged the authorities to retain the name of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed for the Barpeta Medical College. He also emphasised that honouring the contributions of great personalities from Assam and preserving their legacy is the collective responsibility of the people of the state.

Earlier on Wednesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma defended the state cabinet's decision to rename the Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital, saying the move was taken to maintain uniformity in the naming pattern of government medical colleges across the state.

CM Sarma said most state-run medical colleges in Assam are named after their geographical locations, and the decision was made to bring the Barpeta institution in line with that convention. The development follows a cabinet meeting held on Tuesday, where the Assam government approved the renaming of the institution located in Barpeta district.

## Annadanam marks JSP leader's birthday

Anantapur: Jana Sena Party leaders, led by party leader Veera Nayali, celebrated party district president and AHUDA Chairman TC Varun's birthday by organising various service programmes here on Wednesday. Party district vice-president and Valmiki Boya Corporation Director Eswaraiah organised Annadanam at Andhula Ashram at Hamali Colony here. A cake cutting ceremony was

held under the leadership of Market Yard directors Avuku Vijayakumar and Muppuri Krishna, while leaders Prasad, Sai Krishna Yadav and Varun Goud organised food distribution at Sarvajana Hospital. In the evening, fruit bowls, water bottles and other items were distributed to Muslim brothers during the holy month of Ramzan at Saifullah Masjid, under the leadership of Mahesh Somu Kishore and Babu

Harsha Malli.

Party city president Podili Baburao gave a call to Jana Sena leaders and activists to organise service-oriented programmes, further strengthening the leadership of TC Varun, who is constantly guiding party ranks and working tirelessly to strengthen the party by taking Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's ideals to field level.



## Glaucoma awareness walkathon held



Kurnool: A walkathon was organised in Kurnool on Wednesday to create awareness about glaucoma and the importance of regular eye check-up. Joint Collector Noorul Qamar flagged off the rally from Government Regional Eye Hospital, which proceeded to Raj Vihar Centre, in which doctors, medical staff and students participated. The awareness programme was conducted as part of World Glaucoma Week, which is being observed from March 8 to 14. The initiative was jointly organised by District Blindness Prevention Society and Government Regional Eye Hospital, Kurnool. This year's activities are being held under theme 'Unite for a Glaucoma-Free World', aiming to encourage people to take preventive measures against vision-related diseases. Speaking on the occasion, the Joint Collector said glaucoma is often referred as 'silent thief of sight' as it gradually damages vision without showing noticeable symptoms in early stages. He stressed that timely detection through regular eye examinations can help prevent permanent loss of vision. People aged above 40 years and those with a family history of glaucoma were advised to undergo periodic eye check-ups to ensure early diagnosis and treatment. District Medical and Health Officer Dr Bhaskar, Government Regional Eye Hospital Superintendent Dr Satyanarayana Reddy, Head of Department Dr Yugender Reddy, District Blindness Prevention Officer Dr Himabindu, and several ophthalmologists including Dr Sudhakar Rao, Dr Neha, Dr Rajasekhar and Dr Anil Kumar attended the programme. Members of the Indian Medical Association, assistant professors, medical officers and postgraduate students also participated in the rally and extended their support to the awareness campaign.

## Supreme Court to Hear BRS MLA Defection Case Today



A significant hearing is scheduled in the Supreme Court today regarding the case of BRS MLAs who defected. A bench comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Augustine George Masih will examine the matter. During the previous hearing, the Court warned that contempt proceedings could be initiated if the Speaker failed to make a decision. In response, the Speaker announced yesterday that Danam Nagender and Kadiyam Srihari would not change parties. However, both the BRS and BJP have challenged this decision. Criticism has been voiced that the Speaker has ignored substantial evidence, including an affidavit filed by Danam Nagender, who was a Congress Lok Sabha candidate. The two parties are now preparing to raise their objections before the Supreme Court, expressing dissatisfaction with the Speaker's ruling.

The deliberations hold the potential to influence the Speaker's final decision on the defected MLAs and the Court's response to the issue.

## Beware: 'Digital Lutera' toolkit targets UPI users, warns cyber firm

Online fraudsters are using new technology that bypasses security features of UPI apps to carry out financial transactions, cyber intelligence firm CloudSEK claimed in a report. According to the report, the firm has identified at least 20 active groups on messaging platform Telegram, each with over 100 members, where a toolkit by the name of "Digital Lutera" is being discussed, distributed, and operationalised.

"This is not just another UPI malware variant. Digital Lutera represents a structural attack on device trust. When the operating system itself is manipulated, traditional safeguards like SIM-binding and app signature checks become unreliable. If left unaddressed, this could industrialize account takeovers at scale across the digital payments ecosystem," CloudSEK, Threat Researcher, Shobhit

Mishra said.

CloudSEK claims to have done an analysis of one such group alone which indicates that transactions worth Rs 25 -30 lakh were processed over just two days, highlighting how quickly the fraud model is scaling and the number of victims' connections.

An email query sent to National Payments Corporation of India in this

regard remained unanswered.

Once the Digital Lutera toolkit is installed, attackers use a specialised Android framework tool on their own device to manipulate system-level identity and SMS functions. The attacker is then able to intercept registration messages meant for the banks and OTPs are silently forwarded to Telegram channels controlled by the attackers.

## Khot Lakhpat, Attock camps reactivate as Khalistani groups eye narco funding

New Delhi: The security agencies in India have issued an alert stating that Khalistani elements based out of Pakistan will make several attempts to push narcotics into the country in very large numbers in the months to come.

In addition to this, the Indian agencies have learnt that four training camps that were reporting very limited activity have suddenly become active. According to estimates, there are around 300 people as part of the Khalistan movement who are being trained at these camps, an official said.

The Khalistan networks with the help of the ISI and Jaish-e-Mohammad managed to rope in several people to be part of their outfit. It has been learnt that the facilities that are at Kot Lakhpat and Attock are being used to train those who are part of the narco-smuggling racket. There are camps at Chakwal and Gurjanwala which are exclusively used to train terrorists in the use of arms, ammunition and bomb making. Further the Khalistani elements are also trying to prepare death squads to be used in Punjab, an official said.

The emphasis for now would be high on narcotics smuggling. The ISI has instructed these terror groups to just focus on raising funds. Newer routes are also being explored through which drugs can be smuggled and huge sums of money can be raised.



The sudden increase in activity is because the activities of these Khalistani elements are being curbed heavily in countries such as Canada and the United Kingdom. These countries have agreed to work closely with India on the issue as the threat is both internal as well as external. With international activity under the scanner, the ISI decided that it is time to enhance operations within Pakistan and then focus on hitting Punjab. The Khalistanis are clearly in desperate need for funds and hence they would try and go on an overdrive mode to enhance narco-smuggling, another official said.

The Khalistan movement was being overseen by five people who had been given shelter by Pakistan. The top five, as the Indian agencies describe them, were the ones who were in control of the entire network that spans across various countries in the world.

A dossier states that the top leader continues to be Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) chief, Wadhwa Singh Babbar. He functions out of the Gulbarg locality in Lahore and has the complete protection of the Pakistan establishment. The ISI has instructed him to ramp up activity at training camps and also plan on high-profile assassinations and terror attacks in and around Punjab.

The other top operative who is part of this rebuilding exercise is Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda. He has become active in recent months and is working along with Babbar in the ongoing operation.

The other prominent Khalistan terror group bosses were Gajinder Singh, founder of the Dal Khalsa, Lakhbir Singh Rode, the head of the International Sikh Federation (ISYF) and Paramjit Singh Panjwar, the head of the Khalistan Commando Force. Singh

reportedly died of a heart attack in 2024, while Rode's death was reported in 2023. Panjwar was shot dead in Lahore in May 2023.

The ISI had around six months back instructed these groups to work under a unified command, so that the chances of disagreements and carrying out operations individually could be avoided. Currently, according to an Intelligence Bureau official, the big boss of this syndicate is Wadhwa Singh Babbar. The official said that the BKI is one of the most lethal groups and hence it is leading the operations from Pakistan.

Officials say that these elements would wait for an opportune time and then ramp up drug smuggling. The BKI would be using both drones and foot soldiers to increase narco smuggling into Punjab, the official also added.

## Construction of Indiramma houses for Bhoodan victims to begin today

house site pattas and construct Indiramma houses for families affected in the Velugumatla Bhoodan lands issue.

Speaking during the distribution of house site pattas to beneficiaries at Velugumatla in Khammam, the Minister said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had taken a generous decision to allot house sites and construct Indiramma houses for the victims.

He said the construction of houses for 311 beneficiaries in the Bhoodan lands will begin from Thursday and the colony will be developed as a model housing colony with all basic facilities. According to the minister, the houses are planned to be inaugurated by the Chief Minister on December 9, the birth anniversary of Sonia Gandhi.



Tummala alleged that irregularities had taken place in Bhoodan lands due to the negligence of the previous government. He said certain groups had exploited poor people by collecting money in the name of providing land and houses.

The minister warned that strict action would be taken against such groups and those involved in exploiting the poor would not escape punishment. He also pointed out that residents had been facing hardships for years without basic amenities such as drinking water, roads and electricity.

Tummala said the present government's goal is to ensure that the poor live with self-respect and dignity, and necessary infrastructure such as water supply, roads and power will be provided in the colony.

Referring to allegations earlier made by some organisations of the poor against him as the local MLA, the minister said the government's actions now demonstrate its commitment to resolving their long-pending problems.

# Masaba Gupta says she can't keep up with 'cool' dad Vivian Richards

Mumbai: Fashion designer and actor Masaba Gupta recently shared a heartfelt and humorous tribute to her parents, saying she finds it hard to match their "coolness," particularly that of her father, legendary West Indies cricketer Vivian Richards. Masaba took to social media to post a video celebrating Richards after he was appointed as an envoy for the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. In the clip, the cricket icon reminisced about his playing days, recalling a memorable moment from a 1976 match at The Oval where he scored 291 runs. Reflecting on the achievement, Richards



spoke about remembering the historic innings and the excitement of revisiting those memories. Sharing the video, Masaba

praised both her parents, writing, "Why are my parents so damn cool? I can't keep up. But I have a feeling my daughter will." Her remark highlighted the admiration she has for Richards and her mother, veteran actress Neena Gupta. During the conversation featured in the video, Richards responded modestly when he was described as one of the greatest batters in cricket history. He said he would not call himself that but appreciated hearing the praise from others. He also spoke about representing the Caribbean and the West Indies, emphasising the region's long-standing connection with the

Commonwealth. Masaba, who was born in 1989 to Neena Gupta and Richards, has built a successful career as a designer and entrepreneur. She is widely recognised as the founder of the fashion label House of Masaba and has also appeared in entertainment projects such as the series "Masaba Masaba." Over the years, Masaba has frequently expressed pride in her parents' achievements and influence. Her latest social media post once again showcased the warm bond she shares with them while celebrating Richards' continued prominence on the global stage.

## 'Kumbh Beauty' Monalisa marries boyfriend Farman Khan in Kerala after seeking police protection

Thiruvananthapuram: Viral 'Kumbh beauty' Monalisa Bhosle married her boyfriend Farman Khan at a temple in Poovar, a coastal suburb of Thiruvananthapuram, on Wednesday evening after approaching the police earlier in the day seeking protection from alleged family pressure.

The simple ceremony was held around 5.45 p.m., bringing an end to a tense day that began when the couple reached the Thampanoor Police Station requesting safety. Monalisa had reportedly alleged that her family was attempting to forcibly take her back home and compel her to marry a relative. The wedding took place in the presence of several people, including Communist Party of India (Marxist) state secretary M. V. Govindan. Shortly before the ceremony, Kerala's Education



Minister V. Sivankutty, who hails from the locality near the temple, said the development reflected the inclusive spirit of the state. "This is the real Kerala story where people of different backgrounds can live happily and peacefully," he remarked. Monalisa had gained widespread attention on social media during the Maha Kumbh Mela, where her pictures and videos went viral, earning her the

nickname 'Kumbh beauty'. She had recently been in Kerala for the shooting of a film marking her entry into the cinema industry. The film shoot had been underway in coastal areas around Vizhinjam and Poovar when the dispute with her family surfaced. According to police sources, Monalisa and Farman had been in a relationship for about 18 months after connecting through Facebook.

However, their interfaith relationship reportedly faced strong opposition from the woman's family. Monalisa, a native of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, and Farman Khan from Maharashtra had chosen Kerala as the place to marry as they expected stronger resistance in other parts of the country.

After receiving the complaint, police summoned Monalisa's father, Jai Singh Bhosle, and clarified that since she had attained the age of 18, she had the legal right to choose her partner and decide where she wished to live.

By evening, what had begun as a plea for police protection ended with a quiet wedding by the sea, turning a day of anxiety and family conflict into a moment marking the couple's new beginning.

## Priyanka Chopra leaves the Bollywood industry forever

Priyanka Chopra has announced that she is officially leaving the Bollywood industry. She explained why she is leaving the industry at her peak. She said that Bollywood has a lot of politics within it and she hates that.



Because of this, many people stopped giving her work which made her feel left out of the industry. Due to these problems, she felt that her chances of having work in Bollywood was decreasing. Therefore, she made the decision of working outside of India. She got into Hollywood instead. This started when she went to the United States to work on music. When she was there, she met a few people who worked in the Hollywood industry. They helped her get a lot of acting work. After some time, in a TV show called Quantico, she became the main lead. This show helped her increase her popularity all over the globe. Today, she has been working in a lot of shows and movies which are usually all hit. It looks like her decision to leave Bollywood was a good one. Because of her strong statements towards Bollywood in her interview, it has caused a lot of controversy.

## 'Sandigdham' Completes Post-Production, Gearing Up for Release

The upcoming film Sandigdham is all set to captivate audiences with its fresh, unique content. Directed by Parthasaradhi Kommoju, the film stars Nihal, Priya Deshpag, Arjun Dev, and Kajal Tiwari in key roles. Produced by Sandhya Thiruveedhula under Teertha Creations banner, the movie's posters, teaser, and prior content have already grabbed attention. More exciting updates are coming soon to keep movie buffs hooked. Filming and post-production for Sandigdham are now complete, with censor formalities underway. Makers will announce the release date shortly, and the unit is prepping a flurry of back-to-back updates. Gautam Raviram provides the music, while Nandan Krishna handles cinematography. The cast also includes Jeeva Kocherla, Naveen Raj Sankaraapu, Chitti Babu, Anand Bharathi, Rising Raju, Appa Rao, Nagi, Durga, Sridevi, Lakshman Rao, and others in pivotal roles.



## Kritika Kamra and Gaurav Kapur tie the knot in intimate Mumbai ceremony

Mumbai: Actress Kritika Kamra and actor-host Gaurav Kapur have tied the knot in an intimate ceremony held at their home in Mumbai. The couple celebrated the occasion with close family members and a small circle of friends in a warm and personal setting. The wedding was organised around a theme inspired by sunset tones and golden-hour hues, creating an elegant and meaningful atmosphere. Instead of a large traditional celebration, the couple opted for a registrar wedding at home, choosing a simple yet heartfelt way to mark the beginning of their new journey together. In a joint statement, Kritika and Gaurav expressed their happiness about celebrating the special moment with their loved ones. The couple said they had always believed that life's most meaningful moments are those shared with family and close friends, and they felt grateful to begin this new chapter surrounded by the people who matter most. For



the ceremony, Kritika wore a red Chanderi saree that had been specially woven for her and gifted by her mother. The saree was created by her own brand, which focuses on preserving the traditional dyeing art of Chanderi silk while supporting women artisans from the region. Gaurav complemented the evening's warm aesthetic by wearing an elegant ivory and gold tradi-

tional outfit designed by Raghavendra Rathore. Following the ceremony, the newlyweds briefly met members of the media gathered outside the venue. While posing for photographs, Gaurav jokingly remarked that although their lives matched perfectly, their camera looks often did not, drawing laughter from those present. The celebrations were attended by several close friends from the entertainment industry as well as members of the sports fraternity, who joined the families in celebrating the couple's special day. The evening festivities were held across the couple's Bandra residence and terrace. Later, they hosted a sundowner gathering overlooking the Mumbai skyline, where guests enjoyed the warm golden light, music and relaxed conversations while celebrating the newlyweds. The wedding festivities are set to continue with a larger celebration hosted by the couple on March 12.

## Champions RCB to take on SRH in IPL opener

Mumbai: Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL 2026 opener in Bengaluru on March 28 as the BCCI announced the first phase of IPL 2026 schedule amid concerns around players' travel arrangements due to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

All matches scheduled at the Chinnaswamy Stadium remain subject to clearance from the Karnataka government appointed expert committee, which is scheduled to meet on March 13 to assess venue preparedness in the wake of the

Date	Time	Match
28 <sup>th</sup> MAR	7:30 PM	RCB vs SRH
29 <sup>th</sup> MAR	7:30 PM	MI vs CSK
30 <sup>th</sup> MAR	7:30 PM	KKR vs RR
31 <sup>st</sup> MAR	7:30 PM	DC vs PWV
1 <sup>st</sup> APR	7:30 PM	MI vs CSK
2 <sup>nd</sup> APR	7:30 PM	KKR vs RR
3 <sup>rd</sup> APR	7:30 PM	DC vs PWV
4 <sup>th</sup> APR	7:30 PM	MI vs CSK
5 <sup>th</sup> APR	7:30 PM	KKR vs RR
6 <sup>th</sup> APR	7:30 PM	DC vs PWV
7 <sup>th</sup> APR	7:30 PM	MI vs CSK
8 <sup>th</sup> APR	7:30 PM	KKR vs RR
9 <sup>th</sup> APR	7:30 PM	DC vs PWV
10 <sup>th</sup> APR	7:30 PM	MI vs CSK
11 <sup>th</sup> APR	7:30 PM	KKR vs RR
12 <sup>th</sup> APR	7:30 PM	DC vs PWV

deadly stampede at the stadium last season. The BCCI announced the schedule of the first 20

games on Wednesday and will unveil the full schedule once the dates of elections in three states -- Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal -- are announced. Besides the state elections, the escalating conflict in West Asia will also be at the forefront of BCCI officials' minds. The war has wreaked havoc on international travel with operations of major airports like Doha and Dubai being heavily restricted. Windies, South Africa players doubtful for first phase.

## Will US allow Iran to play FIFA WC matches on its soil?

Miami: FIFA said Tuesday night that it anticipates Iran's national team will be allowed to come to the United States, even with war going on between the countries, and compete in the World Cup that begins in about three months. Iran is scheduled to play in Inglewood, California, against New Zealand on June 15 and Belgium on June 21 before finishing group play against Egypt in Seattle on June 26.

The U.S. is hosting the tournament with Canada and Mexico from June 11 to July 19. Iranian officials have suggested recently that its country's participation is in



some doubt because of the war. Last week, U.S. President Donald Trump said "I really don't care" if Iran takes part in the 48-nation tournament. FIFA President Gianni Infantino said he met with Trump on

Tuesday night "to discuss the status of preparations" for the tournament and received assurances that Iran would be permitted to come to the U.S. "During the discussions, President Trump reiterated that the Iranian team is,

of course, welcome to compete in the tournament in the United States." Infantino has a close relationship with Trump, who was given FIFA's inaugural peace prize - an award that many believe the soccer governing body created with Trump in mind. Fans from Iran were already banned from entering the U.S. in the first iteration of the travel ban announced by the Trump administration. "We all need an event like the FIFA World Cup to bring people together now more than ever," Infantino said, adding that he thanks Trump "for his support."

## ICC T20I Rankings: Abhishek, Kishan make it 1-2 in batting



Dubai: Swashbuckler Ishan Kishan rode on his superb T20 World Cup campaign to move up to a career-high second spot, trailing top-ranked Abhishek Sharma by a mere four points in the latest ICC list for T20I batters published on Wednesday. Abhishek held on to his lead at the top following his quick-fire half-century against New Zealand in the T20 World Cup final, while fellow left-hander Ishan Kishan is now his closest rival after he moved up two places to second overall after his 317 runs in the tournament. Kishan (871 points) earned a new career-high rating to trail Abhishek (875 points) by just four rating points, while New Zealander Tim Seifert (up four places to sixth) and England's Jacob Bethell (up 17 rungs to 16th) also improved to the best marks of their career following some dominant knocks during the T20 World Cup. However, there was a change in the T20I bowlers' ranking list, with India spinner Varun Chakravarthy losing the premier position to Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan following the completion of the global event. Chakravarthy (740 points), whose mystery was solved by most of the top global batters, is now second to Rashid (753), whose team Afghanistan exited the tournament at the group league stage.

## Diksha leads five Indians at the Australian Women's Open



Adelaide: Diksha Dagar will once again spearhead the Indian challenge as the Ladies European Tour stays in Australia with the Women's Australian Open. Three other Indians Pranavi Urs, Avani Prashanth and Hitaashee Bakshi have also been playing in Australia but this week Vani Kapoor will also be playing as an invitee. So there will be five Indians in the field this week.

Last week's Top-5 result from Diksha saw her get into the Top-10 of the Order of Merit, and this should give her a lot of confidence. This week Major Champions Hannah Green, Grace Kim and Minjee Lee will headline the field in Adelaide which is playing host for the first time since 2020. There's more than just Major champions to watch on the home front with Kelsey Bennett also teeing up fresh off a "special" maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) victory. The 26-year-old secured a stellar first win on the circuit at the Australian Women's Classic where she held her nerve on the final day to win by four shots in front of family and friends. Now heading into her home open at Kooyonga Golf Club, Bennett, leading the 2026 LET Order of Merit, has every front to be buzzing with confidence as she tees up alongside a stacked field of Aussies. Bennett is one of 31 Australians competing at this week's Women's Australian Open where she is joined by World No 4 Minjee Lee, World No 9 Hannah Green, Major champion Grace Kim and two-time LET winner Stephanie Kyriacou. The Women's Australian Open is back on the LET schedule this week for the first time in 2016. The stunning Kooyonga Golf Club in Adelaide is on hosting duties where Bennett expects a testing challenge for all. A prize fund of \$1.7m Australian dollars is up for grabs for the field of 144 players. Kooyonga Golf Club is the venue for this week and it's a new course for Kyriacou, but she is looking forward to play in her home open.

## Adivi Sesh in rugged avatar; 'Dacoit' new poster creates buzz



Actor Adivi Sesh, who has been enjoying a strong success streak with consecutive hits, is set to appear in a completely new avatar in his upcoming film Dacoit. The glimpse and teaser released earlier have already hinted at a messy, rugged, and intense transformation for the actor, raising curiosity among fans. The film stars Mrunal Thakur as the female lead and marks the directorial debut of Shaniel Deo. Adding to the excitement, the makers recently unveiled a new poster that showcases Sesh in a striking look. In the poster, Adivi Sesh is seen sitting on the floor of what appears to be a moving police van. He is dressed in white clothes stained with blood, while his hands and legs are tightly shackled with heavy chains. Despite being restrained, the actor is seen calmly lighting a cigarette, portraying a fearless and intense attitude. In the blurred background, a police officer can be spotted aiming a rifle out of the vehicle, hinting at a tense chase sequence and adding to the dramatic tone of the film. The film's musical promotions have already begun with the release of its first single, "Rubaroo." Composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, the song quickly turned into a chartbuster and received a positive response from listeners. Meanwhile, the film's shoot is currently progressing at a brisk pace. The team is presently filming a song sequence on a specially constructed set at the Aluminium Factory location. With the production nearing completion, the makers are gearing up for the film's theatrical release on April 10, building anticipation for Sesh's powerful new role.

## Preity Zinta's heartfelt birthday message for husband Gene Goodenough: My silver lining in a cloudy sky

Mumbai: Actress Preity Zinta is celebrating the birthday of her husband Gene Goodenough. On Wednesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a series of pictures with her husband.



In the pictures, the couple can be seen enjoying some downtime on their vacation. The actress also penned a note in the caption, as she wrote, "Happy Birthday to the one that is the center of my universe, the wind beneath my wings and my silver lining in a cloudy sky. Thank you for being the best father, best husband and my best friend. Love you to the moon & back". Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan took to the comments section, and wrote, "Happy birthday Gene". Actress Sonakshi Sinha wrote, "Happy happy birthday Gene". Preity Zinta and Gene Goodenough tied the knot on February 29, 2016 in a private ceremony in Los Angeles, United States. Gene Goodenough works in the corporate finance sector and has held positions as a senior vice president for finance at hydroelectric power company. Preity Zinta is a co-owner of the Indian Premier League franchise Punjab Kings, formerly known as Kings XI Punjab. After their marriage, the couple have largely been based in Los Angeles while the actress continues to travel to India for professional commitments. In November 2021, Preity Zinta and Gene Goodenough became parents to twins through surrogacy, named Jai Zinta Goodenough and Gia Zinta Goodenough. Their relationship is largely private, with occasional public appearances at film events, sports matches, and social gatherings. Preity Zinta made her acting debut in the film Dil Se.. and gained wider recognition with Soldier, for which she won the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut. She appeared in several commercially successful films including Kal Ho Naa Ho, Koi... Mil Gaya, and Veer-Zaara.