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"You Wink, Blow Kisses": Amit Shah Counters Rahul Gandhi On Speaker's Conduct



New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah and the ruling BJP hit out at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi Wednesday in a heated debate over opposition parties' bid to impeach Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on grounds he favours the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in House proceedings.

Shah accused Gandhi – who frequently criticises Speaker for not allowing opposition leaders a chance to speak – of 'all-time low' parliamentary attendance figures and said the Congress MP chose to 'run away' from the House when Birla does, in fact, allot time for him to raise issues. "LoP (i.e., the Leader of the Opposition) has grievances... that he is not allowed to speak, that his voice is stifled. I would like to ask him, 'who decides speak? The Speaker? No... you have to decide. But when you have a chance you are in Germany... in England. Then he complains..." "Congress MPs spoke for 157 hours and 55 minutes in the 18th Lok Sabha. How much did LoP speak? Why did he not speak? Which Speaker stopped you? Nobody can," Shah declared. "Misinformation is being spread to defame the Lok Sabha," he said.

PM Modi Set For Trichy Rally As BJP-Led Bloc Faces Setbacks In Tamil Nadu



Chennai: Ahead of his visit to Tiruchirappalli on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a sharp attack on the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), accusing it of being "rattled" by the growing popularity of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Tamil Nadu. In a post on X ahead of the rally, PM Modi said, "DMK is clearly rattled by the NDA's rising popularity across the state. The people of Tamil Nadu have seen through the misgovernance and unfulfilled promises of the DMK. That is why they are connecting with NDA's agenda of hope and progress." The visit to Tiruchirappalli marks PM Modi's third consecutive trip to Tamil Nadu as part of the NDA's campaign ahead of the Assembly elections expected to be held in mid-April. During the trip, he will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate Central government projects worth Rs

5,650 crore spanning petroleum, highways, railways, infrastructure and rural connectivity. In what is being projected as a major outreach to the state, the Union Cabinet has also approved a proposal to upgrade Madurai airport into an international airport.

"Won't Desert Citizens During Trouble": PM Modi On Indians Stranded In Gulf



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today that no Indian will be left behind in war-torn middle east. Speaking at an event in Kerala, he said while it is natural to be worried about those Indians working in the Gulf and West Asia the BJP-NDA government of the country has ensured that Indians are brought home safely from troubled areas.

"Whenever any of our fellow citizens has been in trouble, we have used all our might to save them and bring them back safely," PM Modi said. "Whether it's about saving the nurses stuck in Iraq, or freeing Father Tom from the clutches of terrorists in Yemen, today's India doesn't desert its citizens during times of trouble," he added. The government, he said, has even brought Father Alexis Premkumar back safely from Afghanistan. "Today as well, it is our endeavour that Indians caught in war-like situations are safe and get all possible help," he added. Thousands of Indians have been got stranded in the Gulf nations since the US-Iran war broke out.

"Questioning Speaker's Integrity Means Questioning Our Democracy": Amit Shah

New Delhi: Union home minister Amit Shah, speaking during the debate on the Opposition's no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, said today that "questioning the Speaker's integrity" is the same as questioning the country's democracy – which is why the BJP has never done it. "This Lok Sabha is the biggest panchayat of democracy and when questions are raised about the chief of this panchayat, it raises a big question on our democratic process," he said. Under-scoring that a parliament functions in a cordial environment, he said one is supposed to speak keeping to the rules. "If you go against the rules then it is the job of speaker is to intervene. You cannot ever raise doubts on the intention of Lok Sabha speaker. If the Opposition questions the intention of the Speaker, then it is really unfortunate and we condemn this," he said.



Massive fire breaks out in amaravati's seed access road

Amaravati, March 11: The AP government has ordered an inquiry into the massive fire incident that took place on the Seed Access Road in the capital Amaravati. State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has ordered an inquiry into whether this fire incident happened by accident? Or was there any conspiracy? Orders have been issued to this effect. Meanwhile, L&T representatives revealed that the fire started from a nearby pole. It is said that grass was spread from the pole to the pipes and the pipes were set on fire. A forensic team has already reached the scene of the accident. Eyewitnesses revealed that the fire was coming from the Polala side. However, locals expressed many doubts about the accident. Due to this, the government has ordered an inquiry into the incident. Seven fire engines have reached the spot and are trying to bring the fire under control. Fire DG Venkata Ramana revealed that the fire has been brought under control. Officials revealed that the pipelines that caught fire were placed to provide all seven types of amenities. Officials explained that all these are PVC pipes.. which are very expensive.

CM expresses concern over recent incidents in Andhra Pradesh, questions officials



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March 11: The 6th Collectors' Conference is being held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of N. Chandrababu Naidu. During his opening address, the Chief Minister expressed concern over several recent incidents in the state. He said the firecracker accident, the diarrhea outbreak in Srikakulam, and the milk adulteration incident in Rajahmundry had deeply troubled him. The CM stated that it is the responsibility of officials to ensure such incidents do not occur and directed collectors and secretaries to conduct regular field visits. Speaking at the meeting, the Chief Minister said such incidents are unfortunate and warned that strict action would be taken against anyone who endangers people's lives. He questioned what the concerned departments were doing regarding water contamination, milk adulteration, and violations of firecracker regulations. He warned that strict measures would be taken to prevent negligence and selfish interests from affecting public safety. The Chief Minister instructed district collectors to conduct field visits for at least 8 days, while senior secretaries should visit the field for 4 days. He also directed the Chief Secretary to create an

online portal where details of these visits would be uploaded. Chandrababu said collectors play a key role in alerting the administrative machinery at the grassroots level and stressed that there would be no compromise on this issue. He said health screenings had revealed that 72 lakh people suffer from various health issues. He ordered that safe drinking water be supplied to every household. Chandrababu criticized the previous government for spending only Rs.2,000 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which led to the loss of funds. He said the scheme has now been extended until 2028 with an allocation of Rs.28,000 crore, which is encouraging.

The government aims to complete the scheme within two years and provide tap water to every household. He also directed officials to ensure that roads dug up for pipelines are properly repaired afterward. The Chief Minister further instructed that Magic Drain projects should be completed quickly. He said plans are underway to provide internet to homes through the Fiber Grid network. The government aims to provide houses and house sites within three years, announcing that 2.5 lakh houses will be given by Ugadi, with more to follow in June. Chandrababu added that waste-to-energy plants are being implemented and called for door-to-door garbage collection. He also said the Swachh Survekshan campaign will begin on March 15, and the goal is to ensure that at least 50 municipalities win awards.

Kalishhetti Appalanaidu slams Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over women's safety remarks

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March 11: The behavior of former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has currently become a topic of discussion in Andhra Pradesh politics. Instead of fulfilling his responsibility of discussing public issues in the Assembly, he has limited himself only to press meets within the four walls of the Tadepalli Palace, which has drawn heavy criticism from political circles. TDP MP Kalishhetti Appalanaidu strongly criticized Jagan, saying it is strange that he talks about financial resources and the state's economy while not attending the Assembly. TDP MP Appalanaidu strongly criticized Jagan Mohan Reddy for coming from Bengaluru and holding a media conference at Tadepalli Palace. He said:

"In a democracy, the Legislative Assembly is the highest platform where the voice of the people is heard. But Pulivendula Mohan Reddy, instead of attending the Assembly, is sitting like a cat within four walls and holding press meets. The way Jagan talks about financial resources and the economy sounds strange. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who left the people with nothing in five years, talking about the economy is like demons reciting the Vedas. During Jagan's rule, even municipal offices were mortgaged. A policy that exists nowhere in the country was introduced into the state's financial system, pushing it toward bankruptcy. Jagan says he will write a letter to the central government, but the entire record of Jagan is already



with the central government. Jagan Mohan Reddy says there is no protection for women, but he should explain how much protection he provided to his own mother and sister. Posts were made on social media against his own sister, causing her trouble. By introducing his own liquor brand, Jagan broke the mangalasutras (marital symbols) of 30,000 women," he said.

Jagan should not politicize farmers' hardships: Minister Atchannaidu

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March 11: Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu has lashed out at YSRCP chief and former CM YS Jagan for playing politics of lies in the name of farmers. Minister Atchannaidu warned Jagan not to play politics over the hardships of farmers. Speaking in Amaravati on Wednesday, Minister Atchannaidu said, "Are those who do not work for farmers now being criticized?" He expressed anger at Jagan. The farmers were not remembered for the last five years, but why this drama now? Minister Atchannaidu directly questioned the YSRCP chief. He advised former

CM Jagan not to continue political dramas in the name of farmers. Minister Atchannaidu



strongly criticized YS Jagan for his history of

cheating farmers. **State is a victim of Jagan's economic terrorism: Minister Satyakumar** Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav directly questioned YSRCP chief YS Jagan as to why he is not coming to the assembly if he is seeking public interest. Jagan was questioned on this occasion about the payments he has evaded under various welfare schemes. Speaking in Amaravati, Minister Satyakumar

advised Jagan to know that there is no scene to criticize CM Chandrababu. Isn't it true that you have ruined the public health sector? He asked. He questioned why NTR had arrears for medical services, purchase of medicines, and many construction projects. YS Jagan expressed his concern that the state had fallen victim to economic terrorism. Minister Satyakumar Yadav confronted Jagan Reddy on several issues on this occasion. He sarcastically questioned YSRCP chief Jagan saying that if you are a great person, why did people give you two names? **That sin will not leave**

you: Dhulipalla Narendra TDP MLA Sangam Dairy Chairman Dhulipalla Narendra warned YSRCP chief YS Jagan that the sin of adulterated ghee will not leave you. He advised him to stop trying to smear that mud on them. He made it clear that those who make mistakes in the matter of Kali Yuga God will meet in the mud. He reminded that Heritage and Sangam Dairies have been in power for decades. He said that if they spread bad news about them.. it is like spitting in the sky. YSRCP people are experts in spreading the same lie in all directions. That is why he de-

scribed YSRCP as a band of psychos team. One from that party, then another.. like this, the question asked after five people will be asked again for the sixth time by YS Jagan. He reminded that he was kept in jail for 33 days and the entire Sangam Dairy was searched for 30 days with 200 policemen. Wasn't Vaishnavi's connection with Dairy visible? He questioned the YSRCP leader. What is the connection with Vaishnavi? Dhulipalla Narendra suggested to Jagan to ask the former chairman of Sangam Dairy who conspired against him and cooperated with YSRCP.

EDITORIAL

Nepal's future in the hands of the youth

Nepal, a neighboring Himalayan country, has taught a lesson to the old political elites who are rotten, old and full of corruption, and has raised a new generation of youth with high hopes for the future. It is no exaggeration to say that in Nepal, a country known for riots, unrest and political uncertainty, the people have stunned the world by electing a new party that opened its eyes three years ago with a huge majority. Fed up with the way political leaders indulge in luxury without paying attention to the problems of corruption and unemployment in the country, the people have thrown famous parties like the Nepali Congress, the Communist Party of Nepal, and the Nepali Communist Party into a corner and handed over the reins to the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP).

The youth realized the power of the youth only after the Jan Z movement that swept the government of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in September. The RSP, which knew the pulse of the youth and entered the general election fray, came close to power by promising to eradicate corruption and provide employment and employment opportunities to the youth. The RSP, which has already won a two-thirds majority in the 165 seats where direct voting was held in the 275-seat parliament, has no doubt that it will win the remaining 110 seats in the proportional election. Balendra Shah, who started his career as a rapper and entered politics, has a good chance of becoming the Prime Minister at the age of 35. If that happens, he is sure to create a record as the youngest person to hold the post of Prime Minister of the country. In the recent elections, he defeated former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli by a margin of 50,000 votes.

Nepal, which had been a monarchy for decades and isolated from the world, became a democratic republic eighteen years ago. However, the virtue of the parties that are like noses that blow off when you sneeze and political uncertainty have stopped it from developing. India has been Nepal's largest trading partner for years. Nepal's friendly relations with India, which acts like a tongue in the head in the sectors of infrastructure, energy, defense and trade, have been damaged in recent times. Border disputes are increasing the distance between the two countries. Nepal has not only claimed the Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura areas, which are part of the state of Uttarakhand, as its own, but also shown them as its territories in the map released six years ago, which has fueled the controversy.

Nepal is showing its determination by blocking India-China trade through the Lipulekh Pass. In this context, it remains to be seen what Balendra Shah's attitude towards India will be. Balendra, who completed his MTech in Bangalore and started his professional life as a rapper, is well-known to the people of Nepal. He reached out to the youth by writing and singing songs on corruption and social inequality. Later, he entered politics and contested as an independent and became the mayor of Kathmandu. However, if we look at the incidents that have happened in the past, it is clear that he also has an anti-India stance.

Meanwhile, a political cartoon released by Balendra has sparked controversy by showing some territories of India as belonging to his country. Moreover, he has also raised a demand for a ban on Bollywood films in Nepal on one occasion. The question is whether he, who has repeatedly said during the election campaign that Nepal's interests are his top priority, will follow his election slogan and formulate a strong foreign policy or will he lean towards China's tails like Bangladesh. Moreover, the main challenges before him are to curb corruption, provide transparent governance and end unemployment as per the will of the people.

Nitish Kumar, And The Great Bihar Promise That Never Came

The politics of dour men is often workmanlike, yet effective when they acquire power. Take PV Narasimha Rao, for instance. Until he became Prime Minister, he was barely acknowledged as a charismatic leader, but finished his political innings as arguably one of the most wily and consequential politicians independent India had seen. So was his political protege, Manmohan Singh. At one of the lowest points in his career as a politician and the last press conference as Prime Minister, Singh famously quipped: "History will be kinder to me than the contemporary media or, for that matter, the Opposition in the Parliament." Those were prescient words by a man content to remain in others' shadow most of his political life but managed to irrevocably change India's destiny. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar could be clubbed with such men in the way he played the game of politics, but falls well short in his achievements. Kumar has indicated he is hanging up his more than 20-year-old chief ministerial boots and has filed to contest the Rajya Sabha elections. Victory is almost certain as the numbers are on his side. Unlike Rao and Singh, however, Nitish will not be remembered for his impact but the promise he wasted.

Ace Of The Pack

Nitish was easily eclipsed by charismatic socialist colleagues such as Laloo Prasad Yadav and Ram Vilas Paswan in the early years. By the time he won his first election in 1985, Yadav and Paswan were veterans of legislative affairs. Belonging to

the numerically weak Kurmi caste, he did not have the backing of a large community vote bank such as the Yadavs' for Laloo and Paswans' for Ram Vilas. Nor was he a rousing speaker. His relevance was always tied to the mercy of a larger, stronger political ally than his own stature. Alliance and compromise kept him in power even as he created maneuvering space in coalitions by holding on to a bare minimum set of values rooted in socialism and secularism. When he partnered with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he didn't let the party's Hindutva politics permeate deeply in Bihar. As a Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) ally, he kept the Yadavs, accustomed to getting their way, on a tight leash. But over the years, his political formula evolved into an unabashed pursuit of power combined with undiluted populism. It gained him the nickname 'Paltu Ram', or flip-flopper, but helped him emerge as a leader with a loyal vote base. Over time, Nitish engineered a grassroots coalition of non-Yadav backward communities, Pasmanda Muslims, Bhumihars, and women cutting across caste and religion, which made him a winner in his own right. If he could not rule Bihar on his own, nobody else could either.

Bicycle Man

Soon after becoming Bihar's Chief Minister in 2005, Nitish's initiatives to gift bicycles to high school girl students to keep them in school is now part of political lore and a global case study in development economics emulated as far as Af-

rica. The success of the scheme and the political dividends it paid Nitish were keenly watched by rivals and paved the way for women's empowerment, becoming central to every future election strategy and development plan. In that first term (technically the second because he was CM for a week in 2000), Kumar focused on improving law and order in the state, earning him his other nickname, Sushasan Babu (the good governor). He set up fast-track courts, which convicted over 50,000 criminals between 2006 and 2010. A state known for rampant kidnappings and murders was suddenly safe for women to walk even at night. In 2006, Bihar became the first state to reserve half the seats in local governance bodies for women. It was also one of the early-bird states to have a separate gender budget, from 2008-09. Yet, Nitish's party, Janata Dal (United), fielded only 13 women in the 101 seats it contested in the 2025 assembly elections. Between 2005 and 2010, Nitish picked the low-hanging fruits of governance and administrative presence in a state lounging at the bottom of the national rankings for socio-economic development. The bicycle scheme saw girls' enrolment and attendance improving, while better policing made streets relatively safer for them. A state notorious for a lack of roads saw rapidly improving connectivity, although much of it was through a centre-funded rural roads project. Nitish's cynicism was on display when he gave a party ticket to strongman Anant Singh



even as his police locked up sundry criminals. To improve its finances, the state adopted a liberal liquor policy, licensing 5,467 vendors by 2012-13, up from 3,436 in 2006-07. Liquor shops in rural areas tripled from 779 to 2,360 during those five years, according to Bihar government data. Excise revenue rose more than five times in that period to Rs 2,765 crore in 2012-13. True to his nickname, 'Paltu Ram', in the run-up to the 2015 assembly elections, not only broke his alliance with the BJP and joined hands with bitter rival Laloo but also promised to prohibit alcohol in the state if he returned to power. The man who promoted liquor for revenue began virtue-signalling to woo women voters fed up with alcoholic men.

Still, A Lost Opportunity

Nitish Kumar, thus, had the chance to transform Bihar. He had built enough political equity and developed administrative chops to bring about real change. Yet, he did not. One in four working-age Bihari men is estimated to have migrated in search of jobs, and their families depend on their meagre re-

mittances, which are said to range anywhere between 10% and 18% as a share of GSDP. Bihar's nominal per capita income rose nearly 10 times from Rs 7,914 to Rs 76,490 in the 20 years, mostly headed by Nitish as Chief Minister. In comparison, national per capita income grew from Rs 24,143 in 2005 to Rs 1,92,774 in 2025. According to the Bihar Economic Survey, 2025-26, farming and allied sectors accounted for 19.6% of gross value added (GVA) in 2019-20 and employed 49.2% of the workforce. By 2023-24, the sectors employed 54.2% of the workforce but contributed only 19.1% of GVA. The tertiary sector, largely services, which dominates the state's economy, contributed 60.9% of GVA in 2019-20 but fell to 54.7% in 2023-24. Its share of employment dropped faster, from 27% to 22% in the same period. When Nitish Kumar steps away after ruling Bihar for two decades, he leaves it in much the same way he found it when he got the top job in 2005 - a state largely dependent on central largesse, remittances and farming for subsistence.

'We Protect America, Not Vice Versa': Inside Gulf's Growing Frustration With Trump

Soon after Operation Epic Fury began, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, Saeed Khatibzade, who was visiting India to participate in the Raisina Dialogue, announced that Iran and the Gulf states had been engaged in back-channel talks when the joint Israel-US attacks on Iran began. The messaging was clear: The assaults were, in part, to sabotage these talks; they began also when Iran had been negotiating with the US over its nuclear programme through Omani mediation. For decades after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran - which, by the way, the Arabs have always called an "Iranian revolution", dismissing claims of it being "Islamic" - the security architecture of the Gulf countries has been developed as a counter to Iran and to preempt its export of the 'revolution' to their lands. The primary fear has been the toppling of the monarchies in these countries. Saudi Arabia, for instance, had admitted that it had invested millions in exporting Wahhabism across the world, primarily as a counter to the Shiite political Islam that Iran was exporting.

The Birth Of The Carter Doctrine

Intra-Gulf relations were transferred, as were the relations between the Gulf countries and the US. America's reliance on Iran and Saudi Arabia, the two largest energy powerhouses in the region, was replaced by the Carter Doctrine. In 1980, the then US President, Jimmy Carter, unveiled it in his State of the Union address, which declared that the US would use military force to defend its interests in the Persian Gulf. In 1981, the Gulf monarchies joined forces to form the Gulf Cooperation Council. Since then, the security architecture of the region has been anchored in the Carter Doctrine, which made the US the net security provider in the re-

gion. While the Shiite threat remained, with Iran forming its axis of resistance through the creation of proxies like Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, Houthis in Yemen, and, much later, the Hashed al Shabi, or armed Shiite militias in Iraq, yet another threat arose over the last decade. The Arab Spring, which brought back political Islam on the Arab map and led to the rise of Sunni militants such as ISIS - which even launched attacks on facilities such as Saudi Aramco - shook the GCC. The perceived US disinterest in the region following its pivot to Asia, together with its endorsement of the Arab Spring, led to Arab capitals rethinking their security doctrine.

The Abraham Accords

Israel capitalised fully on this window of opportunity that had opened up against common goals. It had long been trying to cultivate ties with the Arab and Muslim world. However, while it had been successful in the Muslim world, it could establish ties with only two Arab countries - Egypt and Jordan. Intense back-channel talks and lobbying by the first Trump Administration resulted in the path-breaking Abraham Accords in 2020, where a range of Arab countries, beginning with GCC heavyweight UAE, then Bahrain, and then Morocco, normalised ties and established diplomatic relations with Israel. While Saudi Arabia, as Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, was more circumspect, it did engage in unofficial relations with Israel. The common threat that underpinned these Accords was Iran. Therefore, a normalisation of the ties between GCC states and Iran would hardly have been looked upon benignly by Israel, or, for that matter, even by the US under a second Trump administration.

Questioning It All Now

In spite of their security arrangements with the US, the



GCC countries have, during the current crisis, come to terms with the fact that this arrangement has been counterproductive for them. For one, Iran has retaliated by targeting not just Israel but also US bases in the Gulf as well as civilian infrastructure, where US military personnel have a presence with their drones and missiles. As Israel bombed Iran's oil storage refineries and sites, Iran struck energy infrastructures in the GCC, including Shaybah oilfields in Saudi Arabia and its most important refinery, Ras Tanura, and Qatar Energy's facilities at Ras Laffan, which made the world's largest LNG producer halt production entirely. GCC stocks have plummeted, trade and tourism have come to a grinding halt, and the image of the region as an oasis for global business and money now lies tainted. Worldwide, oil prices have spiked to more than \$100 a barrel for the first time since 2022. On the other hand, the GCC has also come to face the bitter truth that the US prioritised Israel's security over the Gulf's safety. As Israel's air defence system was overwhelmed with Iran's barrage of drones and missiles, the US began moving its air defence systems from the GCC to Israel.

'Step-Fatherly' Treatment**For Middle East?**

Ironically, while Israel is not an immediate neighbour of Iran, most GCC states are. They have been in the line of fire and had anticipated this. In spite of this, they were not taken into confidence or informed in advance of the joint Israel-US assault on Iran, leaving them susceptible to the very threat they had long anticipated. Moreover, while Israel received mostly military aid and grants, the GCC pays for its security arrangements with the US but still doesn't have many of the US technologies that Israel has been given access to. Transactions run into billions of dollars; just a year ago, President Trump had agreed to arms sales of \$142 billion dollars to Saudi Arabia.

'We Constantly Informed You'

Inevitably, the pushback has begun. The GCC states have publicly announced that they would not allow their territories to be used for launching attacks. On Iran, they also know that part of its military doctrine is guided by the fact that US bases in the region, in the case of any attacks on Iran, become legitimate targets. The UAE's ambassador to the UN stated, plainly, "We have constantly informed [you] that our territories would not be used for any

attacks against Iran. Yet, we are being targeted, frankly, in a very unwarranted manner." Similarly, influential UAE billionaire Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor has stated, "The truth is that hasty American decisions are what embroiled the region in a war whose peoples were not party to its decision-making, and its local allies were not consulted before it was launched." Oman's Foreign Minister, Badr Al Busaidi, has called for restraint, a ceasefire, and an urgent return to diplomacy as the US-Israeli war on Iran drags on with no end in sight. "The action taken by Israel and the US against Iran is both immoral and illegal," wrote Mr Al Busaidi on X. "But the retaliation by Iran against its neighbours is also deeply regrettable and unacceptable," he added. Speaking on his nation's television, Kuwaiti analyst Maseed Al-Mannan said that the Arab countries are the ones protecting America, not the other way around. This statement has received widespread Arab support. Most importantly, former Saudi intelligence chief Prince Turki al-Faisal called the crisis "Netanyahu's war" that the Israeli Prime Minister pushed President Trump to launch, all to create a distraction from his actions in Gaza, the West Bank, and even inside Israel.

National Conference on Sustainable Chemistry Held at Central Tribal University



Pen Power, Vizianagaram, March 11: A three-day national conference titled "Sustainable Chemistry for Health, Energy and Environmental Protection (SCHEE-2026)" began at the Central Tribal University under the auspices of the Department of Chemistry. The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Head of the Department Prof. M. Sharath Chandra Babu welcomed the gathering and explained

the objectives of the conference. Chief guest Dr. L. Giribabu, a scientist from CSIR, Hyderabad, highlighted the importance of sustainable chemistry research for the welfare of future generations and environmental protection. Delivering the keynote address, Prof. P. Abbarasan from IIT Madras said sustainable chemistry plays a crucial role in meeting modern societal needs, especially in healthcare, energy production and environmental protection. Prof. G. Ramakrishna Bhat from IISER Berhampur emphasized the need to develop eco-friendly technologies and encouraged young researchers to contribute to environmentally responsible innovations. In-charge Registrar Prof. Jitendra Mohan Mishra said scientific research is essential for achieving sustainable development goals, while In-charge Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tantravahi Srinivasan stated that such conferences provide valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange among scientists, researchers and students. Several faculty members, researchers and students from universities and research institutions across the country are participating in the three-day conference.

Entrepreneurship-cum-Skill Development Programme at Vignan Engineering College

Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, March 11: An Entrepreneurship-cum-Skill Development Programme on MERN Stack was successfully conducted at Vignan Institute of Information Technology (Autonomous), Duvvada under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme with support from the World Bank. The training programme was organized by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering from February 16 to March 11. It was conducted under the supervision of the AP MSME Development Corporation, which acted as the nodal agency, while JNTU-GV, Vizianagaram served as the implementing agency. Participants were trained in modern web development technologies including MongoDB, Express.js, React.js and Node.js, with both theoretical and practical sessions aimed at helping youth develop full-stack web application skills and explore self-employment opportunities in the digital sector. Mr. Ramprasad Suti, Managing Director of MR Technologies and founder of Medha XL, served as the resource person and provided hands-on training through real-time projects. College Prin-



icipal Dr. J. Sudhakar, Rector Dr. V. Madhusudana Rao, and CSE Head Dinesh Reddy congratulated the coordinators and participants for the successful conduct of the programme. CSE Head Dr. Mohan Mahanti acted as programme coordinator, while Assistant Professors A. Priyanka Devi and J. Priyanka served as coordinators.

NIT Andhra Pradesh to Host "Vulcanzy Fest" on March 13-14



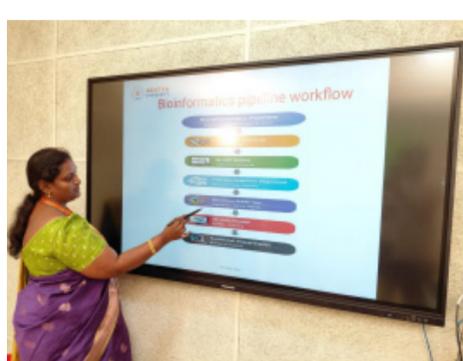
Tadepalligudem, Pen Power, March 11: National Institute of Technology Andhra Pradesh (NIT-AP) will organise a two-day science and technology outreach programme "Vulcanzy Fest" on March 13 and 14 to inspire students to explore emerging technologies and innovation.

According to N. V. Ramana, Director (In-charge) of NIT-AP, the programme aims to expose school, undergraduate, and postgraduate students to the academic and research environment of NITs and motivate them to pursue higher education and careers in science and technology. Organised by the institute's Technical Affairs Council, the fest will feature technology exhibitions, project pre-



sentations, workshops, and interactive sessions in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, programming, and materials engineering. Various technical competitions, engineering challenges, and interactive activities will also be conducted to encourage analytical thinking and innovation among participants. The programme will also include cultural events such as singing, dancing, photography, and short-film contests, along with entrepreneurship and career-oriented sessions. School students attending the event will have the opportunity to witness robotics and drone demonstrations and participate in campus tours of NIT-AP laboratories and research facilities.

BioAI Online Certification Programme Concludes Successfully at Aditya University



Gandepalli, March 11 (Pen Power): The online certification programme titled "BioAI: Deep Learning Innovations in Translational Bioinformatics" was successfully

concluded at Aditya University, Surampalem. The five-day programme was jointly organized by the Aditya Learning Academy and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, informed Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy.

The sessions were conducted daily from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM and provided participants with an overview of translational bioinformatics along with insights into the applications of Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning in biology and medicine. Students, researchers, and industry professionals gained knowledge about the latest developments in the BioAI field. Online certificates were distributed to the participants. Dr. T. Sudharani served as the key resource person. Vice-Chancellor Dr. M. B. Srinivas, Pro Vice-Chancellors Dr. S. Ramashree and Dr. A. Ramesh, Registrar Dr. G. Suresh, Aditya Learning Academy Coordinator Dr. I. Veeranjanyulu, Department Coordinator Dr. Saikam Jalayya, and faculty members from various departments participated in the programme.

Aditya University Assistant Professor Awarded PhD

Gandepalli, March 11: Dr. K.H.K. Prasad, Assistant Professor in the ECE Department at Surampalem, has been awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by .According to Pro-Chancellor Dr. Nallamilli Satish Reddy, Dr. Prasad completed his doctoral research under the guidance of Prof. Dr. B.T. Krishna from the ECE Department of JNTU-Kakinada. His thesis titled "Biomedical Signal Classification Using Machine Learning Techniques" earned him the prestigious doctorate. University Chancellor Dr. N. Seshareddy, along with Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy, Vice-Chancellor Prof. M.B. Srinivas, Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. S. Ramashree, Registrar Dr. G. Suresh, ECE HoD Dr. Gamini Sridevi and other faculty members congratulated Dr. Prasad on his achievement and wished him success in his future endeavors.



No Need for LPG Consumers to Panic: JC Apoorva Bharat

Kakinada, March 11: Kakinada District Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat said LPG consumers need not worry about rumours of gas shortage and price hikes in the district. He clarified that sufficient LPG stocks are available to meet consumer demand.

Speaking at a review meeting with Civil Supplies officials, oil company representatives and gas agency dealers at the Collectorate on Wednesday, he said false propaganda linking possible shortages to the Iran-Israel conflict should not be believed.

The Joint Collector stated that uninterrupted LPG supply will be ensured to welfare hostels, residential schools, KGBVs, health department hostels, Anganwadi centres, schools and domestic consumers. A special control room has been set up at the Kakinada District Civil Supplies Office to monitor gas distribution. Domestic LPG consumers can contact 8886903611 for information or complaints. He also warned that domestic LPG cylinders should not be used



for commercial purposes and strict action will be taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against violators or those creating artificial shortages by illegal storage. Gas agencies were directed to ensure adequate refill cylinders as the district's daily consumption is around 11,000 cylinders.

Sri Chowdeshwari Devi Jyoti Utsav begins from the 18th of this month



Madanapalle, March 11: The temple committee members unveiled the Sri Chowdeshwari Devi Jyoti Utsav pamphlets at the local Neerugattuvaru Palle Silk Town in Madanapalle town. Committee President Puranam Chandra Sekhar, Secretary Bandi Pawan Kumar, Treasurer Ramisetty Ratnamayya, Honorary President Modem Venkataramana, Honorary Vice President Sriram Chinababu, Modem Siddappa, Ramisetty Neelkanta, Uppu Ramachandra, B Nagaraju, RK Mohana, G Lakshmi Narayana, Koramutla Nagaraju, Prabhakar Sivayya, Uppu Srinivasulu participated in the program held at Sri Chowdeshwari Devi Temple on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, they announced that the Jyoti Utsav will be held in a grand manner from Wednesday, 18th of this month to Saturday, 21st of this month. They stated that these celebrations will be held with the cooperation of Sri Chowdeshwari Devi Devasthanam and Thogataveera Kshatriya association of Neerugattuvaripalli villagers. As part of this, on the 18th, it is said that Sri Ganapati, Sri Chowdeshwari Devi, and Sri Subrahmanya Swamy will

appear in silver ornaments. In the evening, the people of Neerugattuvaru Palle will carry lamps, on the 19th day of the Ugadi festival, in the morning, Panchamritabhishekam, pujas, consumption of Teertha Prasadam to Moolavirat Sri Ganapati, Sri Chowdeshwari Devi, and Sri Subrahmanya Swamy, special decorations in the evening, colorful electric lamps on the Simha Vahanam in the flower palanquin, band melas, a grand procession with Pillanagrovu instruments, Kaatpadi Sayandi dances, Chekka Bhajans, and Vanambadi drums, and at 9 pm, the Agnigunda Pravesha will be entered, and the Jyoti Utsavam will be held. On the 20th, the evening will be celebrated as the festival of Utlathirunala and day Thirunala. On the 21st, Jyothi Prasadam will be consumed in the morning, and in the evening, Ammavari Laddu, valuable sarees, and Jyothi gems will be auctioned. Therefore, devotees gathered during these celebrations, received the offerings of the pilgrimage, and wished to attain long life, health, and eight kinds of wealth by receiving the grace of the Goddess Chowdeshwari Devi.

Scout is a symbol of patriotism, discipline and service

Madanapalle, March 11: Scout is a symbol of patriotism, discipline and service, said Madanapalle MLA Shahjahan Basha. He was the chief guest at the Bharat Scouts and Guides Unit Leaders' meeting organized at the Hope Municipal High School conference hall in Madanapalle on Wednesday afternoon. Addressing the students on this occasion, MLA Shahjahan Basha said that scout training will provide a golden future for students. He said that by joining scouts, they will have the opportunity to treat their parents and teachers with courtesy from the student stage and act responsibly towards the society. He said that scout training will help students overcome the challenges they face in real life. He announced on this occasion that he will donate 50,000 for the repairs of the Scout Regional Training Center in Horsley Hills. Later, another chief guest who attended the program, District Educational Officer Dr K Subramaniam, said, it is mandatory to set up scout units in all types of government and private schools. He said that students who join the scouts and complete their training will have reservation facilities in education and job opportunities. Later, District Secretary Madithati Narasimha Reddy said that planned efforts are being made to further expand the scout movement in Annamayya district. Later, certificates were presented to the scout masters and guide captains who have recently completed basic and advanced training. ALT Lakshmi, Assistant Commissioner Chandra Sekhar, Apadamitra Coordinator Gurnath Reddy, best



teachers of the state Siddha Reddy, Advance Scout Master Easwariah, Mohammed Khan, Harshavardhan Reddy, Lakshmi pathi, Vidyadhara Rao, Madhukar Reddy, Guide Captains Rama Bhargavi, Shamabhanu, Geetha, Scout Masters and Guide Captains participated in this program.

8 'Red Trains' to be introduced on tracks

Tirupati: Eight new "red trains" will soon be introduced this month, replacing the older "yellow trains" that have been serving passengers for nearly three decades. The Indian Railways has converted several trains from ICF coaches to modern LHB coaches. The trains upgraded include Tirupati-Puri, Tirupati-Bilaspur Express, Tirupati-Rameswaram Express, Amaravati Superfast Express, and Kakinada Town Express. New green-colored locomotives capable of running at 130 km/h along with the new red coaches were manufactured in Perambur, Tamil Nadu.

All eight trains have already been put on trial runs and moved to the railway yard in Proddatur and to Rameswaram railway station for final testing.

These new trains come with improved modern facilities such as better doors, air-conditioning, fans, lighting, water supply, bathrooms, braking systems, speed control, berths, and increased seating capacity, incorporating the latest technology.

Train services and schedules

Tirupati-Puri Express (17480-17479)
Runs on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Tirupati-Bilaspur Express (17482-17481)
Runs on Thursday and Sunday only.

These four new trains with 18 coaches will start on March 16 (one from Tirupati and one from Puri) and on March 19 (one from Tirupati and one from Bilaspur).

Tirupati-Amaravati Superfast Express (12765-12766)
With 15 coaches, it will start from Tirupati on March 21 and run twice a week (Tuesday and Saturday).

Tirupati-Kakinada Town Express (17249-17250)
With 22 coaches, services will begin on March 22, with trains departing from both Tirupati and Kakinada.

Tirupati-Rameswaram Express (16780-16779)
With 17 coaches, it will depart from Rameswaram on March 26 and reach Tirupati on March 27.

This train will run on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Never thought about winning World Cup as a coach, Gambhir



Hyderabad: Gautam Gambhir, head coach of the victorious Indian team in the recent ICC Men's T20 World Cup, said he could never have imagined winning a World Cup as a coach. "I never thought I would get the opportunity or privilege to be the head coach of the Indian team because it's an absolute privilege to again wear the India jersey or do something special for the country," Gambhir said during a special show on JioHotstar. "When your mom wishes you and tells you 'well done', that's what you play for and what you live for as well. What bigger feeling is there than making 140 crore Indians proud," the former India opener said. "I've always believed that, and I've

always told the boys as well, that being in that dressing room is a privilege, not an entitlement. Thousands of people would want to be in my position as the head coach of the Indian team, and many would want to be in the position the players are in," Gambhir said. On the team buying into the fearless approach, Gambhir said: "I think more than the win, it was the way the boys adapted to the ideology and philosophy of being high-risk, high-reward. From day one, I had a very strong belief that the T20 format is about impact. It's not about milestones or individual performances. "It's about going out there and creating an impact, whether it's on the field, with the ball or with

the bat. The simple ideology throughout this World Cup was that if we could stay in the present and try to control each delivery. Whatever has gone will never come back, you cannot control what's gone and you cannot control what's going to come in the future," the head coach said. "All you can control is that one particular delivery. Even if you get hit for five sixes, the next delivery could be the game-changing moment. Eventually, it can boil down to something like that. For example, in the semi-final against England national cricket team, it boiled down to seven runs, one hit," Gambhir said. On the turning point of India's campaign, Gambhir said: "It's very difficult to say, but I still believe that Sanju Samson's 97 against West Indies cricket team was the turning point of this campaign because it was a virtual quarter-final and someone was making a comeback after not playing four or five matches before the Zimbabwe national cricket team game. Chasing 195 in a virtual quarter-final, irrespective of the ground, in a World Cup game, is never easy," he said. "With the ease and the calmness with which he batted, I think it gave us a lot of confidence in the group that now, probably, we are on the right track. Before that, there was a lot of talk that we play very aggressively in the bilaterals

but not in the ICC tournaments. After the West Indies game, when Sanju got going and how Ishan Kishan batted at three, I thought that a lot of things actually started taking shape," Gambhir said. On one aspect from India's tournament win that will stay with him for a long time, Gambhir said: "One thing which will stay with me for the rest of my life is how comfortably and with how much ease the boys adapted to and accepted the batting positions. And it started from the captain. Against England in the semi-final, Shivam Dube got promoted and Suryakumar Yadav was absolutely fine with it. "In the final, Hardik Pandya was promoted and the captain was fine with it. Many times in the past we've seen that people want to bat at a certain position, but it wasn't the case with this team. Tilak Varma started at number three, then he batted at five, six and even seven, and the same with Shivam, who batted from number four to seven," Gambhir said. "That is what team sport is all about. This is the ideology. Jasprit Bumrah, how can I not mention him? He started with the new ball, bowled in the middle and bowled the tough overs as well. So all those guys, at different stages in this competition, were given different roles and how beautifully they adapted and adopted whatever role was given to them," he signed off.

Suryakumar Yadav opens up on India's T20 World Cup triumph, leadership challenges and Olympic dream

Hyderabad: "It's a very special feeling to win the T20 World Cup here at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. My journey in international cricket started here in 2021. As soon as it started, it was a lot of fun from there," Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav said.

Suryakumar who led India to a historic triumph in the T20 World Cup, said in a special show on JioHotstar, said winning the T20 World Cup as a leader for India is a very special feeling. "It feels good to be in the same stadium that so many people were talking about. Winning here was very special for the whole team," he said. On the toughest part of captaincy during the campaign, Suryakumar said "In this T20 World Cup campaign, the most difficult part for me was handling the players who don't get many opportunities to feature in the playing XI. Those who don't get chances, or get very few, I always felt I should spend more time with them. The ones who keep playing are in autopilot mode." "They know what to do. But those who can play at any time but don't get to feature in every game, it is difficult for them to switch on and switch off. So spending time with them and having constant talks was very important. The support staff also played a key role in this long journey," he said. "They are not playing, but they are supporting all the players. Talking to them, sharing their journey, experiencing it... those were all very sweet moments for me. Sometimes I had to take hard calls. But at the end of the day, everyone's goal is the same. We all want to become champions. Only 11 players can play to win a trophy. So making everyone understand and taking care of everyone is important. Leading a team with that thinking is a lot of fun," the Indian captain said. On the heartfelt moments he shared with a few players in particular, Suryakumar said: "The stories of some players in our World Cup squad have been very inspiring and emotional. If you talk about Siraj,



I called him a few days before the tournament. He was sitting with his friends, wearing a cap and eating food. I told him Harshit Rana is injured, you have to join the squad. He said, 'Surya bhai, are you kidding me?' That was his first reaction. Then I called Ishan Kishan just before our selection meeting. I told him, 'Chotu, will you help us win the World Cup?' He said, 'Surya bhaiya, just trust me and have faith in me.' The way Ishan has walked the talk has been a lovely story." "Sanju Samson did not start the tournament. He came in the middle and said one thing: 'You just tell me what I can do for the team.' That is the biggest blessing. Players like these, from number 1 to 15, everyone has a different story," he said. "And Jasprit Bumrah, I have called him a national treasure. He does the same thing every day. Bumrah knows he is the best in the business. But still, he does not allow any complacency to enter. I think that shows a lot of character," Suryakumar said. On how he motivated Abhishek Sharma and Varun

Chakaravarthy through tough times during the tournament, Suryakumar said: "I was constantly having conversations with Abhishek Sharma and Varun Chakaravarthy throughout the T20 World Cup. I told them one thing, it is not necessary that you will perform well in every game. Performance is not guaranteed." "After one year of hard work, sometimes a small dip in form happens. It is very important to respect that too. Because this is sport. You will see more failures than success. So respecting that time is important," he said. "When you respect that time and take two steps back, it is like a bow and arrow. When you pull the arrow back, it does not mean life is pushing you back. It means it is going to launch you for something big. I told both the world number ones, Abhishek and Varun, that you are made for the big stage. No matter what happens. Even if you don't perform well in seven games, it is okay. If we reach the final, you will play and dominate. It was written in their destiny that both would per-

form well in the final. And it happened. They did not stop working hard. Abhishek and Varun were always disciplined and stayed put to cricket. They got their reward in the final," the winning captain said. On the team's goals after winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, Suryakumar said "In 2024, our ICC trophy drought ended after we won the T20 World Cup. After that, we won the Champions Trophy and now the T20 World Cup here in Ahmedabad. So three back-to-back ICC trophies. There is nothing to look back now." "Whatever ICC event comes next, we will play the way we have been playing since 2024. The ODI World Cup will come in 2027. As for this T20 team, I don't think we can relax. We cannot relax at all. In 2028, there is a bigger event than this. The LA Olympics will have cricket for the first time. That Olympic gold will definitely be our top priority. And the same year, there is the T20 World Cup again.

Para shuttler Krishna Nagar clinches 'double' in 7th Senior Nationals

Hyderabad: Paralympic champion Krishna Nagar delivered a dominant performance to clinch two gold medals at the 7th Senior National Para Badminton Championship here, reaffirming his su-

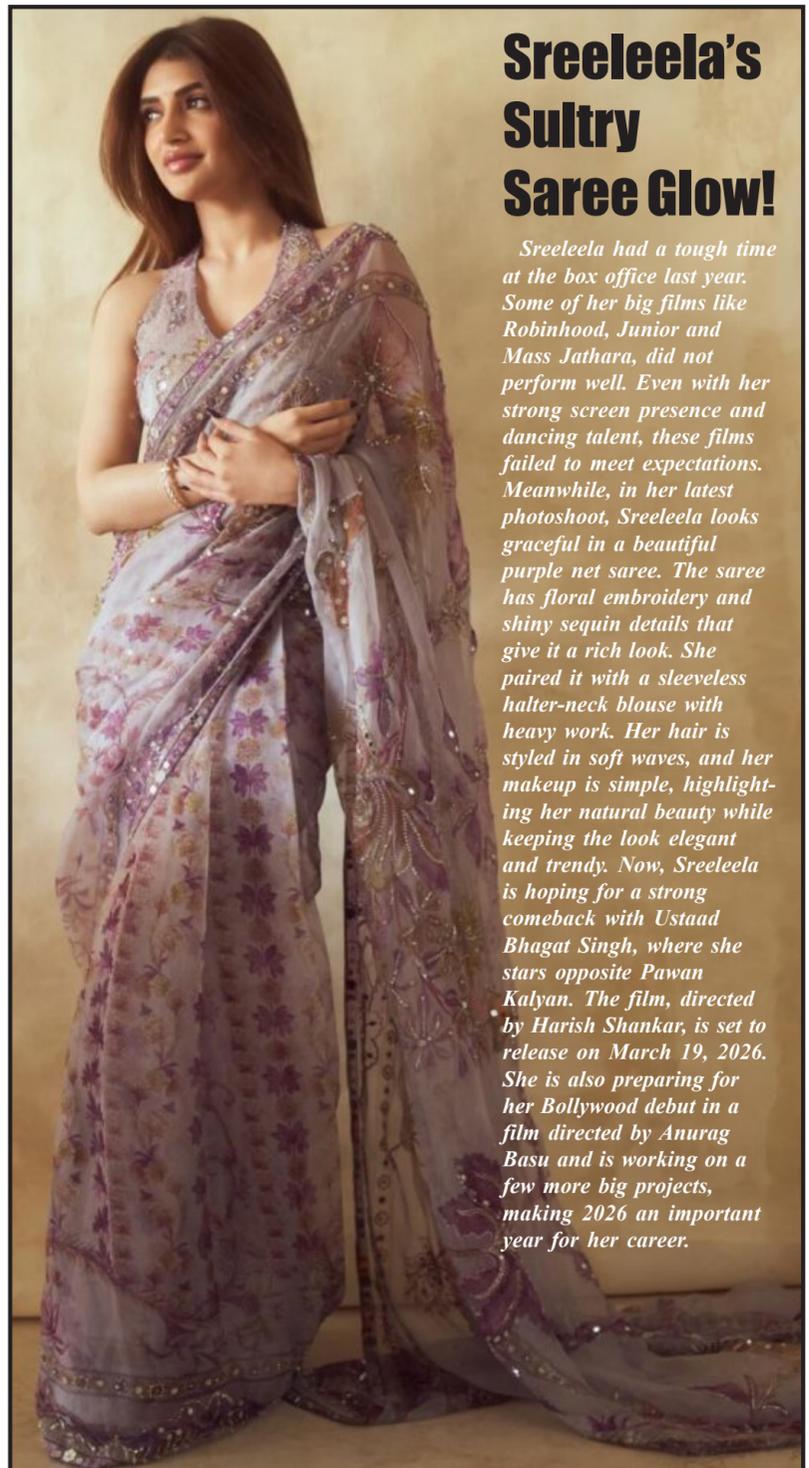
premacency in the SH6 category. Krishna Nagar first secured the Men's Singles SH6 title, defeating Sudarsan MS in the final with a 21-10, 21-19 victory. Displaying strong attacking play and composure through-

out the match, Nagar lived up to his top-seed billing to claim the national crown. He then went on to secure his second gold medal in the Mixed Doubles SH6 event, partnering Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan.

Is Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara really a Rs 400 Cr project?



Megastar Chiranjeevi's upcoming fantasy drama "Vishwambhara" has been facing multiple delays since its announcement. The film was initially planned for release in 2025 and was later scheduled for January 10, 2026. However, the makers postponed it again, making way for Chiranjeevi's other film "Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu" to release during the Sankranti 2026 season. The latest buzz is that "Vishwambhara" is now aiming for a monsoon release. One of the major reasons behind the delay is said to be the criticism the film received after its teaser release, particularly regarding the quality of visual effects. The VFX work came under scrutiny from fans and industry observers. Responding to the criticism, the film's cinematographer Chota K Naidu clarified that modern films usually employ dedicated CGI technicians and visual effects supervisors who handle most of the VFX-related work. He also made a striking claim about the scale of the project, stating that "Vishwambhara" is being produced on a massive budget of around Rs 400 crore. Whether a Megastar Chiranjeevi starrer can justify such a huge investment remains to be seen. Directed by Vassishtha, who previously made Bimbisara, the film features Trisha Krishnan, Ashika Ranganath, and Mouni Roy as the female leads.



Sreeleela's Sultry Saree Glow!

Sreeleela had a tough time at the box office last year. Some of her big films like Robinhood, Junior and Mass Jathara, did not perform well. Even with her strong screen presence and dancing talent, these films failed to meet expectations. Meanwhile, in her latest photoshoot, Sreeleela looks graceful in a beautiful purple net saree. The saree has floral embroidery and shiny sequin details that give it a rich look. She paired it with a sleeveless halter-neck blouse with heavy work. Her hair is styled in soft waves, and her makeup is simple, highlighting her natural beauty while keeping the look elegant and trendy. Now, Sreeleela is hoping for a strong comeback with Ustaad Bhagat Singh, where she stars opposite Pawan Kalyan. The film, directed by Harish Shankar, is set to release on March 19, 2026. She is also preparing for her Bollywood debut in a film directed by Anurag Basu and is working on a few more big projects, making 2026 an important year for her career.