



Alcohol-Related Diseases Doubled Under Jagan’s Rule: Expert Panel

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

An expert committee appointed by the Andhra Pradesh government has released a damning report revealing a steep rise in alcohol-related liver and neurological diseases during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy between 2019 and 2024. The panel, formed under the direction of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, based its findings on detailed analysis of medical cases registered under the state’s Arogyasri scheme.

According to the report, alcohol-related liver diseases doubled — from 14,026 cases in 2014-19 to 29,369 cases in 2019-24, marking a 100 percent increase. More alarmingly, neurological disorders linked to alcohol rose by 892 percent, from 1,276 to 12,663 cases during the same period.

The committee flagged severe increases in four categories: liver, kidney, neurological, and mental health disorders, all suspected to be heavily influenced by alcohol abuse. These findings have triggered concerns about the effectiveness of the previous government’s liquor policy.

Special Chief Secretary of the Health Department acknowledged the gravity of the findings, stating:

“We have noticed an unprecedented increase in the number of liver and neurological patients between 2019-24 as compared to 2014-19.” To address the issue, the state is now constituting an advisory board of national and international health experts to review the data and recommend necessary preventive measures.

Probe into Liquor Trade Irregularities

Parallel to these health concerns, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), acting on an FIR by the state CID in 2024. Investigations have uncovered suspected irregularities in the liquor trade during the Jagan regime, such as tampered purchase orders, suppression of national brands, and the promotion of local brands allegedly tied to YSRCP-affiliated businesses. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has reported that brands like Andhra Gold Whisky, Good Friends Whisky, Dare House Brandy, Champion Special Whisky, and Heart’s Desire Whisky were pushed beyond regulatory limits, while well-known national brands were deliberately kept out of reach, even when stock was available.

These developments have ignited a heated public and political debate over the impact of liquor policies implemented during the YSRCP government’s rule, with critics blaming them for both deteriorating public health and alleged corruption.

WHO IS...

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Mr. Surya Narayana questioned how Mr. Suresh Reddy could be involved in the case when he was neither the investigating officer nor part of the ACB at the time. Allegedly, Mr. Suresh Reddy was also involved in threatening Mr. Surya Narayana’s wife and daughter, forcing them to return from Hyderabad to Vijayawada. After demanding an official notice, the police brought one and took the family to Vijayawada to open Mr. Surya Narayana’s house for a search. The court eventually dismissed all charges against Mr. Surya Narayana, which were the basis for the searches and inquiries—including the alleged overreach by police officials like Mr. Suresh Reddy.

Mr. Surya Narayana has claimed that Mr. Suresh Reddy is a close associate of Mr. Seeta Ramanjaneyulu, IPS, and acted under his direction. Following the change of government in the state, Mr. Suresh Reddy was transferred to a wing not related to regular law and order, where he continues to work. If an FIR is registered based on Mr. Surya Narayana’s complaint, Mr. Suresh Reddy is likely to face suspension.

Ceasefire Exposed Within Hours

- Pawan Kalyan Slams Pakistan
- Pays Tribute to Martyred Agniveer Murali Naik
- ₹50 lakh aid, job, land, and memorial announced by AP govt

TPN Correspondent | Sri Sathya Sai

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan launched a scathing attack on Pakistan, accusing it of violating the ceasefire agreement within just three hours and inciting terrorism on Indian soil. He made these remarks on Sunday in Kallitanda, Gorantla Mandal, after paying tribute to Agniveer Shri Murali Naik, who was martyred during Operation Sindoor. “India has never initiated wars. But now, we are forced to fight back to protect our people. The root cause of this situation is Pakistan,” Shri Pawan Kalyan stated, while addressing the media after consoling the martyr’s family. He said that despite announcing a ceasefire, Pakistan violated it in just three hours and orchestrated attacks through terrorist groups. He accused a Pakistani Army General of instigating terrorists, which ultimately led to the martyrdom of young Agniveer Murali Naik from Andhra Pradesh.

Referring to the recent attack in



Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, Shri Pawan Kalyan said, “India retaliated by targeting terrorist camps, but Pakistan responded with gunfire on the borders, escalating tensions across five states. Amidst this, we lost a brave young soldier who had always dreamed of serving the country.” He called for a strong and definitive response from India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. “Pakistan’s misdeeds must be stopped some-

where. Our people want a strong lesson to be taught to them,” he emphasized.

Shri Pawan Kalyan also announced significant support for the martyr’s family. On behalf of the Andhra Pradesh government, he said ₹50 lakh will be granted, along with five acres of land, a 300-yard house plot, and a government job for a family member. A memorial for Shri Murali Naik will also be established. Personally, Shri Pawan Kalyan pledged ₹25 lakh in assistance to the family.

Expressing grief, he said, “It is heartbreaking to know that Murali Naik, who died for the country at just 23, was also my fan. He chose the Army over a railway job to serve India. Losing such a patriot is painful.”

Calling on the nation to remain united and vigilant, he warned that terrorism backed by Pakistan continues to pose a serious threat, pointing to past attacks in Delhi, Mumbai, Coimbatore, and Hyderabad. “No one should fall for the illusion of peace through ceasefire agreements with Pakistan.

"1971, 2025 Not Same"...

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

As the Congress party launched a campaign highlighting former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s leadership during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, senior party leader and MP Shashi Tharoor struck a contrasting tone, cautioning against comparing that era with the current 2025 ceasefire scenario with Pakistan. Speaking to ANI, Tharoor acknowledged the historical significance of 1971. “Indira Gandhiji rewrote the map of the subcontinent. It was a great achievement that makes me proud as an Indian,” he said. However, he quickly drew a distinction between the past and present, stating, “The circumstances of 1971 are not the circumstances of 2025. There are differences.” Amid political reactions to the government’s recent ceasefire agreement with Pakistan following deadly border exchanges, Tharoor emphasized the need for strategic restraint. “We had reached a stage where the escalation was needlessly getting out of control. Peace is necessary for us,” he said, adding that no one should get away with killing innocent Indian civilians, but war should not be the default response. He warned that the current conflict was heading towards a prolonged and purposeless war. “This is not 1971. We are not liberating a country. Just firing shells without a clear objective would have been reckless,” Tharoor argued. He noted that while Pakistan did escalate the situation, India’s response was measured, and the decision to agree to a ceasefire was prudent. According to Tharoor, India must prioritize growth, development, and the well-being of its people. “The prosperity of our people is the biggest priority for India today,” he said, while also supporting the principle that any attack on Indian lives must be met with accountability.

Kalli Thanda Renamed as ‘Murali Nayak Thanda’ in Honour of Brave Soldier



TPN Correspondent | Sri Sathya Sai District

A heart-wrenching farewell was accorded to braveheart Murali Naik, the Agniveer soldier who laid down his life during a gun battle with terrorists at the Jammu and Kashmir border. His funeral was held with full honours at his native village, Kalli Thanda in Gorantla Mandal, Sri Sathya Sai district. Amid emotional scenes, Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT and Education, Nara Lokesh, personally shouldered the coffin, paying homage to the fallen soldier. Lokesh’s gesture of carrying the mortal remains deeply moved the gathered crowd. After laying floral tributes, he met with the grieving parents, Smt. Jyoti Bai and Shri Sriram Naik, and consoled them. In his address, Minister Lokesh expressed grief over the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and the loss of many lives. He said that the supreme sacrifice of Murali Naik, who joined as an Agniveer in 2022, reflects his lifelong commitment to the country. “He always said – ‘If I die, I will die under the Indian flag.’ He lived and died by those words,” the Minister recounted emotionally. Lokesh emphasized that Murali Naik, the only son in his fam-

ily, was driven by patriotism from an early age and was determined to join the army. “The people of this country are safe only because of such brave soldiers who stand guard on our borders,” he said.

Government announces major support

The state government, in consultation with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav, has extended multiple support measures to Murali Naik’s family ₹50 lakh financial aid, 5 acres of agricultural land, 300 yards of housing land and a Government job for Murali Naik’s father. Additionally, Minister Lokesh announced the construction of a permanent memorial at the site of the funeral. A bronze statue of Murali Naik will also be installed at the district headquarters to honour his sacrifice and inspire future generations. Kalli Thanda renamed as ‘Murali Nayak Thanda’ As a lasting tribute, Minister Lokesh declared that Kalli Thanda village will be renamed ‘Murali Nayak Thanda’, fulfilling the request of the local Sarpanch and villagers. The renaming decision was received with over-



Govt Fills More Nominated Posts Across Key Corporations

Alapati Suresh heads Press Academy; Rayapati Sailaja to lead Women’s Commission

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government under the NDA coalition has intensified the process of appointing leaders to nominated posts, distributing key positions among allies — the TDP, Janasena, and BJP — across various corporations and commissions. As part of the recent round of appointments, Alapati Suresh, a prominent leader from Amaravati JAC, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Press Academy. Similarly, Rayapati Sailaja, also from Amaravati JAC, has been chosen to head the AP Women’s Commission. The government has already filled top positions in the Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Bank Limited (APCOB) and District Co-operative Central Banks (DCCBs) earlier this week. Continuing this process, it has now appointed chairpersons for several more corporations, ensuring representation from all three alliance partners.

Newly Appointed TDP Leaders:

Andhra Pradesh Women’s Cooperative Finance Corporation – Peethala Sujatha (Bhimavaram)
APNRTS (Non-Resident Telugu Society) – Ravi Vemuru (Tenali)
Skill Development Corporation – Burugupalli Sesha Rao (Nidadavolu)
Inland Waterways Authority – Dr. Z. Sivaprasad (Nellore City)
Education and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation – S. Rajasekhara (Kuppam)
Tailor Development Cooperative Federation – Akasap Swamy (Tadepalligudem)
Greening and Beautification Corporation – Sugunamma (Tirupati)
Labour Welfare Board – Venkata Shivadu Yadav (Guntakal)
Construction Workers Board – Valavala Babji (Tadepalligudem)
Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) – Diwakar Reddy (Tirupati)
Eluru Urban Development Authority (EUDA) – Vani Venkata Siva Prasad Pennuboyana (Eluru)
State SC Commission – K.S. Jawahar (Kovvur)
Fishermen’s Cooperative Societies Federation – Pediraju Kollu (Narasapuram)
Kumari Shalivahana Welfare Corporation – Perepi Easwar (Vijayawada East)
Vaddera Welfare and Development Corporation – Mallela Easwar Rao (Guntur West)
Agro Industries Development Corporation – Malepati Subbanayudu (Kavali)
Posts Allotted to Janasena Leaders:
Handicrafts Development Corporation – Pappuleti Hari Prasad (Tirupati)
Irrigation Development Cooperative Corporation (APSIDC) – Leela Krishna (Mandapeta)
Livestock Development Agency – Riyaz (Ongole)

BJP Leader Appointed:

Scheduled Tribes Commission – Solla Bojji Reddy (Rampachodavaram)
Sources indicate that the appointments have been carefully made to reflect social diversity and political balance across regions and communities. The government is expected to announce more nominations in the coming days.

CM Highlights Technology and Mother’s Day in Special Messages

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

On the occasion of National Technology Day, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reaffirmed his commitment to harnessing emerging technologies to build a sustainable and inclusive future for the state. In a message shared on ‘X’ (Twitter), the CM highlighted technology’s transformative power, stressing its role in driving progress across sectors like ag-



riculture and AI. “Innovation is the driving force of progress, while technology is its fuel.

From agriculture to artificial intelligence, technology is revolutionizing lives, increasing productivity, and addressing humanity’s most pressing challenges,” Chandrababu said, calling technology a key factor in shaping Andhra Pradesh’s future. He also referred to ‘Quantum Valley’ as the center of technological transformation in the state, reinforcing his belief that India’s rise is gaining global attention. “Now is the time to lead

the next wave of innovation,” the CM added. In another message, CM Chandrababu marked Mother’s Day with a heartfelt tribute to mothers. “A mother is not just the first teacher; she is the heartbeat of every home, a pillar of strength, and a guiding force for generations. Her love, sacrifices, and services are immeasurable,” he said, recognizing the irreplaceable role of mothers in shaping families and society.



Annadatha Sukhibhav Registration Begins

- Farmers must register by May 20
- ₹14,000 from state to be paid in 3 instalments
- PM-Kisan ₹6,000 support to be continued
- Registration mandatory at Rythu Seva Kendras

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has moved swiftly towards implementing its flagship Annadatha Sukhibhav scheme, one of the major election promises made by the NDA alliance. The scheme promises to provide ₹20,000 annually to each eligible farmer, combining both central and state support. While ₹6,000 will come from the Centre's PM-Kisan scheme, the remaining ₹14,000 will be provided by the state in three installments. Officials have issued clear guidelines for registration and beneficiary verification. Farmers eligible

for the scheme are required to register their details at their nearest Rythu Seva Kendra (RSK) by May 20. The state government is targeting to release the first installment within this month, aiming to assist farmers ahead of the upcoming Kharif season. The process is being carried out with an emphasis on transparency. The registration will involve cross-verification using Webland data, which includes details like survey numbers, land area, and farmer names. The verification will progress from RSKs to mandal and then district agricultural offices. Any errors found in the Webland records will be rectified

before the data is forwarded to the state level. As per the eligibility criteria, public representatives, government employees (both central and state), and income tax payers will not be eligible for the scheme. After initial verification, the data will be Aadhaar-linked to filter out ineligible individuals, following which the final beneficiary list will be sent back to Rythu Seva Kendras. Once the final list is received, officials will conduct e-KYC for all selected beneficiaries. The government has assured that every effort is being made to ensure accuracy and fairness in the selection process.



YCP Women's Wing Slams Police Over Rajini's Arrest

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

The YSR Congress Party's Kadapa district women's wing has strongly condemned what it called the inhuman treatment of former minister Vidadala Rajini by the police. Addressing a press meet at the party's district office, women's wing president TP Venkata Subbamma alleged that democracy has collapsed in Andhra Pradesh and has been replaced by what she termed the "Red Book Constitution." Subbamma described the police's behavior towards Rajini as brutal and shameful, particularly considering that she is not only a woman but also a former minister and a leader from the BC community. "It is the duty of the police to offer protection, not to treat her like a criminal without reason," she said. Subbamma questioned why no FIR had been filed against the police personnel involved in the midnight operation and slammed the authorities for not even informing Rajini about the specific case under which her follower was being arrested. She expressed outrage over the manner in which the arrest attempt was carried out, alleging that the police did not of-

fer any legal clarity or show any respect for her position or rights. "If they had simply explained the case, Rajini would have cooperated. But instead, they pushed and manhandled her," Subbamma stated. Highlighting what she called a growing trend of harassment under the coalition government, she alleged that women have lost both protection and respect in the new regime. "A woman MPTC member was also arrested illegally at midnight. They didn't even allow her time to change clothes. Is this the promised governance for women?" she asked. The YCP leader accused the current government of resorting to illegal cases to target YSRCP workers, leaders and former ministers while the country is dealing with sensitive national security matters. "Women voters are watching all this closely. If the government doesn't change its ways, the women of Andhra Pradesh will rise and teach it a fitting lesson," she warned. Co-option member Marialu, Chennaredy Sunitha, Malleswari and other women leaders were present and echoed similar concerns, calling for immediate action against police personnel involved in the alleged misconduct.

Should Modi Now Be Sent to Pakistan?

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

CPI National Secretary K. Narayana launched a sharp attack on the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, questioning the government's engagement in peace talks with Pakistan without reclaiming Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). He accused the BJP of double standards and recalled that he had earlier been targeted by the party for advocating peaceful dialogue instead of war. "In the past, when I said we should resolve issues through talks and not war, BJP leaders mocked me and said I should be sent to Pakistan," Narayana said. "Now, when Prime Minister Modi's government is holding peace talks with Pakistan without taking control of PoK, should they send Modi to Pakistan too, by their own past logic?" he asked pointedly. Narayana emphasized that terrorism is a serious threat and must be eliminated without compromise. "Terrorists pose a grave danger to humanity. There should be no leniency in dealing with them, and all necessary measures must be taken to stamp out terrorism," he said. At the same time, he welcomed the progress in peace efforts between India and Pakistan, stating that establishing peace is a positive step forward. However, he expressed frustration over the misinterpretation of his past remarks, asserting, "We have always supported strong action against terrorists. Twisting our statements to paint a different picture is unacceptable." Narayana reiterated that while peace is essential, it must not come at the cost of national integrity or security, and criticized the BJP for political hypocrisy on such a sensitive issue.



Tender Scam in Kadapa Exhibition

BJP alleges tenders were manipulated to benefit specific individuals

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

BJP Kadapa District President Jangiti Venkata Subbareddy has levelled serious allegations against the Kadapa Municipal Corporation over irregularities in tenders related to a 45-day exhibition being held in the city. Speaking at a press meet held at the BJP Kadapa District Office on Sunday, he accused officials of bypassing key safety protocols and manipulating tender processes. He claimed that the exhibition, currently underway, was set up without any fire safety, electricity, or other departmental clearances. "The tenders were first cancelled, then re-issued just to ensure the contract went to people close to certain officials," he alleged. Subbareddy said that while the re-tendering process initially seemed to promise better revenue for the Corporation, it eventually ended with a deal being awarded for a mere ₹30 lakh—an amount he called "nominal and shameful" for an event of such scale. He pointed out the inconsistency by citing that over ₹40 lakh was collected by the Corporation from just a three-day Diwali Tapas Fair, questioning why only ₹30 lakh was charged for an exhibition running for 45 days. "Not only were the tenders not properly executed, but the exhibition is being held without any permission whatsoever. The Corporation officials have clearly failed in their duties," he said. Subbareddy demanded that immediate action be taken against those responsible for the irregularities and accused the officials of acting with bias and negligence. He also warned that BJP would intensify its protest if no action was taken.



One Year On, Still No PRC: Amaravati JAC Leader Slams AP Govt

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

AP Amaravati JAC State President Bopparaju Venkateshwarlu has criticized the Andhra Pradesh coalition government for failing to announce the new Pay Revision Commission (PRC), even after a year since its formation. Speaking to the media in Anantapur on Saturday, Bopparaju expressed deep concern over the prolonged neglect of government employees' legitimate demands. He stated that it is regrettable that no steps have been taken toward announcing the PRC, leaving lakhs of government employees in uncertainty. "Even after a year, the coalition government has not responded to our rightful concerns. Employees deserve justice," he said. Bopparaju particularly highlighted the pressure faced by revenue officials and staff who are being forced to implement politically-driven decisions. He said that due to such pressure, officials are falling victim to legal consequences. Citing a specific incident, he mentioned Deputy Collector Tata Mohan Rao from Guntur, who became an accused in a contempt of court case related to land encroachments. Calling the situation alarming, Bopparaju urged the state government to form a dedicated task force to ensure the safety and protection of revenue employees. He also demanded that the government allocate adequate funds to help them carry out their duties effectively. He further criticized the government's unequal treatment of employees and teachers, saying such discrimination is unacceptable. "There should be no disparity in addressing the issues of different categories of government staff. Everyone deserves equal respect and support," he added. The Amaravati JAC leader's remarks reflect growing unrest among government employees, and he called on the coalition government to act swiftly and responsibly to resolve their issues.



72,519 Avail Rice Card Services Ahead of WhatsApp Launch

- New rice card services via WhatsApp from May 15
- 72,519 people already accessed six key services
- Smart cards to be issued from June free of cost

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar announced that 72,519 citizens have already utilized the newly launched rice card services, and from May 15, these services can be accessed from home through WhatsApp Governance. Citizens can simply send “Hello” to 95523 00009 to begin the process. Speaking at a press conference at the Tenali Camp Office in Guntur district, the Minister announced that six rice card-related services were launched on May 8. These services include the issuance of new rice cards, division of existing cards, change of address, addition of members, removal of members, and surrender of cards. These services are currently available at village and ward secretariats, and from May 15, they will be made accessible via WhatsApp as part of a digital governance initiative. Minister Manohar said that smart rice cards will be distributed free of cost to eligible households starting in June. These smart cards will also contain details of family members. Single individuals, including those above 50 years of age, people separated from their spouses, orphans, and residents of orphanages, are



also eligible to register. The Minister also addressed past delays in issuing new rice cards, explaining that they were due to the Election Commission’s directives in March 2024 and the mandatory eKYC process. Now, with 95% of eKYC completion, the issuance process has resumed. He said there are currently 1,46,21,223 rice cards in the state, covering 4.24 crore people. Since children under 5 and the elderly above 80 are exempt from eKYC, around 6.45 lakh individuals have not completed it.

Manohar also highlighted that transgender persons undergoing gender reassignment can apply for rice cards under this system for the first time. Additionally, special AAY cards will be issued to rural artists receiving pensions and marginalized communities such as Chenchus and Yanadis living in hilly regions, who will receive 35 kg of rice per month. He reiterated the government’s commitment to streamlining welfare distribution through digital access and inclusion of all eligible categories.

Nani Seeks ED Probe Into Chinni’s Role in Liquor Scam

Letter submitted to ED citing laundering through Pryde Infracon LLP

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Senior politician and former MP Kesineni Nani has formally written to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), urging an extensive investigation into the alleged role of Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) and his close associates in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam. The letter, addressed to the Additional Director of the ED, outlines serious allegations of money laundering, shell companies, and foreign fund transfers. The complaint references FIR No. 21/2024 dated 23.09.2024, which is already under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate. It notes that the agency has previously sought related documents from the Vijayawada Police Commissioner. In this context, Kesineni Nani has highlighted what he describes as “a key aspect that requires immediate attention.” According to Nani, although MP Kesineni Sivanath has publicly demanded a CBI probe claiming mistrust in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, evidence suggests that Sivanath himself might be directly involved in the scam. The letter names Raj Kasireddy, a long-time business associate of the MP, as a key figure in the suspi-



cious transactions. Public records reportedly show that Kesineni Sivanath, his wife Janaki Lakshmi, and Raj Kasireddy are joint partners in Pryde Infracon LLP, along with several other business ventures. Kesineni Nani alleges that these business structures may have been used to funnel and disguise proceeds from the illegal liquor trade, possibly violating provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The letter urges the ED to broaden its investigation to cover:

- All LLPs, companies, and trusts linked to the accused and their family members
- Associated real estate, infra-

structure, and tech firms

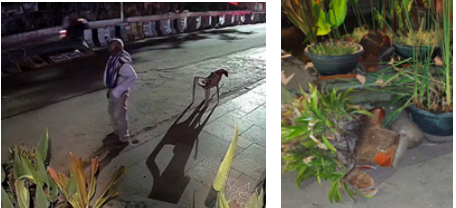
- Any shell entities, benami accounts, or circular transactions used for laundering
- Cross-border fund transfers and undisclosed foreign investments

In a further development, the complaint also ties Kesineni Sivanath and his network to the ₹2,000 crore chain-link scam, currently being investigated under FIR No. 266/2023 dated 16.09.2023 by the Central Crime Station in Hyderabad. According to Kesineni Nani, there is an overlap in the financial structures and people involved in both scams, suggesting a well-organized laundering network. “The scale and depth of these operations make it necessary for the Enforcement Directorate to act independently and uncover the full truth,” the letter states. At the time of this report, MP Kesineni Sivanath has not issued any official response to these serious allegations. The demand for a federal investigation comes amid heightened political and legal scrutiny in Andhra Pradesh over alleged financial irregularities tied to the liquor trade, making this a significant development in the unfolding saga.

Kesineni Nani Alleges Threat to Life and Attack on Residence

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Former Vijayawada MP Kesineni Nani has filed a formal complaint with the Commissioner of Police, alleging a threat to his life and a deliberate act of vandalism at his residence — incidents he believes are directly linked to his recent social media revelations involving a sitting MP and the Enforcement Directorate’s (ED) probe into a liquor scam. In his written complaint dated 11th May 2025, Kesineni Nani claimed that he received a missed call at 12:46 PM from the number 8008969677, and when he returned the call at 1:55 PM, the caller identified himself as Chakravarthy Kadiyala. According to the complaint, Chakravarthy used



abusive and threatening language and warned Kesineni to withdraw his complaint and stop naming him and the MP in connection with the ED’s investigation. The caller allegedly threatened to kill Kesineni if he did not comply. “This is a most serious criminal threat and should not be taken lightly,” the former MP wrote in his appeal to the police, calling for immediate criminal action. Further compounding the serious-

ness of the situation, Kesineni recounted a separate incident that occurred on 8th May 2025 at 9:56 PM, wherein an unidentified individual vandalised property at his residence, Kesineni Nilayam, in Vijayawada. The attacker, emerging from a vehicle parked near the east side of the property, removed iron road divider barriers, damaged plants near a pond, and threatened a security guard before fleeing. Though the vehicle number plate could not be clearly identified due to low lighting, the entire incident was captured on CCTV. Kesineni’s Executive Assistant Shruvan immediately informed the Patamata Police Station, following which ASI Kiran Kumar conducted a preliminary on-site investigation.



Property Tax Exemption for Defence Personnel in AP

Govt Extends Relief to Serving Soldiers Under Panchayat Jurisdiction

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Sunday announced a significant welfare measure aimed at honouring the sacrifices of India’s defence personnel. The state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has decided to waive property tax for serving members of the Indian Defence Forces living within Gram Panchayat limits.

The exemption, previously applicable only to retired soldiers and those deployed at the borders, has now been expanded to include all active personnel of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Paramilitary, and CRPF, regardless of their posting location. Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan made the announcement through a social media post, stating “As a mark of deep respect and gratitude to our brave soldiers, the Panchayat Raj Department has taken a significant decision to grant property tax exemption to houses belonging to personnel of the Indian Defence Forces.”

Under this new policy:

The exemption applies to one residential property either occupied by the defence personnel or their spouse, or jointly owned by them. It will benefit thousands of soldiers and their families residing in rural Andhra Pradesh. The decision was made following a recommendation from the Director

of Sainik Welfare, and represents a strong gesture of appreciation for the service of India’s uniformed heroes.

“Our government stands firmly with every soldier and their family. Their service is priceless, and it is our duty to honour it in every way possible,” Pawan Kalyan added. The announcement has drawn praise from defence families and the public alike, reinforcing the Andhra Pradesh government’s commitment to the welfare of its soldiers and their households.

My Heart Is Heavy..

CM Naidu posts emotional tribute to Murali Nayak
“I bid farewell to the brave soldier Murali Nayak. My heart is heavy with the grief of those parents who lost their only son. The government will stand by the family of Murali, who sacrificed his life in the defense of the country.” Naidu added, “Even though Murali Nayak is not among us today, his sacrifice for the country will always inspire us.” The entire Sri Sathya Sai district turned into a sea of mourning as Murali Nayak’s mortal remains were brought home. People lined up on roads, holding national flags and showering flowers to pay tribute. Under the supervision of Minister Savita, a large convoy accompanied the body in a rally that stretched from Bangalore to Kalithanda — a 90-minute journey that took 8 hours due to the overwhelming public response.

Call for Stupa to honour Amaravati farmers



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Eminent Digambara poet Nagna Muni has urged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to build a memorial stupa in honour of the farmers who willingly donated their lands for the construction of the capital city Amaravati. He proposed that the names of all such farmers be etched on a commemorative plaque at the site. He further suggested renaming the state as either “Andhra State” or “Navyandhra State” to better reflect its renewed identity. He made these remarks while attending a poetry book release function at Balotsav Bhavan in Vijayawada on Sunday. Two collections, Bhumi Navadam Chusanu by Amulya Chandu and Life Drama by Radhakrishna Kari, were launched during the event. The function was chaired by noted writer

and columnist Mukkamala Chakradhar. Nagna Muni reflected on the origin of Digambara poetry, a movement aimed at taking literature to the grassroots. “We released our poetry through ordinary citizens like beggars, hotel workers, and rickshaw pullers to break literary elitism,” he said. He lauded the emerging voices of Amulya and Radhakrishna, and predicted a new poetic wave taking shape in Telugu literature. Poet Vakkalanka Sitarama Rao (Vasira) gave a detailed analysis of the new poetry collections, while Nainala Vanisri and Santhisri offered reviews. Poets Sudha Murali and K. Ramaa Gayatri also addressed the gathering. Both the authors of poetry collections expressed their happiness on the occasion. The event concluded with the felicitation of dignitaries and participation from a wide circle of poets and poetry lovers.

Dollars Diwakar Reddy Appointed as TUDA Chairman

- Diwakar Reddy appointed as Chairman of Tirupati TUDA
- Praises from TDP ranks for his dedication in constituencies
- Announces initiatives to aid cancer and kidney patients

TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati, May 12: In a significant move, the Andhra Pradesh government has appointed Dollars Diwakar Reddy as the Chairman of Tirupati TUDA. Expressing his gratitude, Diwakar Reddy said that it was a moment of pride for him that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leadership had recognized his work and entrusted him with such a prestigious position. Diwakar Reddy has been a long-time dedicated member of TDP, having worked in various constituencies including Tirupati, Srikalahasti, and Chandragiri. He played a crucial role in securing a victory for the party in Chandragiri after 25 years, and his efforts have now been recognized by the party. TDP leaders from the joint Chittoor district congratulated him on his new role, acknowledging his hard work and discipline in strengthening the party's position across the region. Diwakar Reddy has also been active in philanthropic activities, founding the Dollars Trust for the development of the poor, and he promised to provide free medicines every month for cancer and kidney patients. His extensive tours in Srikalahasti



constituency have also helped him garner a significant majority for the party. Celebrating the party's decision, Diwakar Reddy reaffirmed his commitment to the TDP and vowed to continue working with dedication to further the party's vision.

AP Students Bag Top Ranks in TG EAPCET - 2025

TPN Correspondent |
Telangana

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy officially released the results of the Telangana State Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TG EAPCET) 2025 today. During the announcement, the officials from the Higher Education Council provided a detailed breakdown of this year's performance. In a remarkable outcome, students from Andhra Pradesh have secured the top three positions in the engineering stream. Palla Bharatchandra from Komarada in Parvathipuram Manyam district bagged the first rank. He was followed by Udagandla Ramcharan Reddy from Konapuram in Nandyal district in second place, and Hemasai Suryakarthik from Vizianagaram district in third. Boys showcased a complete dominance in the engineering stream by clinching all the top ten ranks. Among the Telangana students, Mende Lakshmi Bhargav from Nacharam, Hyderabad, stood out by se-



curing the fourth rank. Other top rankers from Telangana include Mantri Reddy Venkata Ganesh Royal (5th) from Madhapur, Sunkara Sai Rishanth Reddy (6th), Rashmit Bhandari (7th), Banibrata Majhi from Badangpet (8th), Dhanush Reddy from Hyderabad (9th), and Komma Karthik from Medchal (10th). The Agriculture and Pharmacy categories also witnessed strong performances by Telangana students. Saket Reddy from Medchal secured the top rank in this category. He was followed by Sabbani Lalit Varenya from Karimnagar in second place and Akshit from

Warangal in third. Other notable achievers in the Agriculture and Pharmacy category include Sainath from Kothakota (Wanaparthy) with the fourth rank, Brahmani from Madhapur (5th), Gummadilla Tejas from Kukatpally (6th), Akhiranandan Reddy from Nizampet (7th), Bhanuprakash Reddy from Saroornagar (8th), Samuel Satwik from Hyderguda (9th), and Addula Sasikaran Reddy from Balapur (10th). Officials noted the increasing competition and talent among students from both states and appreciated their hard work in achieving these ranks.

Video of Rajini's Clash with AP Police Goes Viral

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

A video showing a heated altercation between Vidadala Rajini, former Minister and YSRCP leader, and Andhra Pradesh Police has quickly gone viral on social media, drawing widespread attention. The footage shows Rajini visibly angry as she attempts to prevent police from arresting her close aide, Srikant Reddy, who was traveling with her. In the video, police can be seen stopping Rajini's vehicle and detaining Reddy. Rajini demands an explanation for his arrest, stepping out of the car and confronting the police officers. She slams the door and nearly pushes a Circle Inspector who tries to intervene. She then accuses the police of making an illegal arrest and questions their actions. The situation intensifies when one officer warns Rajini that obstructing the arrest could result in additional charges. Defiantly, Rajini responds, saying, "Go ahead, let's see what you can do." Despite the confrontation, the police contin-



ue with the arrest and eventually take Srikant Reddy into custody. Rajini, who started her political career with TDP and later joined YSRCP before the 2019 elections, has been at the center of several controversies throughout her political career. She served as Health Minister under Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and was elected as MLA from Chilakaluripeta. Her term has been marked by multiple ACB cases and the arrest of her family members.

GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE NEW SCHEME FOR STUDENTS

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

The coalition government in Andhra Pradesh is set to bring more positive news for students. Already running the Mother's Salute scheme as part of its election promises, the government is now planning to deposit Rs. 15,000 in the accounts of each student's mother. This financial benefit will be provided as soon as the next academic year begins. Initially aimed at tenth-grade students, the scheme has now been extended to include intermediate students as well. In addition to this, the government has already taken significant steps to improve infrastructure in schools under a large-scale initiative. The menu for the mid-day meal scheme, which has been running for years, has also been revamped. Building on these efforts, the government is now preparing to introduce another scheme specifically designed to benefit students in Gurukuls and hostels across the state. There has been criticism regarding the provision of basic facilities like cosmetics and other amenities in hostels. In response, the government has taken a decisive step to address these concerns. Minister Dola Bala Veeranjane Swamy announced that the government will provide special kits to students in hostels, which will include cosmet-



ics and nightwear starting from the next academic year. These efforts are expected to resolve many of the challenges faced by students living in hostels. Additionally, the government has committed to building more toilets in Gurukuls and hostels using funds from the Swachh Andhra Corporation. Furthermore, the number of free NEET coaching centers will be increased to 10, making quality education accessible to more students. Many poor students have expressed their support for these decisions, believing that the government's actions will significantly benefit them. There is a growing sense of excitement and joy about the implementation of these new initiatives, with widespread praise for the government's commitment to student welfare.

Kavali Greeshma Offers Prayers at Sri Kalahasti Temple

Former Speaker Pratibha Bharathi's daughter visits with family

TPN | C Shekar

Tirupati, May 12: MLC Kavali Greeshma, daughter of former Andhra Pradesh Speaker Pratibha Bharathi, visited the famous Sri Kalahasti Swamy temple on Sunday along with her family members. During the visit, the family participated in a special darshan of Lord Sri Kalahasti Swamy and Goddess Sri Gyan Prasunamba. The temple authorities welcomed the dignitaries and facilitated



the rituals. Kavali Greeshma expressed her spiritual satisfaction and said the visit was deeply fulfilling. She also prayed for the well-being of the people of Andhra Pradesh. The temple, located in Tirupati district, is one of the most revered Shaiva shrines in South India and attracts thousands of devotees daily. Special arrangements were made by the temple management for the smooth conduct of the visit.

WEATHER WARNING FOR THESE DISTRICTS IN AP

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

The weather in the Telugu states remains unpredictable, with sunny skies on one side and rain affecting other areas. The Meteorological Department has issued a significant update, predicting rainfall in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for the next three days. The department has forecast light to heavy rains in several districts, providing much-needed relief from the ongoing heatwaves. Additionally, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has made a key announcement about the arrival of the southwest monsoon. The monsoon is expected to hit Kerala on the 27th of this month, marking an early onset. It will enter the South Andaman Sea, Southeast Bay of Bengal, and Nicobar Islands by the 13th. According to the IMD, the monsoon's arrival in Kerala will bring much-needed relief from the current summer heat. Typically, the southwest monsoon reaches Kerala around June 1, and after that, it spreads to Rayalaseema, North Andhra, and the south coast within a week to ten days. With the monsoon advancing, rainfall is expected to intensify, especially in Andhra Pradesh, from the third week of June. This year, the monsoon is expected to arrive four days



earlier than usual, increasing rainfall from the second week of next month. The Meteorological Department has also announced that this year's southwest monsoon season will bring more than the usual rainfall—about 104% of the normal levels. However, temperatures in the state are still expected to rise between 41-43.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday, with a heatwave warning issued for 11 mandals in Alluri district, 8 mandals in Anakapalle district, and 30 mandals in Alluri, Anakapalle, Anantapur, Annamayya, and Chittoor districts.

In addition, there is a possibility of sudden rains accompanied by thunderstorms. On Monday, severe heatwaves are expected in 24 mandals, while 57 mandals will experience moderate heatwaves. As of Saturday, the maximum temperatures recorded in various districts were as follows: 41.7°C in Renigum (Tirupati), 41.1°C in Vizianagaram, 41°C in Muramanda (East Godavari), 40°C in Kambhalakunta (Annamayya), and 40.7°C in Maddur (Kadapa) and Mekalavaripalli (Prakasam). The Meteorological Department continues to monitor the situation closely.

How the Indian Air Force Taught Pakistan That the Mythical 'Godzilla' Isn't Extinct After All

The recent conflict between India and Pakistan has proven to be a pivotal moment in modern air warfare, escalating quickly into one of the most significant aerial engagements between the nuclear-armed neighbors since the 1971 war. The Indian Air Force (IAF) emerged as the central force in this battle, playing a pivotal role in shaping the conflict's outcome, demonstrating both military sophistication and operational precision.

The IAF's strategic actions began with precision strikes on terrorist camps in Pakistan, executed despite the absence of the element of surprise. The operations were carried out in high-risk conditions, with a deliberate avoidance of military targets to prevent escalation, which would otherwise have led to civilian casualties. This careful approach allowed the IAF to demonstrate an exemplary escalation management strategy while meeting 100% of the national leadership's intent.

The course of the conflict unfolded with methodical precision, starting with targeted strikes on terrorist nodes, followed by engagements with Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (LR-SAMs), and eventually neutralizing advanced air defence systems like the HQ-9. As the battle intensified, Pakistan responded with desperate strikes against IAF bases, but these were ineffective as Pakistan's air defences had been systematically dismantled. The IAF, maintaining relentless offensive operations, engaged Pakistan's remaining defences, while carefully navigating below nuclear



thresholds to avoid further escalation.

One of the most unprecedented challenges in this conflict was the IAF's ability to ward off waves of drones, missiles, and enemy aircraft over a stretch of more than 1,000 kilometers. This level of sustained defence is unprecedented in modern warfare, particularly given the terrain and the near-peer threat posed by Pakistan. Despite early losses, the IAF successfully neutralized advanced air defence systems, such as the HQ-9, and maintained control of the air. Throughout the conflict, the IAF not

only excelled in offensive operations but also exhibited remarkable defensive capability. While global military powers like the United States and Israel have maintained air supremacy in their respective conflicts, the IAF managed to confront a sustained multi-vector threat across such an extended frontier. This coordinated defence effort between IAF and Army air defence units further showcased India's military coordination and preparedness.

Strategically, the IAF's control of the air was the determining factor in

the outcome of the conflict. Pakistan, while possessing nuclear deterrence capabilities, was forced to initiate a ceasefire after being unable to maintain control of the skies. The PAF, the arrowhead of Pakistan's military might, was effectively neutralized by India's air superiority. This shift led to Pakistan's diplomatic overtures through the DGMO hotline, signaling their willingness to de-escalate as a direct result of losing the air battle.

The strategic success of the IAF in this conflict will likely become a case study in modern air power, particularly in

how middle powers can achieve limited strategic objectives while managing escalation in the face of nuclear adversaries. The IAF's ability to combine offensive and defensive operations effectively, while maintaining control of the air and minimizing escalation, highlights the future of warfare, where air power is central to achieving decisive results.

However, despite this impressive performance, introspection is crucial for the IAF to maintain its advantage. The IAF must identify any gaps exposed during operations and accelerate efforts in capability development, indigenous production, and acquisition timelines. A rigorous after-action review process is needed to ensure that India's military can keep pace with evolving threats.

In the aftermath of this conflict, Pakistan's dismissive remarks about India's Rafale fleet—specifically, the comment by a PAF Air Vice Marshal that "Godzilla is extinct"—seems to betray a fundamental misunderstanding. The Rafale, long ridiculed by Pakistan as a "mythical" force, proved its destructive power and capability in the skies. For Pakistan, the "Godzilla" is far from extinct, and its devastating impact on Pakistan's air defence infrastructure is now etched in history.

Ultimately, the IAF's performance in this conflict will be remembered as a defining moment for Indian air power, solidifying its status as a formidable force capable of shaping the outcomes of modern warfare.

Why Generative AI Won't Replace Human Creativity



Despite the hype, generative AI is far from replacing human creativity or making thinking redundant. With every semester, as more students submit bland, AI-generated emails and essays, the limitations of tools like ChatGPT become more obvious. At best, they churn out polite emails, generic responses, filler content, and basic presentations. Even then, their usefulness depends heavily on the quality of the prompt they're given.

This doesn't mean AI lacks value. Its real strength lies in data analysis — processing vast datasets quickly and efficiently. AI has proven indispensable in fields like astronomy, medicine, and climate science. From identifying cancer cells to detecting new exoplanets or gravitational waves, AI supports scientific innovation by handling data at a scale and speed beyond human capacity.

However, large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT function differently. They are not truly thinking or creating; rather, they statistically predict word sequences based on massive text datasets. As tools of pattern recognition, they imitate language without understanding it — a point highlighted by researchers like Timnit Gebru and Margaret Mitchell,

who call LLMs “stochastic parrots.” Noam Chomsky similarly describes them as statistical engines lacking the intuitive grammar-building capability of a child.

While AI may help a policymaker choose a podcast or summarize a report, it cannot draft original policy or investigate complex societal issues. For example, when a UK minister used ChatGPT to explore AI adoption among businesses, it took a journalist's intuition — not AI — to uncover this via the Freedom of Information Act. That kind of insight remains uniquely human.

Likewise, AI-generated art, like the popular Studio Ghibli-style renderings, is visually appealing but devoid of depth. It imitates form without understanding meaning. Compare that to the symbolic power of S.H. Raza's 'bindu,' which evolved over decades of introspection and philosophical engagement. That distinction — between imitation and creation — is what defines the human role in art, science, and innovation.

AI is a powerful tool, much like the internet once was. But it remains just that: a tool, not a replacement for human thought.

India-Pakistan: Are We Stuck in an 'Escalation Cycle' Now?

The recent terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians, marked a significant moment in the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan. This attack, attributed to The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba, exemplifies the continuing cycle of violence and retaliation between the two nations. India's response, including multiple airstrikes on Pakistani targets, raises the question: Are India and Pakistan now trapped in a dangerous "escalation cycle"?

This cycle is not new. The last time India faced a massive suicide attack was in February 2019, when 40 paramilitary soldiers were killed in a similar incident. India's retaliatory response then, which included an airstrike on the Jaish-e-Mohammad camp in Balakot, was aimed at both exacting revenge and sending a message. The airstrike in Pahalgam, dubbed 'Operation Sindoor,' follows this pattern but represents a significant shift in the choice and range of targets. By hitting at least nine terror sites in Pakistan, including those directly linked to the Pakistani army, India signaled that it would not tolerate continued support for terrorism from its neighbor.

This response could be seen as the "rationality of irrationality" — an emotional reaction driven by the desire to ensure deterrence against future terror attacks, especially those that cause mass casualties. In theory, such retaliations would typically be irrational, as they risk triggering greater losses in a prolonged conflict. However, India's actions have been calculated to prevent future acts of terrorism while maintaining a careful balance between retaliation and escalation management.

In response to India's strikes, Pakistan has escalated tensions by increasing cross-LoC artillery shelling



and launching drone strikes targeting Indian cities such as those in Punjab, Jammu, and Kashmir. This retaliation highlights Pakistan's reluctance to back down, as it seeks to reassert its deterrence against India's growing conventional strength. Pakistan's defence minister has even warned of an "existential threat," suggesting that the risk of escalation — potentially even reaching a nuclear threshold — remains very real.

Yet, while Pakistan's rhetoric may seem exaggerated, the threat cannot be dismissed entirely. On the one hand, India has retaliated against Pakistan's drone and missile strikes by partially neutralising Pakistani air defences in Lahore, a move intended to both target military assets and manage escalation. On the other hand, Pakistan's continued targeting of Indian civilians and expanding its attacks across the border makes it increasingly difficult to find a way out of this escalating cycle.

Despite India's successful airstrikes and its claims of achieving its objectives, the situation remains tense. The Indian government's statement following the airstrikes that it would prefer to de-escalate and end hostilities has been contradicted by further retaliatory actions. Both countries are committing more resources and

effort to escalation, signaling a commitment to the cycle of retaliation.

The fragility of deterrence between the two nations is evident. While kinetic actions, such as airstrikes, may offer temporary satisfaction, they are not a long-term solution. In the long run, strategic measures such as suspending the Indus Water Treaty or placing Pakistan back on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) blacklist may exert pressure on Pakistan to reconsider its support for terrorism. However, the central issue remains the domestic political calculus of Pakistan's military leadership, which continues to influence the broader conflict. With Pakistan's current military leadership and civilian government being among the weakest in recent history, it is uncertain how far deterrence will be effective. The escalation between India and Pakistan raises an important question: Can both nations break out of this cycle of retaliatory violence, or are they doomed to repeat history? As both countries inch forward, the global community must watch closely, for this delicate situation has the potential to spiral into an uncontrollable conflict, with far-reaching consequences beyond their borders. The path ahead is unclear, but the escalation cycle, once set in motion, may prove difficult to halt.

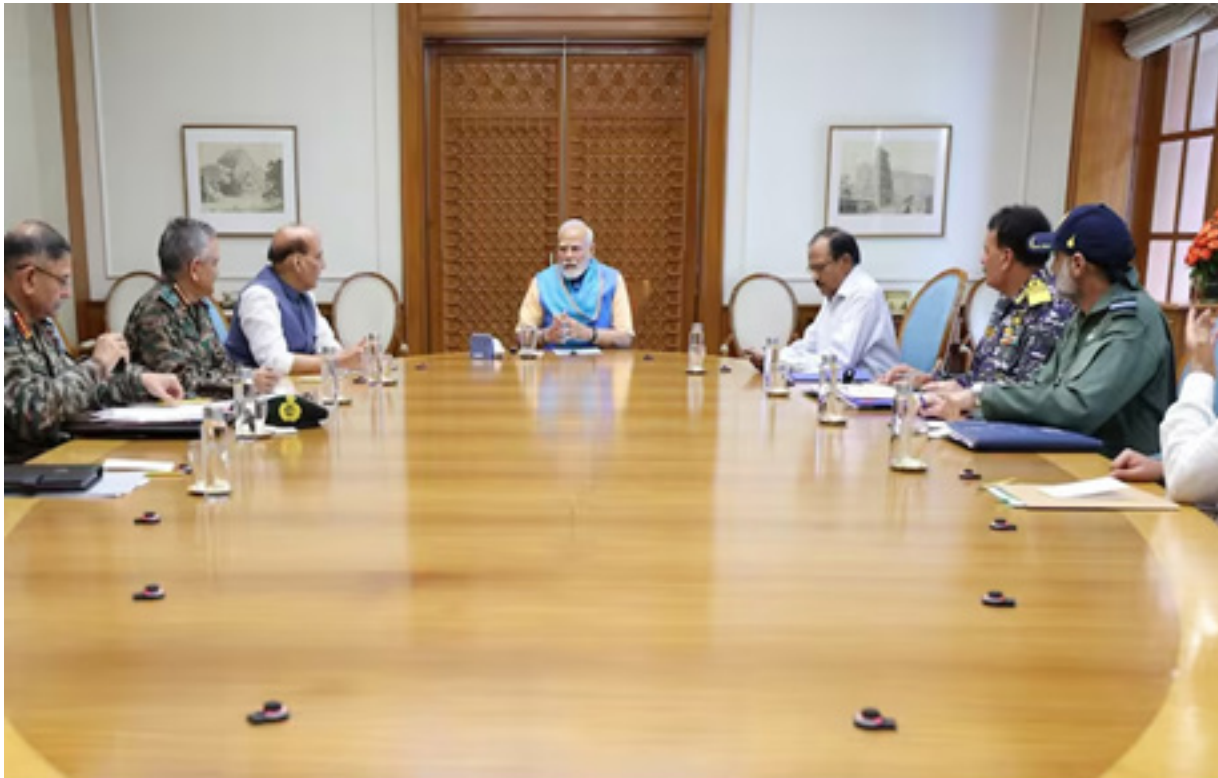
PM Modi Chairs High-Level Defence Meeting After Ceasefire Agreement Violations

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a crucial high-level meeting on Sunday with top defence officials following the recent ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. The meeting, held at Modi's residence, was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, and the chiefs of the three armed services.

The meeting came amid a tense yet calm situation on the borders with Pakistan. While no new ceasefire violations were reported, India accused Pakistan of breaching the truce just hours after the agreement. The ceasefire, which was announced by US President Donald Trump on Saturday, was initially seen as a positive step toward de-escalation, with both India and Pakistan agreeing to halt military actions.

However, India quickly reported that Pakistani drones were spotted in various regions, including Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, and parts



of Gujarat and Rajasthan. The violations led to the re-imposition of blackouts in border areas. Despite the commitment from Pakistan to adhere to the ceasefire, the situation escalated when Pakistan resumed drone and missile activities in Indian territory, prompting an immediate retaliation by India. Pakistan later claimed it remained committed to the ceasefire and expressed hope that the agreement could pave

the way for a peaceful resolution to long-standing regional issues.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, in a late-night briefing, made it clear that India had taken serious note of the violations. He called on Pakistan to handle the situation responsibly and emphasized that India's armed forces were on high alert and had been instructed to respond firmly to

any further violations along the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC).

This meeting follows India's consistent stance on combating terrorism, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reaffirming India's unwavering commitment to tackling terrorism in all its forms. The situation remains fluid, with both sides closely monitoring the border.



Army Chief Grants Full Authority to Army Commanders to retaliate to Pak's violations

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

In response to Pakistan's violation of the ceasefire arrangement on May 10, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi has granted full authority to Indian Army commanders to take counter-action in the event of any further violations of the understanding reached between India and Pakistan.

India and Pakistan had agreed on Saturday to cease all firing and military actions on land, air, and sea with immediate effect. However, despite this understanding, reports emerged that Pakistan violated the ceasefire during the night of May 10-11, prompting a review of the security situation by the Indian Army leadership.

Following the violation, General Dwivedi convened a meeting with the Army Commanders responsible for the western borders to assess the situation. The Army emphasized that the Chief of Army Staff had given commanders the autonomy to take necessary countermeasures if there were further breaches of the understanding that was agreed upon during the Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) talks held earlier on May 10.

The Army's statement reiterated India's commitment to upholding the ceasefire arrangement but made it clear that any further violations would be met with a decisive military response. "The Army Chief has granted full authority to the Army Commanders for counteraction in the kinetic domain to any violation of the understanding reached," the Army said.

This move underscores India's readiness to protect its borders and respond to any provocations with military precision. While both nations had previously committed to de-escalating tensions, the Indian Army's clear stance signals that any future violations will not go unanswered, reinforcing the government's resolve to ensure the safety and security of the nation.

Rahul, Kharge demand special Parliament session to discuss Pahalgam attack, Op Sindoor

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Leaders of the Opposition in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding an immediate special session of Parliament. The session is sought to discuss critical issues, including the recent Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and the latest developments regarding cross-border firing.



In their letters, both Gandhi and Kharge emphasized the importance of convening the session to demonstrate a united national stance against terrorism. Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, underscored the urgency of addressing the Pahalgam attack, in which 26 people, primarily tourists, were killed on

April 22. He reiterated the Opposition's call for Parliament to deliberate on the ongoing military operations, especially Operation Sindoor, which was launched as a retaliatory strike after the attack.

"We must seize this opportunity to display our collective resolve in the face of these challenges," Gandhi stated,

highlighting the need for a unified approach to national security. He further urged the Prime Minister to give serious and swift consideration to the request for a special session. Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, echoed Gandhi's concerns and referenced previous requests made by both leaders on April 28, seeking a session to

discuss the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Kharge also pointed out the significance of the ceasefire agreement brokered by US President Donald Trump, which was subsequently adopted by both India and Pakistan.

In a separate remark, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal suggested that an all-party meeting should be called but insisted that the meeting should only proceed if Prime Minister Modi personally participated.

The Opposition's calls reflect growing concerns over national security and the government's response to cross-border tensions. The proposed special session is expected to provide a platform for a comprehensive discussion on the evolving situation.

Indian Navy Was Ready To Strike Karachi, Kept Pak Ships Confined To Harbour

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian Navy's strategic deployment in the Arabian Sea during Operation Sindoor played a critical role in compelling the Pakistan Navy to remain largely in harbor or close to the coast. This was revealed for the first time by Vice Admiral AN Pramod, who outlined the Navy's role in the counterstrike following the Pahalgam terror attack.



The attack, which occurred on April 22, 2025, had claimed 26 lives, primarily tourists, and prompted a swift and coordinated response from India. Vice Admiral Pramod explained that the Navy had quickly mobilized its assets, including carrier battle groups, surface forces, submarines, and aviation units, all of which were put on full combat readiness within hours of the attack. In a display of military might, the Navy conducted

multiple weapon firings in the Arabian Sea to refine tactics and ensure readiness for potential offensive actions.

"The aim was to revalidate our crew, armaments, equipment, and platforms to deliver precise ordnance on selected targets," said Vice Admiral Pramod. He further revealed that the Indian Navy maintained a "deterrent posture," ready to strike select

targets both at sea and on land, including Karachi, should the situation demand. This forward deployment, according to the senior officer, forced Pakistan's naval and air units into a defensive posture, largely confined to harbors or the coastal regions, a situation that was continuously monitored by India. The Navy's approach, while ready for offensive action, was carefully calibrated to avoid escalation.

"Our response was measured, proportionate, non-escalatory, and responsible from Day 1," Vice Admiral Pramod affirmed. He highlighted that the Indian Navy's operational dominance at sea played a significant role in Pakistan's eventual request for a ceasefire, which came after a series of military actions from the Indian Army and Air Force.

In a broader context, the Indian Armed Forces' response was a coordinated effort. Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Director General of Military Operations, noted that any future violations would be met with a fierce response. Air Marshal AK Bharti, representing the Indian Air Force, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the precision and limited scope of India's airstrikes, which were focused solely on Pakistani military installations to avoid civilian casualties.

Operation Sindoor: Over 100 terrorists including high-value targets killed in May 7 strikes: says DGMO



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a special briefing on Sunday, India's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai revealed that the Pakistan Army lost approximately 35-40 personnel between May 7 and May 10 during retaliatory strikes along the Line of Control (LoC). The counterattacks were launched in response to aggressive actions by Pakistan, including drone and aircraft incursions into Indian airspace.

Lt Gen Ghai detailed that on the night of May 8-9, Pakistan made multiple unsuccessful attempts to target Indian military infrastructure using drones and aircraft. These attempts were followed by renewed violations of the LoC, which escalated into intense firefights. The Indian Army, in retaliation, conducted swift and precise counterstrikes, aided by the Indian Air Force, targeting key military facilities.

Operation Sindoor, which was launched as a response to the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that resulted in the loss of 26 Indian lives, was designed with a clear military objective: to punish the perpetrators and dismantle terror infrastructure. Lt Gen Ghai emphasized that the operation's focus was not on civilian or military casualties but on destroying terror networks that posed a threat to India's security.

Air Marshal AK Bharti, also present at the briefing, elaborated on the extensive strikes carried out by the Indian Air Force, which targeted Pakistani airbases, command centers, and air defense systems. Indian strikes were reportedly carried out on bases including Chaklala, Rafiqui, Rahim Yar Khan, Sargodha, Bhulari, and Jacobabad, sending a strong message of deterrence against further aggression.

Pakistan Welcomes Trump's Offer to Mediate Kashmir Issue

While Indian Opposition Criticizes the Proposal

TPN Correspondent | Lahore

Pakistan has expressed support for US President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between India and Pakistan on the long-standing Kashmir dispute. Trump's comments, made on Sunday, come after the recent India-Pakistan ceasefire. On his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump took credit for the ceasefire and vowed to work with both nations to address the "thousand years" of issues related to Kashmir.

"I will work with you both to see if, after a 'thousand years,' a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. God Bless the leadership of India and Pakistan on a job well done!!!" Trump wrote.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry promptly welcomed the offer, emphasizing the importance of resolving the Kashmir issue for regional peace and security. A statement on X (formerly Twitter) said, "We also appreciate President Trump's expressed willingness to support efforts aimed at the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute—a longstanding issue that has serious implications for peace and security in South Asia and beyond."

While Pakistan welcomed the proposal, leaders of India's opposition parties voiced their strong objections. Congress



MP Manish Tewari criticized Trump's framing of the Kashmir issue as a "thousand-year-old conflict," pointing out that the dispute began in 1947, when Pakistan invaded Jammu and Kashmir shortly after India's independence. Tewari also stated that Kashmir was legally ceded to India by Maharaja Hari Singh in October 1947, highlighting Pakistan's illegal occupation of parts of the region.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Manoj Jha further expressed discontent, calling Trump a "new 'sarpanch'" and questioning his right to comment on the Kashmir

issue. Jha contended that Trump's involvement undermines the Shimla Agreement, which emphasizes bilateral talks between India and Pakistan. He added that India's national sentiment was akin to the mood during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, suggesting that such matters should be addressed only by India and Pakistan.

Trump's proposal has sparked a divide, with Pakistan showing optimism for international mediation, while India's opposition parties strongly reject foreign involvement in the issue.



Trump Signs Executive Order for "Project Homecoming" Self-Deportation Program

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has signed a new executive order launching "Project Homecoming," a self-deportation program designed to offer undocumented migrants free flights and cash incentives to voluntarily leave the United States. The move, which Trump claims will save taxpayers "billions and billions" of dollars, aims to make it easier for illegal migrants to depart without facing legal consequences.

In a video posted alongside the announcement, Trump outlined the details of the program. "Today, I signed an Executive Order to launch the first-ever self-deportation program. Illegal aliens who stay in America face punishments, including sudden deportation, in a place and manner solely at our discretion," he said. He further emphasized that any undocumented migrant could show up at an airport, book a free flight via a newly launched app called CBP Home, and leave the country without repercussions.

The program also includes a "very important exit bonus" to encourage migrants to participate in the self-deportation initiative. Earlier this week, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a \$1,000 stipend for migrants who voluntarily leave. The department asserts that this approach is "70 percent cheaper" than the current cost of detaining and deporting a migrant, which amounts to over \$17,000 per person.

Trump argued that the "deportation bonus" would save American taxpayers billions of dollars, with long-term savings amounting to trillions once all undocumented migrants leave. However, he warned that those who do not comply with the program will face "severe consequences," including jail time, financial penalties, property confiscation, and sudden deportation.

While the program is part of Trump's broader crackdown on immigration, including efforts to end various legal immigration pathways, it reflects his ongoing commitment to strict immigration enforcement since taking office. Trump concluded his announcement by stating that while illegal migrants who comply may face consequences, they could eventually have the opportunity to return to the US under specific conditions.

Pope Leo XIV Urges Global Peace in First Message to Crowds, Calling for an End to War

Pope Leo XIV has appealed to the world's major powers to end conflict, urging "no more war" in his first Sunday message to the crowds in St. Peter's Square since his election as the new pontiff. Elected on May 8, Pope Leo used his address to emphasize the need for a global shift toward peace, particularly in conflict-ridden regions such as Ukraine and Gaza.

The pope expressed deep concern over the ongoing war in Ukraine, stating that he carries in his heart the "suffering of the beloved people of Ukraine." He called for "authentic and lasting peace" and emphasized the importance of a ceasefire in Gaza and the immediate release of all Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Pope Leo also welcomed the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan, describing



it as a hopeful step toward lasting peace. He expressed his prayers for a world where the "miracle of peace" could be achieved, stressing that there is still much work to be done to end global conflict. Reflecting on the 80th anniversary of the end of World

War II, he reminded the world of the devastation caused by past wars, which claimed around 60 million lives.

He echoed a phrase often used by the late Pope Francis, warning that the world is living through "the dramatic scenario of a Third World War being fought piecemeal." While celebrating recent ceasefire agreements, Pope Leo acknowledged the many ongoing global conflicts, urging world leaders to negotiate for peace and to work toward a just, lasting resolution.

With a strong call for diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and global solidarity, Pope Leo's message was a powerful reminder of the church's role in advocating for peace. "No more war!" he exclaimed, emphasizing that the need for peace is more pressing than ever in today's turbulent world.

"Positive Sign": Ukraine's Zelensky Welcomes Putin's Call For Peace Talks

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has expressed cautious optimism about Russia's recent openness to engage in peace talks, acknowledging it as a "positive sign." He highlighted that the world has long awaited this development, signaling a potential path to ending the ongoing war. However, Zelensky emphasized that before any meaningful peace talks can take place, a ceasefire must be established to create the conditions for dialogue.

In his statement, Zelensky made it clear that a ceasefire is the critical first step in ending the conflict. "The entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time," he said, underscoring the importance of de-escalating the situation before entering into serious negotiations. He stressed that without a ceasefire, any discussions on peace would be premature, as the ongoing hostilities continue to affect civilians and military personnel alike.

On the other hand, Russian President Vladimir Putin, in his recent remarks, rejected the idea of a ceasefire at this stage and instead proposed that direct talks with Ukraine should resume in Istanbul



on May 15. Putin's stance seems to reflect Russia's desire to maintain pressure on Ukraine while pushing for renewed negotiations, albeit without an immediate halt to military actions.

The contrasting positions of the two leaders highlight the challenges in finding common ground for peace. While Zelensky advocates for a ceasefire as a prerequisite for talks, Putin's rejection of this condition suggests that the path to peace remains fraught with difficulties. As the war continues, the international community watches closely, hoping that diplomatic efforts can eventually bring about an end to the devastating conflict.

Sheikh Hasina's Awami League Banned By Bangladesh's Yunus Government

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

In a significant political move, Bangladesh's interim government has announced the ban of the Awami League, the political party led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, amid an ongoing trial related to the violent crackdown on mass protests that led to her ouster in 2024.

The decision was confirmed by Asif Nazrul, a government advisor on law and justice, who stated that the ban would cover all activities of the Awami League, including those conducted in cyberspace, under the Anti-Terrorism Act. This action will remain in place until the trial of the party and its leaders reaches a conclusion.

The decision comes in the wake of a brutal government crackdown on protests in July 2024, during which up to 1,400 demonstrators lost their lives, according to the United Nations. The crackdown, ordered by Hasina's administration, was aimed at silencing opposition protests. Hasina herself has been in self-imposed exile in India since being ousted and has defied an arrest warrant issued by



Bangladesh for charges of crimes against humanity.

The interim government, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, who assumed office following Hasina's removal, justified the ban by emphasizing the need to ensure national sovereignty, security, and the protection of protesters, plaintiffs, and tribunal witnesses. Alongside this move, Yunus's administration has also amended the country's International Crimes Tribunal Act, granting authorities the power to prosecute political parties and their affiliated organizations. In response to the ban, the Awami

League rejected the decision, calling it "illegitimate." The timing of the ban follows significant public pressure, with thousands of people rallying outside Yunus's residence, demanding the party's dissolution. Meanwhile, the political climate remains tense, as former Awami League leader Abdul Hamid successfully fled the country, triggering the dismissal of several police officers involved in airport security.

This ban marks a new chapter in Bangladesh's political crisis, and the fate of the Awami League and its leaders will continue to unfold as the trial progresses.

Markets on Edge Amid India-Pak Tensions: Defensive Plays Gain Favor, Selective Buying Advised.

In the wake of India-Pak tensions, the stock markets are likely to experience severe turbulence this week. Investors should remain vigilant. Quality shares can be bought if they are available at attractive prices. There may be a huge demand for defense shares this week. Courier, shipbuilding, refinery, and textile sectors appear bullish. Telecom infrastructure, railway wagons, metals, paper, and hospitality shares are bearish.

Stock Recommendations

Apollo Microsystems:

Momentum and relative strength have increased in these shares, which have been undergoing correction for three months. Support has been found once again at the crucial Rs. 110 level. Investors should take positions in this counter, which closed at Rs. 130 with a gain of 11.8% last Friday, with a target price of Rs. 155. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.119.

Data Patterns:

Demand for these shares has increased in the wake of India-Pakistan tensions. These shares, which have been in a down-trend for a few months, have rebounded since the beginning of March. Moreover, momentum and delivery are increasing significantly. In this counter, which closed at Rs.2295 with a gain of 4.2% last Friday, investors should enter at Rs.2250 with a target price of Rs.2550/2900. Stop loss at Rs.2200 is mandatory.

Astra Micro:

These shares have undergone a correction after reaching a lifetime high in July last year. They have rebounded again since the beginning of March. They have gained 28% in the



last month. Momentum and relative strength have not returned. Investors should take a position at Rs.850 with a target price of Rs.1050 on Friday. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.825.

Bharat Dynamics Limited:

These shares, which reached a lifetime high of Rs.1794 in July last year, have fallen till March. They have rebounded strongly after forming a double bottom at Rs.1000. They have risen by 28% in the last three months. Investors should enter the Rs.1500 range with a target price of Rs.1850 on Friday in these shares. Stop loss is mandatory at Rs.1430.



Paras Defense:

This counter, which has been consolidating for a long time, has suddenly increased its momentum and relative strength since February. They are rebounding at a rocket speed. It is preparing to reach the lifetime high of Rs. 1600. Investors should take a position in the Rs. 1400 range with a target price of Rs. 1650 in these shares, which closed at Rs. 1458 with a gain of 7.3% last Friday. Stop loss should be placed at Rs. 1340.



Adani Power to Supply 1500 MW to Uttar Pradesh from Upcoming Greenfield Power Plant

Adani Power announced on Saturday that it has won a competitive bid to supply 1500 MW (net) of thermal power to Uttar Pradesh, a move that will play a crucial role in meeting the state's growing energy demands. The power will be supplied at a competitive rate of Rs 5.383 per unit from an upcoming greenfield 2x800 MW Ultra-supercritical power plant, set to be built in Uttar Pradesh under the Design, Build, Finance, Own, and Operate (DB-FOO) model.

The project received approval from the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet earlier this month, paving the way for a long-term Power Supply Agreement (PSA) between Adani Power and Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL), following the receipt of the Letter of Award (LoA). The new plant is expected to be operational by FY30, and the company aims to supply reliable, high-quality power to the state.

SB Khyalia, the CEO of Adani Power, expressed enthusiasm about the win, stating, "We are excited to be part of meeting Uttar Pradesh's rapidly growing power demand. We aim to establish a modern and low-emission Ultra-supercritical plant in the state and start supplying power by FY30."

Adani Power plans to invest approximately USD 2 billion in the development of the plant and its associated infrastructure. During

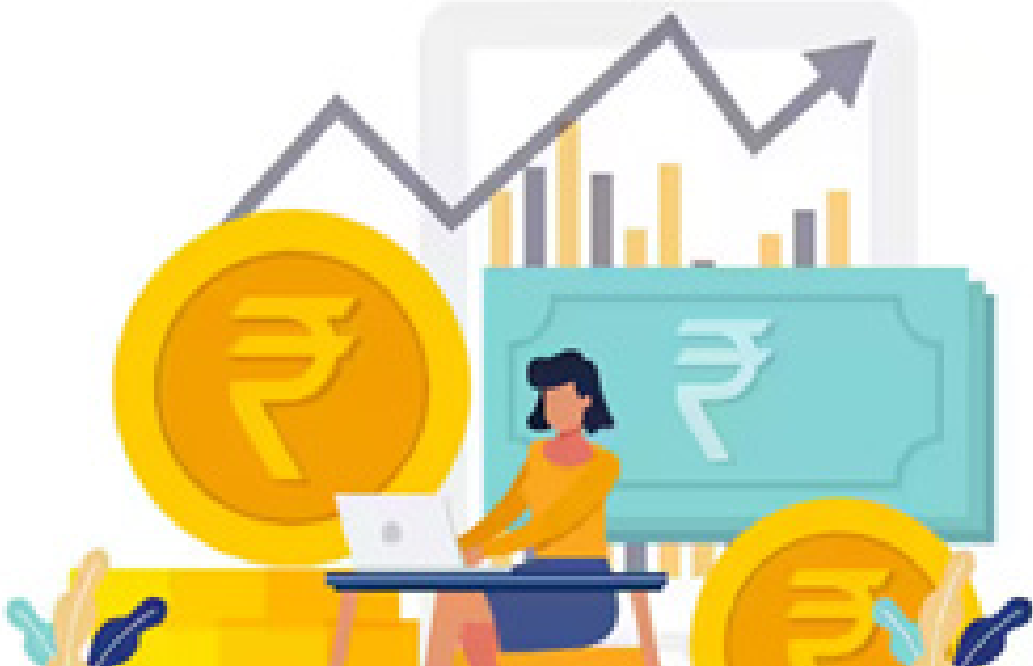
the construction phase, the project is expected to generate between 8,000 and 9,000 direct and indirect jobs, with 2,000 permanent jobs created once the plant becomes operational.

The increasing demand for thermal power in Uttar Pradesh, which is expected to rise by 11,000 MW by 2033-34 due to factors such as industrialization, urbanization, and modernization, underscores the importance of this project. This 1500 MW supply is a significant step toward meeting the state's future energy requirements.

This marks the second major power sale agreement Adani Power has secured in the last year, following a 6,600 MW PSA with Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (MSEDCL) in September 2024. Adani Power, a key player in India's private thermal power sector, currently operates 17,510 MW of installed thermal power capacity across various states.

Indian Economy Expected to Grow by 6.5% in FY26, Driven by Private Sector Investments: CII

India's economy is poised to grow by 6.5% in the current financial year, bolstered by strong domestic fundamentals and a revival in private sector investments, according to Sanjiv Puri, the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Speaking to PTI, Puri expressed confidence in the nation's growth prospects, citing a solid economic foundation that will help the country navigate global uncertainties.



"We are looking at 6.5% growth, which is achievable due to India's robust economic foundation," Puri said, pointing out key factors that will contribute to this growth, including softening interest rates, declining inflation, new personal income tax relief, and a surge in both public and private sector investments during the latter half of the previous year.

Puri also emphasized the importance of expanding trade partnerships to ensure India's economic growth amidst increasing protectionism globally. He noted that many countries, including the US, have introduced high tariffs and new trade barriers, creating challenges for global trade. To counter this, he advocated for India to strengthen bilateral trade deals with strategic partners, including the United States and the European Union.

"We must focus on bilateral trade agreements that benefit India's long-term interests," Puri stressed.

He further proposed the creation of a three-tier tariff framework for specific sectors to help India stay competitive in the global market and counter evolving trade dynamics.

In terms of domestic priorities, Puri highlighted the need for investments in agriculture, climate adaptation, and sustainability to drive long-term economic resilience. He also noted that while rural demand is picking up, urban consumption remains subdued but is expected to recover in the coming months.

Private sector investment is increasing in key sectors such as energy, transportation, hospitality, metals, and chemicals, although geopolitical uncertainties continue to create some hesitation among investors. However, Puri remains optimistic that with the right policies and strategies in place, India will continue to experience strong growth in the near future.

Equity Mutual Fund Inflows Drop 3.2% in April, SIPs Hit Record High

Equity mutual funds saw a slight dip in inflows in April, with a 3.2% month-on-month decline, according to the latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Inflows for the month stood at Rs 24,269.26 crore, down from Rs 25,082.01 crore in March.

The drop was seen across various segments, including small-cap funds, which experienced a 2.25% decrease in net inflows, totaling Rs 3,999.95 crore in April, compared to Rs 4,092.12 crore in March. Despite the overall decline in equity inflows, the total amount through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) reached a record high of Rs 26,631.88 crore, highlighting the resilience of long-term investment strategies.

The decline in equity inflows could be attributed to several market dynamics, including shifting investor sentiment and the overall market conditions in April. However, the record SIP inflows signal continued investor confidence in the Indian equity market, particularly among retail investors who have increasingly turned to SIPs as a way to invest in a disciplined and long-term manner.

The rise in SIP investments is particularly notable, reflecting a growing trend of financial inclusion and investor education in India. SIPs allow investors to participate in the market with smaller, regular investments, making it accessible to a broader population.

Despite the drop in overall equity mutual fund inflows, the consistency in SIP contributions demonstrates the strength of India's mutual fund industry. The trend towards SIPs suggests that investors are looking beyond short-term market fluctuations and focusing on the long-term growth potential of the equity markets.

As investor confidence continues to shift towards more structured and long-term investment avenues, equity mutual funds and SIPs will remain a significant part of the Indian investment landscape.

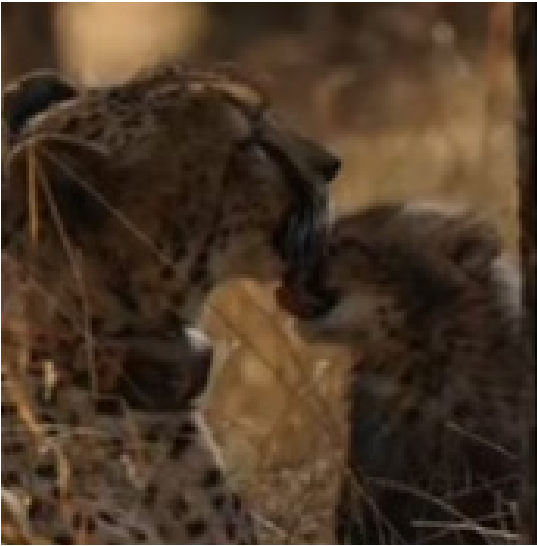


Kuno National Park Celebrates Mother’s Day With Adorable Tribute to Cheetah Moms

Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh marked Mother's Day 2025 with a touching video tribute to its cheetah mothers and their cubs, delighting wildlife lovers across the country. The heartfelt video features South African cheetahs Nirva and Veera, who have played pivotal roles in the growing success of India's ambitious Project Cheetah — the effort to reintroduce the species after its extinction in the country.

The video, shared on the park's official social media platforms, offers a glimpse into the tender moments between cheetah mothers and their young. Veera, seen calmly resting under a tree, is closely accompanied by her two three-month-old cubs. While she appears serene, her alert eyes remain vigilant, a testament to her strong maternal instinct. Nirva is seen tending to her five newborn cubs, born on April 28. These births have pushed India's total cheetah population, including cubs, to 31.

The visual also features Jwala and Asha, two other cheetah mothers who continue to nurture and train their young. Jwala, a protective mother, is seen with her four 15-month-old cubs,



guiding them as they learn to hunt and navigate the wild. Asha, meanwhile, is seen coaching her three 16-month-old cubs, teaching them vital wilderness skills to survive on their own.

“For the mom who gives without asking, always keeps us safe, and loves us no matter what—Happy Mother's Day! Tag the mom who gives you strength every day,” read the caption alongside the video, celebrating the spirit of motherhood in both the animal kingdom and human world.



Nirva and Veera, both reintroduced from South Africa, symbolize the ongoing success of Project Cheetah. Despite challenges such as cub mortality in the early stages of the program, the births of these new cubs are a hopeful sign for the project's future.

With these recent additions, Kuno National Park is fast becoming a symbol of wildlife resurgence in India. The Mother's Day tribute not only celebrated the cheetah moms but also reinforced the growing importance of conservation efforts in restoring ecological balance.

TikTok’s Dangerous ‘#ChromebookChallenge’ Sparks Fires in US Schools, Raising Safety Alarms

A new and alarming TikTok trend dubbed the “#ChromebookChallenge” is causing serious safety concerns in the United States, as students attempt to damage their school-issued laptops in a bid to gain social media attention. The challenge involves inserting metal objects like paper clips or pencils into the USB ports of Chromebooks, leading to electrical short circuits that can result in smoking devices, small fires, or even explosions.



The challenge has gained momentum on TikTok, and several school districts have already reported incidents linked to the trend. According to NBC News, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) in Maryland has reported up to 10 such cases, with students damaging Chromebooks and in some instances triggering evacuations due to smoke or fire.

“In addition to posing serious safety hazards, these actions can lead to costly repairs and disciplinary consequences,” said a PGCPS spokesperson. The district has sent out alerts to parents and staff warning them of the risks and urging vigilance.

Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) in Virginia

also noted a sharp increase in Chromebook damage and repairs, suggesting students in the area may be participating in the challenge. “Kids might see this as a joke or a harmless prank,” said Dan Adams of LCPS. “But this can turn into a really dangerous situation. Our priority is keeping students safe.”

Experts warn that the lithi-

um-ion batteries in Chromebooks are highly sensitive and can become volatile when tampered with. A short circuit or internal damage could lead to the battery overheating, releasing toxic fumes, or in worst-case scenarios, exploding. Fire officials are urging schools and families to educate students about the risks involved.

Parents are also being cautioned that they may be held financially responsible for repairs or replacements, as the Chromebooks are typically school property.

The trend has reignited the conversation around the dangers of viral social media challenges and the role platforms like TikTok play in influencing youth behavior. Authorities and educators are working to contain the spread of this trend and prevent further incidents.

Youtuber Takes on “No Sitting” Challenge for a Week, Quits on Day 5 Due to Physical Strain

Youtuber Lucas Ball, known to his followers as Pigmie, recently took on an extreme wellness challenge by attempting to stay on his feet for an entire week without sitting down. Inspired by health experts who recommend standing for two to four hours a day to combat sedentary lifestyles, Ball aimed to remain upright for 16 hours each day. However, by Day 5, he was forced to quit due to physical strain.

To kick off his experiment, Ball invested in a bamboo standing desk, which he hoped would improve his productivity while working from home. “It really helped me stay focused and avoid distractions,” he said. However, the physical toll of standing for long periods soon began to take its toll. By Day 3, Ball was experiencing soreness in his legs and feet, with his posture starting to slump. He also found himself snacking more frequently through-



out the day. “Maybe I was hungry from burning extra calories... I constantly ate throughout the day,” he admitted.

By the fifth day, the challenge had become too much. With aching legs, disrupted sleep, and noticeable posture issues, Ball decided to end the experiment early. “It looks like I’m starting to

form this slouched-over position, especially in the upper back,” he observed. While he did notice some positive changes, such as improved digestion and a 30% boost in productivity, the physical discomfort was too much to bear.

Despite quitting early, Ball reflected on the challenge's benefits. He had gained a slight improvement in his lower spine's curve but also noticed some unintended weight gain—likely due to the extra snacking. Ball stated that while he would continue standing for a few hours daily, he planned to incorporate more balance into his routine, allowing himself breaks when he started to feel fatigued.

In the end, the “No Sitting” challenge provided a reminder of the importance of moderation, even when experimenting with wellness trends.

Star Wars-Inspired Hoverbike ‘Airbike’ Unveiled With 200 Kmph Speed, Internet Amazed

In a technological leap straight out of science fiction, Polish inventor Tomasz Patan has unveiled the Airbike — a futuristic, jet-powered hoverbike capable of reaching speeds of up to 200 km/h. Developed by Patan's startup, Volonaut, the Airbike was revealed on May 4, popularly celebrated as Star Wars Day, adding to the sci-fi flair of the launch.



The Airbike is designed as a compact, single-passenger flying vehicle that promises an exhilarating ride with an unobstructed 360-degree view. Volonaut describes the Airbike as a “superbike for the skies,” powered by jet propulsion rather than traditional rotors or propellers, giving it a sleek, gravity-defying appearance.

According to the company, the Airbike is seven times lighter than an average motorcycle thanks to cutting-edge carbon fiber construction, 3D printing, and a minimalist design approach. This lightweight build, combined with its powerful propulsion system, enables the bike to achieve high speeds while maintaining agility and control.

“The unique riding position helps the pilot to quickly become one with the flying machine, delivering a sensation of complete freedom,” said the company in a statement.

While specific technical specifications remain under wraps, Volonaut revealed that the Air-

bike has just emerged from its “stealth mode” development phase. The reveal video, shared online, shows the Airbike hovering and maneuvering through test flights, leaving viewers both impressed and puzzled.

On social media, the Airbike quickly became a viral sensation. Reactions ranged from awe to disbelief. “My brain can't process what's happening—where's the rotor blade? Is it a jet engine?” one user wrote. Another commented, “The miniaturisation here is wild. This seems like magic. Way to go, Stark!”

Some, however, expressed skepticism, citing the low-resolution quality of the promotional video. “Why post such low-quality footage for something this revolutionary?” one viewer asked.

Regardless of the mixed reactions, the Airbike has ignited excitement around the potential future of personal aerial transport, with many likening it to the speeder bikes seen in the Star Wars universe.

“Pretty Crazy To Be Here”: American YouTuber Drew Binsky Stranded in Pakistan Amid Tensions

Amid escalating military tensions between India and Pakistan, American travel vlogger Drew Binsky has revealed that he is stranded in northern Pakistan near the sensitive Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) region. Sharing his current status with his followers on Instagram, Binsky assured that he is safe but described the situation as “pretty crazy.”



The well-known YouTuber, who was scheduled to fly back to the United States from Islamabad, said his plans were disrupted after Pakistan closed its airspace for all commercial flights. This came in the wake of intensifying conflict between the two countries, sparked by a series of cross-border strikes and drone attacks.

“I’m stuck in Pakistan right now due to the conflict with India, and all airports are closed,” Binsky wrote in his post. “Thanks for all your thoughts and messages – I’m doing okay! I love this country and am excited to continue exploring the Northern regions until I can get out. Make peace, not war.”

In the video, Binsky captured visuals of local protests and day-to-day life in the region, noting how surprisingly calm the locals appear despite the tension. “Shops are open... just another day in the life here,” he said, adding that people around him seemed largely unbothered.

Binsky explained that he is currently exploring the northern

areas close to Kashmir and is considering traveling overland to Kabul, Afghanistan, to catch a flight home from there, given the ongoing closure of Pakistani airports.

His situation unfolds as India carried out ‘Operation Sindoor’—a retaliatory strike on terror camps in Pakistan and PoK—after a deadly attack in Pahalgam killed 26 people. In response, Pakistan launched a wave of drone and munitions attacks along the western border, which the Indian Army said were effectively repelled.

Due to the rising hostilities, both nations have imposed heavy restrictions on air travel. India has closed 32 airports to civilian flights until at least May 15, while Pakistan has shut down its airspace entirely.

Binsky's experience offers a firsthand perspective on the ground realities in conflict zones, blending travel storytelling with the unpredictability of geopolitics.

Smriti Mandhana Slams 11th ODI Century, Climbs to Third in Women’s ODI Century-Makers List

India’s star opener Smriti Mandhana etched her name deeper into cricketing history with a sensational knock during the ODI tri-series final against Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The stylish left-hander scored a blistering 116 runs off just 101 balls, an innings decorated with 15 boundaries and two sixes. This marked her 11th century in One Day Internationals, propelling her past England’s Tammy Beaumont to become the third-highest century scorer in women’s ODI cricket.

Only Australia’s former captain Meg Lanning (15 centuries) and New Zealand’s Suzie Bates (13 centuries) now stand ahead of Mandhana in the elite list.

Mandhana’s



was a commanding display of stroke play and composure. She reached her 32nd ODI fifty in 55 balls, building momentum as the innings progressed. A standout moment came in the 31st over when Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu was taken apart by Mandhana, conceding four consecutive

boundaries as India’s total surged forward. Mandhana brought up her century in 92 balls with 12 fours and two sixes.

She shared a crucial 120-run partnership with Pratika, who contributed 30 runs. Their stand laid a strong foundation for India, taking the team

past 190 before Mandhana was dismissed in the 33rd over.

India maintained their aggressive approach, with contributions from Harleen Deol (47), Jemimah Rodrigues (44 off 29), and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (41 off 30) powering the side to a mammoth total. India ended their innings at 342/7 in 50 overs, with Deepti Sharma finishing unbeaten on 20.

This performance not only highlighted India’s batting depth but also underlined Mandhana’s consistency and growing stature in international cricket. At 28, she continues to be a pivotal figure for the Women in Blue and now holds a spot among the top three ODI century-makers in women’s cricket history.

India Clinch Tri-Nation ODI Series with Commanding 97-Run Win Over Sri Lanka

India Women capped off a dominant campaign in the Women’s Tri-Nation ODI Series with a convincing 97-run victory over hosts Sri Lanka in the final, held at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday. The star of the show was vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who hammered her 11th ODI century to power India to a massive total, while bowlers Amanjot Kaur and Sneha Rana led the charge with the ball to seal the win.



Opting to bat first, India put on a batting masterclass. Mandhana was in sublime form, crafting a brilliant 116 off 101 deliveries, an innings decorated with 15 fours and two sixes. Her knock laid the platform for a dominant Indian innings. Supporting roles came from Harleen Deol (47), Harmanpreet Kaur (41 off 30), and Jemimah Rodrigues (44 off 29), as India piled on an imposing 342/7 in their 50 overs.

Sri Lanka’s bowlers found it tough to contain India’s aggressive batting. Sugandika Kumari, Dewmi Vihanga, and Malki Madara managed two wickets each but were expensive, leaking runs at crucial stages.

In reply, Sri Lanka made a spirited start but failed to keep up with the asking rate. Cap-

tain Chamari Athapaththu top-scored with 51 runs, while Nilakshika Silva contributed 48. Vishmi Gunaratne also chipped in with 36. However, the Indian bowling unit kept chipping away at the wickets.

Sneha Rana emerged as the pick of the bowlers with a superb spell, claiming 4 wickets for 38 runs. Amanjot Kaur also played a key role with the ball, finishing with 3 for 54. Sri Lanka were eventually bowled out for 245 in 48.2 overs, falling well short of the target.

With this victory, India not only lifted the Tri-Nation ODI Series trophy but also demonstrated their growing depth and consistency in the format. Smriti Mandhana’s century and the all-round team effort capped a memorable day for the Women in Blue.

Sabalenka Fights Back to Reach Italian Open Last 16 Amid Swiatek Exit

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka showed resilience and grit as she battled back from a set down to defeat Sofia Kenin 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 on Sunday, securing her place in the last 16 of the Italian Open. The Belarusian, who has already claimed WTA 1000 titles in Miami and Madrid this season, remains in strong contention for her first crown in Rome following the shock exit of three-time champion Iga Swiatek.

Sabalenka will now face Ukraine’s Marta Kostyuk in the next round, after Kostyuk eased past Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-2. Despite a sluggish start, Sabalenka’s championship pedigree shone through as she overcame an erratic opening set and frequent backhand errors to turn the match around.

Kenin, a former Australian Open champion, capitalized on Sabalenka’s early struggles to claim the first set. Frustrated with her performance and appearing unhappy with the court conditions, Sabalenka nevertheless regained her rhythm. She broke Kenin early in the second set and held firm to level the match.

The decisive third set saw more drama as Sa-



balenka broke Kenin at the seventh attempt, only to be immediately broken back. But from there, the top seed found her composure and took control of the match, showcasing the fierce determination that has made her one of the most consistent players this season.

Elsewhere in Rome, the men’s draw continued to heat up. Carlos Alcaraz was scheduled to face Laslo Djere in the day’s final match as he chases a maiden title at the Foro Italico. The possibility of an Alcaraz vs. Sinner final remains alive, with Italian star Jannik Sinner returning in dominant fashion against Mariano Navone after serving a three-month doping suspension.

In other men’s matches, Frenchman Arthur Fils produced an impressive comeback to defeat former Rome finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. Fils may next face defending champion Alexander Zverev, who was set to take on Lithuanian qualifier Vilius Gaubas.

Daniil Medvedev also advanced comfortably, beating Alexei Popyrin 6-4, 6-1, and could face Italy’s Lorenzo Musetti, who was scheduled to play Brandon Nakashima next.

Deepika, Salunkhe Win Bronze as India Bags 7 Medals at Archery WC

India wrapped up a successful campaign at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai with a total of seven medals, capped off by bronze medal finishes from seasoned archer Deepika Kumari and rising star Parth Salunkhe in the recurve category on Sunday.



Veteran archer Deepika Kumari, a four-time Olympian, bounced back from a tough semifinal loss to claim bronze in the women’s recurve individual event. Facing Korean world No. 1 Lim Sihyeon in the semifinal, Deepika was outmatched 1-7 in a largely one-sided contest, repeating her exit at the same stage against the same opponent in Yecheon exactly a year ago.

However, the 30-year-old Indian displayed exceptional composure and tactical sharpness in the bronze medal playoff against another Korean, Kang Chae Young. After a tied first set (27-27), Deepika pulled ahead with a 28 in the second. Though Kang hit a perfect 30 to level the score at 3-3 in the third, Deepika answered back with her own flawless 30 in the fourth and closed the match with a 29 to seal a 7-3 victory.

In the men’s recurve, 21-year-old Parth Salunkhe secured his first World Cup podium finish, clinching bronze after a gritty performance. Despite a 1-7 semifinal defeat to Korean legend and top seed Kim

Woojin, Salunkhe regrouped impressively in the bronze medal match against French archer Baptiste Addis. Starting with a perfect 30, Salunkhe set the tone, though he faltered slightly in the second set with an 8 that led to a tie. The third set was evenly matched at 25-25, but Addis surged with a perfect 30 in the fourth to make it 4-4. In the final set, Salunkhe held his nerve under pressure, shooting two 10s (including an X) and a 9 to edge out Addis 6-4.

These two medals added to India’s five-medal haul from the compound archers on Saturday, including a standout triple-medal effort from Madhura Dharmangankar, taking the nation’s final tally to seven and marking a strong outing at the Shanghai leg of the World Cup series.

IPL Set to Resume on May 16 or 17; Final Likely to Be Shifted from Rain-Hit Kolkata

The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 is expected to resume on May 16 or 17 following a week-long suspension due to the India-Pakistan military conflict. With the ceasefire now in place, the BCCI and IPL Governing Council have initiated discussions with franchises, broadcasters, and host associations to finalize the remaining schedule of the tournament.

According to a reliable IPL source, the league will likely restart with the previously scheduled match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Lucknow. The final, originally slated for June 1 in Kolkata, may be relocated due to a concerning rain forecast for the day. Ahmedabad has emerged as a strong alternative venue if weather concerns



persist.

“There will be no change in venues for Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator, which are set to take place in Hyderabad,” the source confirmed. However, Delhi and Dharamsala are unlikely to host any more matches, with all equipment already removed from these locations.

The BCCI is also considering hosting the remaining 16 matches at just four venues to simplify logistics. The potential hosts include Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Lucknow. This move would mean home fixtures for Delhi Capitals, Rajasthan Royals, and Mumbai Indians could be scrapped.

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla

stated that efforts are being made to resume the IPL at the earliest, with BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia confirming that consultation with the Government of India will be a crucial step before the final decision.

The suspended match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals, abandoned midway due to security concerns, may see both teams awarded a point each. Punjab had reached 122/1 in 10.1 overs when the game was halted.

With three teams—CSK, RR, and SRH—already out of contention, the playoff race intensifies among seven teams. Gujarat Titans currently top the table with 16 points and a superior net run rate (NRR), followed by RCB, PBKS, MI, DC, KKR, and LSG.



Sudheer Babu’s Beast Mode On! Upcoming Survival Thriller Announced

Sudheer Babu is gearing up for a high-octane thriller with the popular production house People Media Factory. The actor is set to join forces with director RS Naidu for a survival thriller that promises to be packed with action, intensity, and drama. The film, titled #PMFxB, was officially announced on May 11, 2025, marking a special occasion—Sudheer Babu’s birthday.

Known for his versatility and bold choices in roles, Sudheer Babu is taking on yet another transformative character in this dark and gripping film. The announcement poster, which was unveiled to much fanfare, features a bloodied yet resolute Sudheer Babu climbing a stairway surrounded by carnage. His fierce expression and gritty demeanor suggest that this will be a film unlike anything he has done before, adding another dimension to his impressive acting career.

Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad, this survival thriller promises to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Sudheer Babu’s character seems to be entangled in a fight for survival, navigating through chaos and danger. The poster alone hints at a deep, intense storyline that will explore themes of strength, resilience, and the human spirit in the face of overwhelming odds.

Fans of Sudheer Babu are already buzzing with excitement for the film, as it marks a departure from his previous work, venturing into darker, more complex territory. The actor’s knack for embracing unconventional roles has earned him a dedicated fanbase, and this new project is expected to further solidify his status as one of the most dynamic performers in the industry.



As the production gears up, anticipation for #PMFxB is building, and Sudheer Babu’s ‘Beast Mode’ seems to be in full swing for this thrilling new chapter in his career. Keep an eye out for updates, as this survival thriller is sure to be one of the most talked-about releases in the coming months.

Vishwaksen’s Bold New Venture: #CULT – The Goat Man

Vishwaksen is back with a fresh and ambitious project, stepping into new territory with his upcoming film, #CULT. Known for his directorial prowess in films like Falaknuma Das and Das Ka Dhamki, Vishwaksen is now gearing up to push boundaries even further. This new project sees him not only taking the helm as director but also writing the story, marking an exciting new phase in his career.

Backed by Karate Raju and Sandeep Kakarala under the banners of Tarak Cinemas and Vanmaye Creations, #CULT is described as a party thriller based on real-life incidents. The film promises to be an unconventional exploration of narrative, aiming to disrupt traditional genre norms. The intriguing first look poster has already caught attention: it features a protagonist wearing a goat mask amidst a backdrop of chaotic celebrations, hinting at a story that will be eccentric, unpredictable, and full of surprises.

The film boasts a strong technical team to support Vishwaksen’s vision. #CULT features dialogues penned by Tharun Bhascker, music composed by Ravi Basrur, and cinematography by Arvind Vishwanathan. With such seasoned professionals on board, the film is expected to be a visual and auditory treat, adding depth to the thrilling storyline.

The film was officially launched at Ramanaidu Studios today, and regular shooting for the film has begun. #CULT will be



released in multiple languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Japanese, Spanish, and English, reflecting Vishwaksen’s ambition for cross-cultural storytelling and a global audience reach.

With this project, Vishwaksen is pushing the envelope once again, blending boldness, creativity, and a global outlook into a thriller that promises to captivate audiences across the world. #CULT is undoubtedly one to watch out for in the coming months.

Pradeep Ranganathan and Mamitha Baiju’s Stunning New Poster from Dude

The upcoming Pan India youthful entertainer Dude is generating excitement as Dragon Guy Pradeep Ranganathan and Premalu Beauty Mamitha Baiju team up for the first time. Directed by debutant filmmaker Keerthiswaran, the film is produced under the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers banner, promising a fresh and engaging cinematic experience.

Following the earlier release of Pradeep Ranganathan’s first look, the makers have now unveiled a dynamic new poster featuring the lead pair. The image captures the essence of youthful energy and carefree fun, with Pradeep striking a shirtless, rocking pose that radiates charm and confidence. Meanwhile, Mamitha Baiju stuns in a modern outfit and stylish sunglasses, adding a chic flair to the vibrant vibe of the poster. The duo’s chemistry is palpable, and the poster hints at an exciting on-screen pairing that fans can’t wait to see.

In addition to the lead duo, veteran actor Sarath Kumar plays a crucial role in the film, adding star power to the ensemble cast. The movie also boasts impressive technical expertise, with cinematography by Niketh Bommi,

ensuring a visually captivating experience, and music composed by Sai Abhyankkar, which is expected to elevate the film’s energetic mood.

Dude is slated for a grand Diwali release across all South Indian languages as well as Hindi, expanding its reach to a broader audience. The film’s lively vibe, fresh pairing, and promising storyline are generating buzz, and it’s set to be a treat for audiences looking for a high-energy entertainer this festive season. Fans are eagerly awaiting what Dude has to offer when it hits theaters later this year.



Pakistani Actress Mawra Hocane Dropped From Sanam Teri Kasam 2. Makers Say, “Nation First”

In a surprising turn of events, Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane has been dropped from the upcoming sequel of Sanam Teri Kasam. The decision comes after recent tensions between India and Pakistan, and reflects the broader climate of growing sensitivity in the entertainment industry.

The filmmakers, director duo Radhika Rao and Vinay Sapru, released a statement explaining their decision, citing the silence of some Pakistani actors in the wake of the terror attack in Pahalgam. The statement highlighted their disappointment with certain actors who, despite having received immense love and opportunities in India, had either remained silent or even criticized India’s legitimate steps to combat terrorism. The directors emphasized that their stance was driven by a deep commitment to supporting the Indian government and national security, with



the statement ending in the words, “Nation first and always. Jai Hind.”

The news follows earlier statements made by actor Harshvardhan Rane, who also expressed that he would not be a part of the sequel if the original cast,

including Mawra Hocane, returned. Rane, in a candid note shared on his Instagram Stories, expressed his gratitude for his past experiences but made it clear that due to the recent political climate and comments made about India, he could not participate in the project if the same cast were involved. He wrote, “After reading the direct comments made about my country, I have made a decision to respectfully decline to be a part of Sanam Teri Kasam part 2 if there is any possibility of the previous cast being repeated.”

The filmmakers’ decision has sparked widespread attention and debate, with many fans and critics weighing in on the controversy. The shift in casting marks a significant moment in the ongoing discourse surrounding cross-border collaborations in Indian cinema amidst geopolitical tensions.

Kamal Haasan Reveals Exciting Glimpse of KH237 on Anbariv’s Birthday

In a special tribute to renowned action choreographer duo Anbariv, Kamal Haasan unveiled a thrilling glimpse from his much-anticipated film KH237 on Sunday, which coincided with the birthday of the talented twins. The sneak peek, shared by the legendary Kollywood actor-filmmaker on X, offers fans an exciting preview into the high-octane, action-packed world of KH237.

Directed by Anbariv, the duo famous for their impressive stunt choreography, the glimpse showcases the film’s intense, stylized action sequences, giving viewers a taste of the adrenaline rush that KH237 promises. The action is set to be a major highlight of the movie, backed by



a pulsating soundtrack that further amplifies the excitement. While the film’s composer remains a mystery, the music perfectly complements the action-packed visuals, adding to the anticipation surrounding the project.

Anbariv, who received the prestigious National Award

for Best Stunt Choreography for their work on KGF: Chapter 1, has previously collaborated with Kamal Haasan on high-profile projects such as Vikram, Indian 2, and the upcoming Thug Life. Their collaboration on KH237 has raised expectations, as their choreography skills are widely admired for their in-

novation and intensity.

Kamal Haasan, who is also producing the film under his Raaj Kamal International Films banner, has kept fans eagerly waiting for more details. The glimpse shared today has only heightened excitement for the film, as it offers just enough to spark curiosity without revealing too much. Fans are now eagerly awaiting more updates on KH237, which is expected to be one of the most electrifying releases in the near future.

With Kamal Haasan at the helm, Anbariv directing the action, and a mystery soundtrack, KH237 is set to be an unforgettable cinematic experience.