

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 36° C

L 27° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 37° C

L 28° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 37° C

L 27° C



PM Modi To Chair Crucial NDA Meet On 25th

- Chandrababu, Pawan to attend
- PM to explain Operation Sindoor to NDA leaders
- CMs, Deputy CMs of NDA-ruled states to participate

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a crucial meeting of the NDA alliance on the 25th of this month in Delhi, with the agenda expected to revolve around the recent Operation Sindoor and its aftermath. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan are set to attend the high-level meeting alongside Chief Ministers and Deputy CMs of other NDA-ruled states.

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BSF Jawan Released from Pakistani Custody

Pakistan hands over Purnam Shah at Attari border

TPN Correspondent | Amritsar

In a significant development, Border Security Force (BSF) jawan Purnam Kumar Shah, who was held in Pakistani custody for over three weeks, has been released and repatriated to India. The handover took place at around 10:30 am on Wednesday at the Attari Joint Check Post in Amritsar, Punjab. According to an official statement by the BSF, the 40-year-old jawan, posted in Ferozepur sector, had inadvertently crossed the international border into Pakistan on April 23.

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Minister Lokesh to lay foundation stone for India's largest integrated green project on 16th

₹22,000 crore investment in Anantapur district

1800 MW solar, 1 GW wind, 2000 MW battery storage planned

RENEW POWER

To Set Up ₹22,000 Crore Energy Complex In AP

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

In a landmark development for Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy sector, Nasdaq-listed ReNew Power (world's largest clean energy portfolio - 17.4 GW!) is set to establish India's largest integrated green energy complex in Bettapalli, Guntakallu constituency of Anantapur district, with a staggering investment of ₹22,000 crore. The foundation stone for this ambitious project will be laid on May 16 by the state's Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh. This mega project marks Renew Power's return to Andhra Pradesh after a six-year hiatus. The decision follows successful discussions between Minister Lokesh and Renew Chairman Sumant Sinha during the World Economic Forum in Davos. The project will be developed in multiple phases and will include 1800 MW of solar capacity, 1 GW of wind energy, and 2000 MW of battery storage. In the first phase alone, Renew Power will invest ₹7,000 crore to establish 587 MW solar, 250 MW wind,

- Reliance – 500 CBG plants across AP with ₹65,000 crore investment
- Tata Power – 7,000 MW with ₹49,000 crore investment
- NTPC Green – Hydrogen project with ₹1.86 lakh crore investment
- Vedanta Serentika – 10,000 MW with ₹50,000 crore investment
- SAEL Industries – 1,200 MW with ₹6,000 crore investment
- Brookfield – 8,000 MW with ₹50,000 crore investment

and 415 MW battery storage facilities. Once completed, this integrated facility will be the largest of its kind in

India and is expected to significantly enhance Andhra Pradesh's clean energy capacity and grid stability. Renew, which previously operated 777 MW capacity in Andhra Pradesh, had stopped investments due to the unfavorable policies of the previous YSRCP government. However, the return of a pro-industry coalition government under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and the introduction of the Integrated Clean Energy Policy (ICE) have revived investor confidence in the state. Since the new government took charge, renewable energy projects have been flowing into the state. Minister Lokesh has actively promoted Andhra Pradesh as a green energy hub, aiming to bring in 72 GW of renewable energy over the next five years. His efforts have already attracted big names. With streamlined approvals, industry-friendly policies, and generous incentives, Andhra Pradesh is rapidly positioning itself as the country's top destination for green energy investments. The Renew Power project is expected to be a cornerstone of this transformation.



India, Turkiye Ties Headed for a Freefall

- India suspends Turkish news outlets, including Chinese Global Times
- Indian dry fruit traders and tourists cut ties with Turkiye
- Travel cancellations to Turkiye and Azerbaijan surge massively

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India's diplomatic and civil response to Turkiye's support for Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack is intensifying rapidly, pushing bilateral ties between New Delhi and Ankara into a steep downward spiral. The brutal attack, in which 26 innocent Indian tourists were killed by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists, has triggered a wave of public anger and institutional backlash across sectors. In a strong retaliatory move, India has suspended the digital presence of several Turkiye-based media outlets, including portals accused of spreading anti-India narratives. Chinese state-run media Global Times has also faced similar restrictions, following its editorial support to Pakistan's stance post-attack. Beyond media and diplomacy, the protest has spread to economic and academic sectors. Prominent dry fruit trade associations dealing in apple and apricot products across Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh have announced a boycott of imports from Turkiye, citing national solidarity and urging other trade bodies to follow suit. The academic world has not remained silent either. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has officially severed its institutional ties with a major Turkish university, cancelling academic collaborations and student exchange programs, condemning Turkiye's alignment with Pakistan as "deeply unacceptable" in the context of cross-border terrorism. Meanwhile, Indian travelers are showing their protest in a personal but impactful way — by refusing to visit Turkiye and Azerbaijan. According to travel portal MakeMyTrip, bookings to both countries have plunged by 60% in the past week, while cancellations surged by 250%. The company has removed all promotional content for Turkiye and Azerbaijan and urged citizens to avoid non-essential travel to those destinations. Nishant Pitti, founder of EaseMyTrip, reported that 22% of planned trips to Turkiye and over 30% to Azerbaijan have been cancelled on their portal. "We stand with the country in this time of grief and protest," he said, adding that bookings involving Turkiye as a layover are still being honored to avoid passenger inconvenience.

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Foreign Banks Eye Andhra Metro Projects

- Talks underway for ₹12,000 crore funding for Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam Metros
- KFW, JICA, ADB, World Bank reps inspect metro corridors
- ₹6,100 crore loan proposed for Vizag, ₹5,900 crore for Vijayawada
- Metro MD in talks for low-interest funding



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Foreign banks are showing strong interest in funding the ambitious metro rail projects proposed in Andhra Pradesh's major cities—Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (APMRC) Managing Director Ramakrishna Reddy held crucial meetings with representatives from top global financial institutions regarding the financing of these high-priority infrastructure projects.

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PM Modi To Chair Crucial NDA Meet On 25th

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This special gathering comes in the wake of India's decisive retaliatory action—Operation Sindoor—launched in response to the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. The operation, which targeted multiple terrorist camps, has drawn significant national attention and commendation from both allies and opposition parties for its swift execution and strategic effectiveness.

Sources suggest that during the meeting, Prime Minister Modi will present a detailed account of Operation Sindoor, its objectives, the execution process, and the outcomes so far. The intention is to brief the NDA leadership comprehensively, especially amid rising political criticism following the government's decision to agree to a ceasefire after the operation.

The BJP-led government plans to use the meeting to reinforce internal unity, counter external criticism, and affirm that the campaign against terrorism will continue with renewed resolve. It is expected that Modi will reiterate the government's commitment to national security and clarify that Operation Sindoor is not a one-off strike but part of a broader strategy. With leaders like Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan expected to play key roles in strengthening the alliance's national narrative, the meeting is also likely to serve as a platform to discuss coordination among NDA states and future joint political strategies.

Foreign Banks Eye...

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Representatives from KFW (Germany), AFD (France), ADB (Asian Development Bank), NDB (New Development Bank), AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank), JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), and the World Bank participated in the deliberations. The visiting teams even conducted field-level inspections of the proposed metro corridors in Vijayawada.

As per the estimates, the total cost of the metro rail projects in the two cities is expected to require around ₹12,000 crore in external funding. APMRC is targeting to raise ₹6,100 crore for the Visakhapatnam Metro and ₹5,900 crore for the Vijayawada Metro through foreign loans. The primary focus is to secure funding at low-interest rates to ensure the economic feasibility of the projects. The MD is currently in talks with these international banks, exploring favorable terms. Further discussions between these banks and the central and state governments are expected to take place soon.

With momentum building and international institutions stepping forward, the Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation is progressing swiftly toward realizing metro connectivity in both Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. The projects are seen as key to transforming urban transportation and boosting economic development in the state.

Dhanunjay, Krishnamohan Appear Before SIT

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a significant development in the AP liquor scam case, Dhanunjay Reddy and Krishnamohan Reddy—two individuals alleged to have wielded considerable power in the previous YSRCP government—appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in Vijayawada on Wednesday. Their appearance comes in compliance with orders issued by the Supreme Court, which directed them to cooperate with the probe and barred police from taking hasty action until May 16.

According to sources, both were accompanied by their lawyer, Manmadha Rao, during their appearance. The SIT officials are currently questioning them in the lawyer's presence, focusing primarily on the formulation of the controversial liquor policy, the chain of command, and decision-making origins during the tenure of the YSRCP government.

There have been persistent allegations that Dhanunjay Reddy and Krishnamohan Reddy held substantial sway over the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and Jagan Mohan Reddy's camp office,



making them influential gatekeepers. It is alleged that their clearance was essential for MLAs and ministers to get approvals for constituency-level work, leading many to believe that the liquor policy could not have been executed without their direct involvement. Their sudden appearance comes just a day after the arrest of Govindappa Balaji, who was produced before the Vijayawada ACB Court. This follows earlier arrests of Kasireddy Rajasekhara Reddy—believed to be the main mastermind—as well as Sajjala Sridhar Reddy, Chanukya, and Dilip. Reports suggest that the SIT had been actively searching for Dhanunjay and Krishnamohan in recent days. There were allegations that the duo were using their political connections to evade arrest.

Cases Ordered Against Peddireddy Family

- Pawan Kalyan acts on Vigilance DG report, directs strict action
- Criminal cases to be filed against Peddireddy family for forest land grab
- Officials who aided encroachments to face departmental action



TPN Correspondent | Chittoor

State Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment Pawan Kalyan has ordered stringent action against former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and his family members over serious allegations of encroaching forest and government lands in Chittoor district. Following a detailed report from the Vigilance and Enforcement DG, the Deputy CM has directed that criminal cases be registered against all individuals involved, including action under the Forest Conservation Acts.

The DG's report, based on a comprehensive probe, confirmed that forest lands, as well as properties belonging to the government and the histor-

ic Bugga Math, were allegedly encroached upon by the Peddireddy family. The report also highlighted the failure of certain government officials who allegedly aided or ignored these encroachments. In response, Pawan Kalyan has issued immediate orders to identify these negligent officials and initiate departmental action against them.

After reviewing the report, the Deputy CM convened a high-level meeting with senior officials of the Forest Department. During the meeting, he emphasized that no one, regardless of their past or political stature, would be spared if found guilty of violating forest and land laws. He instructed the department to act swiftly and transparently on the recommendations of

the Vigilance DG, ensuring that both the encroachers and the complicit officials are brought to justice.

Pawan reiterated the government's commitment to protecting natural resources and ensuring accountability in public administration. He asserted that the forest department must prioritize the conservation of public lands and ensure no repeat of such violations. "Action will speak louder than words. The government lands belong to the people, not the powerful," Pawan is believed to have told the officials.

This strong response from the Deputy CM marks a significant step toward enforcing environmental and legal integrity in the state, especially in politically sensitive cases.

L&T, Shapoorji Awarded Amaravati Housing Projects

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada



In a key development for Amaravati's capital infrastructure, the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (AP CRDA) has awarded housing projects to Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Shapoorji & Pallonji. At a formal ceremony at the CRDA headquarters in Vijayawada, CRDA Commissioner K. Kannababu handed over the Letters of Award (LOAs) to the two infrastructure giants. L&T has been assigned the construction of residential quarters for non-gazetted officers (NGOs), while Shapoorji & Pallonji will be responsible for building homes for gazetted officers (Type-1 and Type-2)

and Group-D staff. Commissioner Kannababu emphasized adherence to government norms and called for strict safety protocols during execution. He also urged the firms to maintain high construction standards and meet project deadlines without compromise. Engineer-in-Chief R. Gopalakrishna Reddy and senior CRDA officials were present at the event, which is seen as a crucial step in Amaravati's long-pending infrastructure push.

India, Turkiye Ties Headed for...

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The economic impact on Turkiye could be significant. In 2024, over 3.3 lakh Indian tourists visited the country, contributing an estimated \$350-\$400 million (around ₹3,000 crore) to its economy. With tourism forming 12% of Turkiye's GDP, a sharp decline in Indian tourist inflow and consumer boycotts could dent its revenue stream.

As Operation Sindoor draws global attention, India's response—marked by public outrage, trade boycotts, institutional disengagement, and digital countermeasures—is a clear signal that national sentiment is shaping a hardline stance against nations perceived to support terrorism. The India-Turkiye relationship, already tense in recent years, now stands on the edge of collapse.

YCP Kadapa Mayor Suresh Babu Disqualified

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

The opposition YSR Congress Party (YCP) suffered a major political blow as the Andhra Pradesh government disqualified Kadapa Mayor Suresh Babu, a prominent YCP leader, following serious corruption allegations and misuse of official powers.

The disqualification comes after a detailed vigilance report and a series of accusations that have surrounded Suresh Babu for several months. The government had earlier issued show-cause notices on March 24, citing his insulting behavior towards Kadapa MLA Reddappagari Madhavi Reddy and the alleged sanctioning of illegal contracts in favor of his family members.

The mayor was already under scrutiny for corruption involving approximately ₹35 lakh. This financial misconduct, coupled with his controversial political actions, hastened his removal. A significant incident that further escalated tensions occurred on



December 23, 2024, when seven YSRCP councilors shifted allegiance to the TDP. Suresh Babu's suspension of these councilors sparked a major political storm, intensifying calls for his dismissal. The coalition government, keen on establishing administrative transparency and accountability, acted swiftly after receiving the vigilance report, treating the matter as a priority.

This action marks another setback for the YCP, which has been facing a series of political shocks since losing power. The disqualification of a sitting mayor—especially in the YCP stronghold of Kadapa—is likely to have deep political repercussions as the ruling coalition tightens its grip on power and ramps up its scrutiny of previous administration misdeeds.

Girls Outshine Boys in POLYCET 2025 Results

State sees 95.36% pass rate; 100% from SC/ST candidates

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Girl students once again took the lead in the Polytechnic Common Entrance Test (POLYCET)—2025, recording a pass percentage of 96.9%, ahead of 94.38% scored by boys. Of the 1,39,840 candidates who appeared for the test on April 30, a total of 1,33,358 cleared the examination.

Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh released the results on Wednesday via social media platform X, praising the high overall pass percentage of 95.36% and congratulating successful students. "Glad to see girls fare better, raising hopes to see more women entrepreneurs and technocrats from AP," he said.

Among districts, ASR district led with a 98.66% pass rate, reflecting growing participation in technical education in remote areas. SC and ST students achieved 100% pass rate, drawing praise from officials for improved educational outreach to marginalized communities.

A total of 19 students scored full marks (120/120), with top rankers including Baddi Sasi Venkat (East Godavari), Balineni Kalyan Ram (Visakhapatnam), and Velpuri Pravalika (West Godavari). East and West Godavari districts dominated the toppers' list.

In terms of attendance, Anakapalli (94.05%), Visakhapatnam (93.76%), and Kakinada (92.56%) recorded the highest participation, while Manyam (68.99%) had the lowest. The State Board of Technical Education & Training (SBTET) congratulated all students and institutions and advised those who didn't qualify to stay encouraged. Results are available at polycetap.nic.in or via WhatsApp by sending "Hi" to 9552300009 through Mana Mitra.

Malawi Delegation Visits RTGS

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

A delegation from the southeast African nation of Malawi visited the Central Command and Control Room of the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) on Wednesday. Representatives from the Malawi National Water Resources Authority came to study the effective policies adopted by Andhra Pradesh in water resource monitoring.

As part of their visit, the delegation toured the RTGS facility. RTGS CEO Prakhar Jain welcomed the visitors and explained the functioning of RTGS. He detailed the technological services provided by the organization to ensure seamless implementation of government programs and schemes to the public. He stated that RTGS serves as a bridge between the government and the people.

He also explained how public grievances received through the grievance redressal platform are being resolved. Dwight Kambuku, CEO of the Malawi National Water Resources Authority, praised the operations of RTGS, calling it exemplary. He remarked that such a technologically advanced system, established to provide better services to the public, is a model for all. RTGS Deputy CEO M. Madhuri and others also participated in the program.

BSF Jawan Released from Pakistani...

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His unintentional incursion occurred during heightened border tensions triggered by a major terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which had claimed the lives of 26 civilians just a day earlier.

The BSF noted that the handover process was conducted peacefully and in adherence to established diplomatic and security protocols. "BSF jawan Purnam Kumar Shah, who was in the custody of Pakistan Rangers since April 23, was handed over to India at around 10:30 am through the Attari check post. The process took place peacefully as per the prescribed protocols," the statement said. The delay in Shah's return was attributed to the fallout from the Pahalgam attack, which had led to a temporary freeze in cross-border coordination between India and Pakistan. With his safe return, the BSF has expressed relief and is expected to initiate a routine medical examination and debriefing process.



Sharmila Slams BJP MP's Remarks on Army Officer

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President YS Sharmila came down heavily on BJP MP Kunwar Vijay Shah over his controversial remarks against Colonel Sophia Qureshi, a decorated Army officer who played a crucial role in Operation Sindoor. Sharmila strongly condemned the MP's religious and sexist comments, calling them not merely a slip of the tongue but a symptom of the deep-rooted corruption in the BJP's ideological mindset.

"The derogatory attack on Colonel Sophia Qureshi by BJP MP Kunwar Vijay Shah isn't just about offensive language," Sharmila said. "It exposes the corruption in the BJP's psyche. And the people who clapped in support of such statements only reinforce this dangerous mindset."

She questioned the BJP's vision of the country, asking, "Is this the 'New India' Modi and his team keep boasting about? Where respected women officers are subjected to vile communal attacks? Is this how they honour our nation's heroes?"

Sharmila stated that such incidents are not rare but symptomatic of a larger pattern in the BJP's political conduct. "This isn't an isolated episode," she said. "The BJP repeatedly camouflages hatred with nationalism and fuels communal divisions for electoral gain. They are destabilizing the social harmony of India." The APCC chief urged citizens to reject such divisive forces, warning that the BJP's politics is endangering the country's unity and democratic values.

9 Arrested in TDP Leader Veeraiah Chaudhary Murder Case

- Veeraiah Chaudhary killed with 50 stab wounds in Ongole
- Supremacy row over sand, political jealousy cited as motive
- SP Damodar: 100 teams involved in tracking accused



TPN Correspondent | Prakasam

Police have cracked the sensational murder case of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Veeraiah Chaudhary, who was brutally murdered in Ongole on the 22nd of last month. Prakasam district Superintendent of Police (SP) Malika Garg Damodar presented nine arrested individuals before the media and revealed that the motive behind the killing was a deep-rooted supremacy struggle in Veeraiah's hometown.

According to SP Damodar, four individuals directly executed the murder, inflicting around 50 stab wounds on Veeraiah. He stated that the killing was premeditated and driven by political rivalry and jealousy. A key figure behind the conspiracy was identified as Alla Sambaiiah, a Vastu Siddhanti, who allegedly masterminded the plot due to fears that Veeraiah's rising political influence would affect the future of

his nephew Suresh. Further investigation revealed that Sambaiiah was concerned about Veeraiah receiving a nominated political post and his growing popularity in the village, particularly in connection with sand-related disputes. SP Damodar explained that Sambaiiah collaborated with a man named Vinod to carry out the plot. A sum of ₹25 lakhs was reportedly spent to execute the murder.

The four individuals who carried out the murder have been identified as Vamsi Krishna, Venkata Gautam, Mannem Teja alias Bunny, and Nagaraju. The police deployed 100 teams to trace and arrest the accused involved in the case. While nine have been apprehended, SP Damodar confirmed that three others—Sambaiiah's nephew Suresh, Nagaraju, and Nani—are currently absconding. The investigation continues as police intensify efforts to track down the remaining suspects.

Turaka Kishore Removed As Macherla Chairman

TPN Correspondent | Palnadu

In a major administrative move, the Andhra Pradesh government has removed Turaka Kishore from his position as Chairman of Macherla Municipality in Palnadu district. The decision was taken following his prolonged absence from official duties and a series of serious allegations, including criminal cases.

The government cited Section 16(1)(k) of the AP Municipal Act to justify the dismissal, confirming that Kishore had failed to attend 15 consecutive council meetings, thereby neglecting his administrative responsibilities. The order was issued by Municipal Administration Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar, and the development has become a hot topic in local



political circles. Adding to the gravity of the situation, the government revealed that Turaka Kishore is currently in police custody. He had earlier received show cause notices for allegedly misusing his powers as chairman, but his failure to respond to those notices prompted the government to

take strict action. Kishore, a controversial figure during the previous YSRCP regime, had gained notoriety after allegedly attacking TDP leaders Buddha Venkanna and Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, which drew sharp criticism from the opposition. He is now facing 10 criminal cases, including three related to attempted murder, which further eroded the government's tolerance towards his continuation in office.

The state administration is expected to soon announce the process for selecting a new chairman for the Macherla Municipality. The removal of Kishore adds to the string of crack-downs initiated by the coalition government against public representatives facing serious allegations or dereliction of duty.

Zakia Khanam Joins BJP Hours After Quitting YSRCP

- Zakia Khanam quits YSRCP, Legislative Council post
- Joins BJP in presence of state chief D. Purandeshwari
- Sixth MLC to leave YSRCP in recent months

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The opposition YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh has suffered yet another political jolt, with senior leader and Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Zakia Khanam resigning from both her post and the party's primary membership. Hours after submitting her resignation to the Legislative Council through her personal staff, Khanam formally joined the BJP at its state office in Vijayawada.

Zakia Khanam was welcomed into the party by BJP state president Daggubati Purandeshwari. Draped in the BJP's signature saffron scarf, she expressed her support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance. "Modi ji is ensuring equal rights for everyone. Muslim women are being given proper assurances under his leadership," she said, praising the inclusive initiatives of the central government.

A native of Rayachoti in Annamayya district, Zakia Khanam was nominated to the Legislative Council under the Governor's quota in July 2020. Her rise within the Council culminated in her appointment as Deputy Chairperson. However, discontent with the YSRCP leadership had reportedly been brewing for



some time, ultimately resulting in her exit. With her resignation, the total number of MLCs who have left the YSRCP now stands at six, reflecting a growing sense of unrest within the party ranks. Her immediate switch to the BJP has added to the percep-

tion that the ruling party is losing grip over key members ahead of crucial political seasons. Zakia Khanam's move is being seen as a significant development in state politics, especially as parties prepare for upcoming elections and shifting alliances.



Qasim calls Kodali Nani incompetent and a betrayer

Former MLA faces heat over viral video

TPN Correspondent | Krishna

In a dramatic turn of events within the YSR Congress Party, Mohammad Qasim, the district president of the party's minority cell, has launched a scathing attack on former Gudivada MLA Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Kodali Nani). In a video that recently resurfaced on social media, Qasim accused Nani of betraying the trust of the people of Gudivada and declared his decision to step away from active politics.

In the now-viral video, believed to have been recorded during the Budameru floods in Nandivada mandal, Qasim expressed his frustration with Kodali Nani's absence during a time of crisis. "I trusted Nani and was deceived. After the elections, he disappeared. He has shown no concern for the struggles of party workers or the flood victims," said Qasim, visibly emotional.

He alleged that Nani and his close followers remained completely indifferent while the people of nearby villages suffered due to the Budameru floods. This, he claimed, proved Nani's incompetence and betrayal of public trust. Contrasting Nani's conduct, Qasim heaped praise on current Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu, highlighting his active presence during the floods and continued engagement with the public. "I once believed that Ramu would disappear after the elections. But I was wrong. I now sincerely apologize for the earlier remarks I made against him," Qasim stated.

Significantly, Qasim also used the video to announce his retirement from politics, stating that he no longer wished to be part of political affairs after witnessing such betrayal and injustice.

The video, which was reportedly recorded during the floods but remained unseen, has suddenly gone viral on social media in recent days, creating a buzz in the local political circles. Interestingly, despite the video being old, Qasim was appointed as the YSRCP Krishna District Minority Cell President in March this year, suggesting that party leadership was unaware of its contents at the time. The video's circulation now has raised questions about internal dissatisfaction and factionalism within the YSRCP in the Gudivada region, with many speculating whether Qasim's statements will lead to further internal debates or disciplinary actions.

Avinash Flags Employment Scam in Kadapa



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy has alleged large-scale irregularities in employment guarantee work under the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government, stating that the very objective of providing rural employment is being undermined. In a letter addressed to Kadapa Collector Sridhar and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday, the MP submitted detailed evidence exposing widespread financial and procedural violations.

In his letter, Avinash Reddy cited instances where the names of individuals living abroad, including in Kuwait, were found in muster rolls, falsely recorded as active workers under the employment scheme. He stated that such fake entries are being used to siphon off public funds illegally.

He further revealed that in several villages, including a major case in Kuppan Panchayat of Chakrayapeta Mandal within Pulivendula constituency, workers were forced to sign blank muster rolls. Payments were processed without any actual work being done, and a failed social audit mechanism has allowed these malpractices to persist unnoticed.

The MP accused local officials of manipulating employment data and said that political pressure is being applied to suppress these irregularities. "We are submitting proof such as forged muster entries, repeated photos of the same individual, and lists of bogus beneficiaries," he said, adding that the scandal violates both financial ethics and constitutional rights under Articles 14 and 21.

He demanded immediate suspension of the Panchayat Secretaries, Field Assistants, Technical Assistants, and other officials found complicit in the scam. Along with his complaint, Avinash Reddy has also enclosed photographic and digital evidence, media reports, and a list of suspected names to support a thorough investigation.

Retaining Wall Work Begins Along Budameru

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In a decisive move to shield Vijayawada from recurring floods triggered by the Budameru stream, Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has instructed officials to accelerate the construction of a retaining wall that connects three previously breached dams along the Budameru embankment. Accompanied by Mylavaram MLA Vasanthakrishna Prasad, Engineer-in-Chief M. Venkateswara Rao, and project engineers, the Minister visited the flood-prone areas on Wednesday and reviewed the progress of the work. He urged executing agencies to mobilize additional machinery and manpower to complete the project by June 10, in anticipation of the upcoming monsoon season. The concrete retaining wall is part of a broader effort to permanently protect Vijayawada from Budameru-induced flooding. As part of the flood mitigation strategy, the government is also preparing to expand the Budameru diversion canal's capacity to 37,500 cusecs, up from its current limits.



In addition, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being drafted for an ambitious plan to divert Budameru floodwaters from Kolleru and Upputeru regions via Enikepadu to the sea. The plan also includes a new 20,000 cusec-capacity channel, to be laid parallel to the old Budameru stream, to enhance flood diversion capacity. Minister Ramanaidu said the proposals

would be sent to the Chief Minister in coordination with the Municipal, Revenue, and Disaster Management departments. He further stated that the state would seek central assistance under the Disaster Management programme to support the implementation of permanent flood control solutions.

New Uyyuru Rural Police Station Inaugurated



TPN Correspondent | Krishna District
Uyyuru: On 14th May 2025, State Home Minister Smt. Vangalapudi Anitha inaugurated the newly constructed Uyyuru Rural Police Station in Krishna District, built at a cost of Rs. 1.30 crore. The inauguration was attended by key figures including State Minister Kollu Ravindra, Eluru Range IGP Sri G.V.G. Ashok Kumar IPS, District SP Sri R. Gangadhara Rao, Penamaluru MLA Sri Bode Prasad, and Uyyuru Municipal Chairman Vallabhaneeni Satyanarayana. The construction of the police station was initiated due to the dilapidated condition of the old building, which lacked the necessary facilities for police duties. Local



MLA Bode Prasad, along with donors Sajja Venkateswara Rao and others, contributed to the development of the modern facility, designed to resemble a corporate building. The police station spans 5750 square feet and includes a SI room, women's waiting hall, reception counter, counseling room, computer room, and lockup room. In her address, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha expressed satisfaction with the new facility, emphasizing the importance of ensuring police personnel have a comfortable working environment to serve the public effectively. She also highlighted the state's commitment to the welfare of the police force, includ-

ing the use of technology like CCTV and drones for crime prevention. District SP R. Gangadhara Rao IPS thanked the State DGP and IGP for their support and quick approval for the construction. He emphasized the importance of providing justice and maintaining a crime-free environment, especially as the public often seeks police assistance in times of need. The MLA commended the swift completion of the station, citing the district SP's ambition as key to the project's success. The new police station aims to provide better services to the community and improve the efficiency of the local police force in addressing public concerns.

Politburo Meeting Key Decisions

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) Politburo meeting held on May 14, 2025, several key decisions were announced under the leadership of National Party President Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu, State Party President Palla Srinivasa Rao, and Former Minister Kalva Srinivasulu addressed the press, shedding light on the decisions taken. The meeting strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 27 innocent pilgrims, and expressed condolences to the victims' families. A tribute was paid to former TDP legislators Palakondrayudu, Pothuganti

Peeraiah, and Veeraiah Chowdhury, who passed away recently. A resolution was also passed to hold Tiranga rallies from May 16 to 18, with the participation of TDP, Janasena, and BJP parties. On the welfare front, TDP has decided to increase the insurance coverage for workers from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, offering financial assistance to the families of workers in case of accidents. So far, Rs 9.75 crore has been distributed to 195 workers, and Rs 349 crore has been provided to over 50,000 beneficiaries under CMRF. TDP also pledged to assist workers through the Workers' Welfare Fund and finalize all party organizational elections by May's end. Minister Atchannaidu empha-

sized the completion of all committees up to the district level, along with new welfare schemes such as widow pensions for those whose husbands passed away during the previous government. Plans for a three-day Mahanadu in Kadapa from May 27 to 29 were also announced, with a public meeting on the final day. Furthermore, TDP aims to address the pending bills from water and tree works, which were not released under the previous government, and to resolve 2,887 cases filed against TDP activists. The Politburo meeting concluded with the launch of the "My TDP" app, a first-of-its-kind initiative that will allow users to access all party programs in one place.

Amaravati Needs 10,000 More Acres: Minister Narayana

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana has made significant announcements regarding land acquisition for the Andhra Pradesh capital, Amaravati. Speaking at the oath-taking ceremony of the new CREDAI Andhra Pradesh executive committee in Vijayawada on Tuesday, the minister stated that an additional 10,000 acres of land is required for the further development of the capital city. Breaking down the requirement, Minister Narayana said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed the allocation of 2,500 acres for pollution-free industries, 2,500 acres for the development of a world-class sports city, and 5,000 acres for an international airport in Amaravati. He emphasized that the land pooling process will ensure farmers do not incur any losses, as public representatives have already suggested measures to safeguard their interests. The minister also revealed that construction of 4,000 houses for government officials is underway and will be completed within a year. He assured that all necessary civic amenities and infrastructure would be provided to accommodate the officials in the capital region. Minister Narayana further stated that construction of capital roads would be completed in the next one and a half years and set a target of three years for the completion of Amaravati's iconic buildings. He expressed confidence that the real estate sector, with the support of CREDAI, would generate substantial employment in allied industries and contribute to Amaravati's growth. The program was attended by several key leaders including Minister Kollu Ravindra, MP Keshineni Shivnath, MLAs Gadde Rammohan and Bonda Uma, along with top officials and real estate developers from across the state. The state government reiterated its full cooperation with CREDAI to speed up capital development initiatives. Minister Narayana's comments come at a time when the government is actively pushing forward with its vision to revive and accelerate Amaravati's development as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.



TDP Cadre Coordination Meeting Held for Sullurpet and S. Kota Constituencies

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri
The TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, during a cadre coordination meeting held at the party's central office in Mangalagiri, emphasized the importance of continuing the vision of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for the development and welfare of the state. He called on the party leaders and workers from Sullurpet and Shringavarapukot constituencies to unite and work towards the progress of the state without any internal differences. Palla Srinivasa Rao urged that even minor issues within the party should be resolved harmoniously and brought to the attention of the party high command. He stressed that it is the responsibility of every worker to ensure the vision of Chandrababu Naidu reaches the villages and to restore the state to its developmental path after the challenges of the past four years. Sullurpet MLA Nelavala Vijayasri, Shringavarapukot MLA K. Lalitha Kumari, along with key leaders, mandal presidents, and booth-level workers participated in the meeting, which aimed at strengthening the party's presence and leadership at the grassroots level.



PM Shri ZPHS Penamalaru Celebrates SSC Triumph

TPN Correspondent | Krishna
PM Shri Zilla Parishad High School Plus (ZPHS) in Penamalaru celebrated its remarkable success in the 10th board examinations by organizing a grand graduation ceremony for its 192 meritorious students. The event marked a significant milestone for the government school, known for its dedication to inclusive and quality education. Dr. K.V. Srinivasulu Reddy, Director of Govern-

ment Examinations, who graced the occasion as chief guest, praised the vibrant spirit of the students and their emotional bond with their headmaster Durga Bhavani and the teaching staff. "This is the first time a government school has honoured the efforts of both students and their parents in such a memorable way," he remarked. During the event, Dr. Reddy awarded certi-

icates to the top three scorers. N. Tejashri, Google Champion Safaru Sanath Kumar, and R. Pavani secured the highest positions, with Sanath Kumar achieving distinction by topping the district and placing second in the State under the Children with Special Needs (CwSN) category. Notably, 55 students secured over 500 marks. Inspiring the students, RDO B. S. Hela Sharon emphasized that "there is no replacement for

hard work." The event also witnessed the participation of school education advisor Ram Kamal, Padma (Deputy EO of Vuyyuru), School Management Committee Chairperson S.K. Khairunbi, and dignitaries Kilaru Sivakumar and Lingala Bhaskararao. The celebration highlighted the school's growing reputation as a model for excellence in public education.

Gali Janardhan Reddy Seeks Additional Facilities in Jail

Convicted in Obulapuram mining scam,
serving 7-year sentence
Files petition in Nampally CBI court
seeking added facilities



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Gali Janardhan Reddy, who is currently serving a seven-year prison sentence in the high-profile Obulapuram mining scam, has approached the CBI special court in Nampally, Hyderabad, seeking additional facilities in Chanchalguda Central Jail, where he is lodged.
Through his legal counsel, Reddy submitted a formal petition requesting better amenities inside the jail premises. Though the nature of the additional facilities requested has not been disclosed publicly, the plea is now under the consideration of the court registry. A decision on whether the petition will be accepted for a formal hearing is awaited.
The Obulapuram mining case had triggered a political and legal storm in the Telugu states, drawing widespread attention. After years of investigation and legal proceedings, the CBI court found Reddy guilty of serious charges related to illegal mining operations and sentenced him accordingly.
Now, Reddy is seeking improved conditions while in custody, prompting speculation about the specific needs outlined in his request. The court will decide on the admissibility of the petition after reviewing the documents submitted.
As the matter continues to unfold, further developments are expected once the court registry finalizes its review and the case is taken up for hearing.

VIMS to Hold Walk-In for Specialists on May 29

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam
The Visakha Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS) in Visakhapatnam will conduct a walk-in recruitment drive on May 29 to fill 28 specialist doctor posts on a contractual basis, according to AP Medical Services Recruitment Board (APMSRB) Member Secretary M.V. Sasikala.
The vacancies include three positions in M.Ch Neurosurgery, ten in MD/DNB Anaesthesia, three in Hospital Administration (Medical), and two each in DM Cardiology, DM/DNB General Medicine, DM/DNB Emergency Medicine, and DM Critical Care Medicine. Additionally, one post each is available in DM Gastroenterology, M.Ch Surgical Gastroenterology, DM Endocrinology, DM/DNB Orthopaedics, and MD/DNB Pulmonology.
Eligible candidates are requested to attend the interview at VIMS, Hanumanthavaka, Visakhapatnam, between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on May 29.
For detailed information regarding qualifications and eligibility, applicants are advised to visit the official websites apmsrb.ap.gov.in and dme.ap.nic.in.

Rakesh Kiran visits each village, lauds local traditions

TPN | C Shekar Chittoor, May 15: Joint District Activity Secretary of Chittoor, T. Rakesh Kiran, toured several villages in the Satyavedu constituency and Narayanavanam mandal, where Ammavari village deity festivals are being celebrated with great fervor. During his visit, he appreciated the grandeur of the celebrations and the devotion displayed by the local communities.
Rakesh Kiran received a warm welcome from Vice-SSRCP leaders and villagers, who made special arrangements for his darshan of Ammavari. In each village, he addressed the youth, encouraging them to celebrate the festivals peacefully and responsibly.
He particularly urged the youth to avoid creating disturbances during the festivities and to maintain harmony and unity, especially while burning firecrackers during the Ammavari processions.
Local leaders and villagers expressed gratitude for his visit and support. Prominent individuals like Ashok, Dharmayya, and Varma also took part in the celebrations alongside Rakesh Kiran.



Third Cutter Work Begins at Polavaram Project

TPN Correspondent | Polavaram
The third cutter work for the diaphragm wall at the Polavaram irrigation project commenced on Wednesday in Eluru district. The Water Resources Department, in collaboration with contractors BAUER and MEIL, performed pu-



jas in the morning before beginning the new phase of work. The diaphragm wall construction, already underway with two cutters, has gained momentum with the addition of the third cutter, further speeding up the progress of the vital project. Officials from the Water Resources Department, including D Srinivas, Anil Kumar, Sriram Patel, and Nirmala, along with representatives from BAUER (Hassan, Mahidhar) and Megha Engineering (GM Gangadhar, DGM Murali Pammi), participated in the puja ceremony marking the start of this important work.

Union Minister Felicitates West Godavari Collector for Red Cross Award Recognition

TPN Correspondent | Eluru
In a gesture of high appreciation, Union Minister for Heavy Industries Bhupatiraju Srinivasa Varma felicitated West Godavari District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani at the Collectorate in Bhimavaram on Tuesday following her recent receipt of the prestigious Indian Red Cross Society's State-Level Award. Presenting her with a bouquet and shawl, the Minister praised her as "a shining example of committed and compassionate governance." He noted that her selfless service during times of crisis reflects the true spirit of public

administration, adding that such dedication strengthens people's trust in government institutions. Collector Nagarani was honored with the Red Cross award by Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, who also serves as the President of the State Red Cross Society. The award recognized her outstanding humanitarian work during the recent floods in West Godavari district. Her on-ground efforts, including traveling to affected villages under difficult conditions, coordinating sustained food relief, and contributing personally to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund—stood



out as a model of empathetic and responsive governance. Her leadership continues to earn appreciation across the state.

Favorable Climate for Industries: Purandeswari

TPN Correspondent | Hanuman Junction
Visakhapatnam MP and BJP State President Daggubati Purandeswari stated that a conducive environment has been established in Andhra Pradesh for industrial development following the formation of the new coalition government. She made these remarks while participating in the ground-breaking ceremony of Fox Apparels at Mallavalli Industrial Estate in Bapulapadu Mandal on Wednesday evening, alongside Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao.
Speaking on the occasion, Purandeswari criticized the previous government for harassing industrialists, which led many of them to leave the state. She said that the new government has reversed that atmosphere, creating a welcoming climate for industries to return and in-



vest again. She also appreciated the tireless efforts of MLA Yarlagadda in striving to make the Mallavalli Industrial Estate the best in the state. Purandeswari called upon entrepreneurs to take advantage of the pro-industry policies and establish businesses that can

generate employment for the youth.
Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao assured full support to any industrialist willing to invest in the estate. He highlighted how several investors who had earlier been driven away due to political harass-

ment have now returned. He issued a stern warning that those who had been allotted land for industrial purposes must begin operations within 18 months, failing which the government will reclaim the land.
TDP Politburo member Thondepu Dasharatha Janardhan commended Yarlagadda's commitment to constituency development, recalling how he was personally inspecting highway work even at 2 AM. He promised that any issue faced by industrialists would be resolved immediately through the intervention of MLA Yarlagadda.
Others present at the event included Women's Commission Chairperson Rayapati Sailaja, APSMAME Chairman Sivashankar, BJP leaders Chigurupati Kumar Swamy and Tummala Anjibabu, and TDP leaders Mulpuri Sai Kalyani, Dayyala Rajeswara Rao, and Putta Suresh.

Army Employee from Kadapa District Goes Missing

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa
The disappearance of Byreddy Nagarjuna Reddy, an army employee from Mudireddy Palli village in Kalasapadu mandal, Kadapa district, has raised concerns among his family. Nagarjuna Reddy, who had taken leave from the army in February, had returned home to his village and left on April 1, telling his family that he was heading back to resume his duties.
However, on Wednesday, the army contacted his father, Narayana Reddy, informing him that Nagarjuna Reddy had failed to report for duty. The family, deeply worried, is seeking answers as to why he didn't return to his designated location or come home.
Nagarjuna Reddy works at the Range Army Office in Uttarakhand. The Kalasapadu police have filed a missing person case and have launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his disappearance.

Three Dead After Drowning in Pond



TPN Correspondent | Bhimadolu
Bhimadolu: A tragic accident occurred on Wednesday at Chinalingampadu in Bhimadolu Panchayat, where three young men drowned in a pond while attending an auspicious event. The victims, all friends from Vegiwada in Pedavegi Mandal, had visited Komatikunta pond in the afternoon for a cultural performance. During the event, three of them—Ajay, Sagar, and Abhilash—slipped into the water. The remaining two tried to rescue them but were unsuccessful. Villagers were alerted and quickly arrived at

the scene. Bhimadolu CI U.J. Wilson, SI Sudhakar, and ASI Chalapathi Rao, along with their team, launched a search operation. The bodies of the three men were recovered and brought to Bhimadolu Community Health Centre, where doctors declared them dead.
The victims include Netala Ajay, a married man with two children, and two unmarried men, Netala Sagar and Chokka Abhilash. The bodies were sent to Eluru Government Hospital for post-mortem. SI Sudhakar, under the guidance of CI U.J. Wilson, has registered a case, and an investigation is underway.

The Truth Behind the Kashmir Imbroglia: A Tragic Legacy of Betrayal by Nehru

Nehru’s True Agenda Wasn’t Peace
It Was Dismantling Monarchy and Targeting a Dogra king Raja Hari Singh

The Kashmir issue has festered for over seven decades, draining India’s military, economic, and emotional resources. While mainstream discourse blames Partition and Pakistani aggression, one uncomfortable truth is often ignored: the seeds of the Kashmir crisis were sown by the personal ambitions—and vendetta—of India’s first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, against Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir.

This wasn’t merely a political miscalculation. It was a personal feud, masked by diplomacy, but devastating in its consequences for India’s unity and national security. Nehru’s objective was not peace—it was power. He was determined to dismantle the monarchy and erase the authority of Maharaja Hari Singh, a proud and independent Dogra ruler who refused to bow to Congress pressure. Nehru, who lacked genuine grassroots support even in his home region and had lost the internal party race for Prime Minister to Sardar Patel, owed his elevation solely to Mahatma Gandhi’s backing. Once in power, Nehru set about empowering his political ally Sheikh Abdullah and undermining the Dogra monarchy. The move to the United Nations provided him the perfect excuse to do both.

A Lawful Accession Betrayed

On 26 October 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession, legally integrating Jammu and Kashmir with the Dominion of India. This



HOW PM NEHRU DELAYED KASHMIR'S ACCESSION TO INDIA

was the same legal framework under which over 500 princely states joined the Union. Facing an invasion by Pakistani-backed tribal raiders, the Maharaja acted under duress, but his decision was both sovereign and final. The Indian Army responded swiftly under Operation Gulmarg, pushing back the invaders and nearing full reclamation of the territory. There was neither military nor legal compulsion to internationalize the issue. Nehru’s Unilateral Blunder: Why the United Nations? Yet in January 1948, Nehru unilaterally took the matter to the United Nations—not as a case of Pakistani invasion, but as a “dispute” between two countries. This redefined the status of Kashmir forever, handing Pakistan a diplomatic foothold it had not earned.

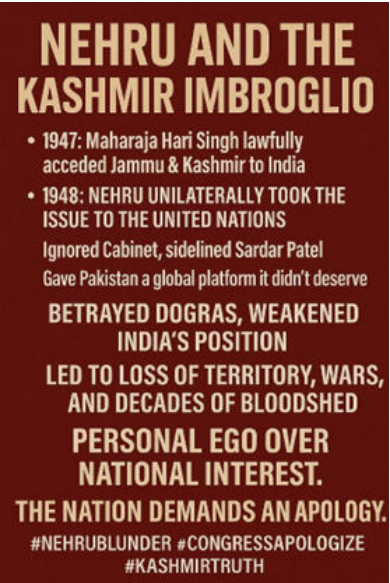
Why?

Why did Nehru act without Cabinet consensus, without military counsel, and even reportedly against the advice of Sardar Patel and other senior leaders? It wasn’t a strategic necessity. It wasn’t done under external



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh
Author, Former National consultant for NRHM, Ministry of Health, Govt of India

pressure. It was a political decision—driven by ego and personal rivalry. By internationalizing the issue, Nehru diluted the legal accession, weakened India’s position, and opened the door to global interference—all without cause. At the time, the Indian Army was gaining ground. Military experts and Cabinet members believed the entire territory—including what is today Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)—could have been



recovered. Nehru’s ceasefire halted this progress permanently.

Nehru’s Grudge Against Maharaja Hari Singh

At the heart of Nehru’s decisions lay a deep personal animosity toward Maharaja Hari Singh. As a Dogra ruler, Hari Singh was popular in Jammu and respected even in the Valley. He remained politically independent and refused to be dictated by Congress. Nehru, despite his Kashmiri ancestry, had no political base in the region and deeply resented the Maharaja’s autonomy. Instead, Nehru backed Sheikh Abdullah and the National Conference—a party with limited credibility beyond the Valley. This calculated alliance was not about national integration; it was about political consolidation and punishing a monarch who refused to yield. The sidelining of the Maharaja and the elevation of Sheikh Abdullah was a deliberate power shift, ex-

ecuted not in national interest but to fulfill Nehru’s personal vision.

Catastrophic Consequences of Nehru’s Political Play Nehru’s decision had far-reaching consequences:

- *PoK was created due to a premature ceasefire and the UN resolution.*
- *An internal, legal matter became an international dispute.*
- *Kashmir’s full integration was delayed by decades.*
- *Separatism and communalism were emboldened by the power vacuum left by the Maharaja’s removal.*
- *The Dogra community was politically and culturally marginalized.*
- *Central interference and dynastic politics took root in J&K, haunting the state until Article 370 was abrogated in 2019.*

Most tragically, India was forced into a defensive posture—militarily and diplomatically—for generations to come, all due to one man’s reckless agenda. Nehru’s “Statesmanship”: Image Over Integrity Nehru is hailed as an “international statesman.” But in Kashmir, he chose image over reality. By appealing to the UN, he won international praise but sacrificed India’s strategic advantage and weakened its sovereignty. Many believe that had Sardar Patel handled Kashmir—as he did Hyderabad, Junagadh, and the rest of the princely states—the issue would have been re-

solved swiftly and permanently.

Can Nehru’s Political Conspiracy Ever Be Forgiven?

The people of India—especially those from Jammu and Kashmir—continue to bear the burden of Nehru’s actions. His decision to go to the United Nations was no act of noble diplomacy. It was a historic betrayal rooted in ego and vendetta. The insurgency, the bloodshed, the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, and the internationalization of India’s internal affairs—all trace back to that single, reckless move.

History must not be whitewashed. The nation must confront Nehru’s role in creating the Kashmir imbroglio. Forgiveness requires truth—and truth demands accountability.

Congress Must Apologize for Nehru’s Historic Blunder

The Congress Party owes India a formal, unequivocal apology for the political disaster engineered by its tallest leader. Nehru’s missteps cost India tens of thousands of lives, triggered multiple wars, displaced its own citizens, and kept Kashmir in perpetual turmoil. If the Congress Party wants to be taken seriously on national unity and historical justice, it must start by acknowledging this truth and issuing a public apology for Nehru’s Himalayan blunder. Anything less is a continued betrayal—of the Dogras, of the Kashmiri Pandits, and of India itself.

Operation Sindoor: India’s Bold Message Under Modi Doctrine Redraws the Line on Terror



In a stunning military operation that has altered the regional balance and sent shockwaves through Pakistan, Operation Sindoor has emerged as a defining moment in India’s modern strategic history. Launched on the night of May 7, 2025, the precision strike marked a seismic shift in India’s approach to cross-border terrorism, making it clear that New India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will no longer tolerate provocations with silence.

Operation Sindoor was not just a retaliatory move—it was a strategic recalibration. Indian Air Force strike packages targeted eleven major Pakistani airbases, from Kamra to Jacobabad, systematically crippling their operations. Key runways were destroyed, aircraft shelters were breached, and emergency response capabilities were rendered ineffective. This display of air superiority and surgical precision left Pakistan’s military scrambling for cover and exposed the vulnerability of their so-called “fortified” air defence.

But the operation didn’t stop there. India also struck deep into the heart of Pakistan’s terror infrastructure, targeting notorious hubs in Muridke (Lashkar-e-Taiba HQ) and Bahawal-

pur (Jaish-e-Mohammed stronghold). These sites, once believed to be untouchable, were hit with devastating accuracy. India’s message was crystal clear: those who harbor or sponsor terror will face direct consequences—regardless of borders. In his national address on May 12, Prime Minister Modi laid out a new doctrine of zero tolerance. He announced that any future terror attack linked to Pakistani soil would result not just in retaliation, but in open military action against the Pakistani state. This marked a definitive end to India’s long-held policy of strategic restraint.

Pakistan’s attempts to invoke nuclear threats were met with composure and resolve. Rather than backing down, India intensified strikes in broad daylight, calling Pakistan’s bluff and signaling to the world that India would not be intimidated by empty threats.

Operation Sindoor has redefined India’s security doctrine and reshaped the regional power dynamic. It was more than an operation—it was a message written in fire: India will defend itself, decisively and without hesitation. The old rules are gone. The new red line has been drawn.

The Story Of '3 Brothers' And Why Azerbaijan Is Cheering For Pakistan

In the latest fallout from Operation Sindoor, Azerbaijan’s vocal support for Pakistan has added a surprising geopolitical twist. While India and Azerbaijan share strong trade ties — India was the third-largest destination for Azerbaijan’s crude oil exports in 2023, worth over \$1.2 billion — Baku’s sharp condemnation of India’s military action and its pro-Pakistan stance reveal a deeper alignment shaped more by ideology and strategic alliances than economics.

In a statement following India’s strikes on terror hubs in Pakistan after the April 22 Pahalgam attack, Azerbaijan’s Foreign Ministry expressed “solidarity with Pakistan” and condemned India’s actions, claiming civilian casualties. Since then, Azeri state-controlled media has relentlessly pushed anti-India rhetoric, accusing New Delhi of “water terrorism” and falsely alleging India engineered the Pahalgam attacks to scrap the Indus Waters Treaty.

Why this hostility from a country that trades heavily with India? The answer lies in the post-2020 geopolitical realignment involving Azerbaijan, Tur-

key, and Pakistan—a grouping now referred to as the “Three Brothers.” Their relationship was cemented during Azerbaijan’s 2020 war with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, where Pakistan offered unconditional support and allegedly even mercenaries.

India, in contrast, maintained a neutral stance but later began supplying military hardware to Armenia, including the Swathi radar, Pinaka rocket systems, and Akash-IS air defence missiles. This has infuriated Baku, especially as Armenia continues

Azerbaijan’s warnings to India have been frequent. President Ilham Aliyev has openly objected to Indian arms exports to Armenia, calling them a threat to Azerbaijani national security. Meanwhile, Turkish and Pakistani influence in Baku’s strategic thinking has grown significantly.

Azerbaijan’s support for Pakistan during Operation Sindoor is thus not rooted in religious solidarity or shared history alone, but in a broader geopolitical calculus. As India deepens its ties with



to strengthen its defences amid rising tensions. Ironically, Azerbaijan, which has mocked Indian defence products publicly, had previously expressed interest in procuring Indian weapons itself.

Armenia, and Azerbaijan draws closer to Turkey and Pakistan, Baku’s antagonism appears to be more about alliances than logic — and India must now navigate this complex diplomatic terrain carefully.



Justice B R Gavai Sworn In as 52nd Chief Justice of India

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The oath of office was administered by President Droupadi Murmu at a formal ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Justice Gavai succeeds Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who retired on May 13 after a brief tenure as CJI. Justice Gavai will serve in the top judicial post until his retirement on November 23, 2025.

His elevation to the position of CJI marks a significant moment in the judiciary, as he becomes only the second Dalit to hold the office of Chief Justice of India, after former CJI K G Balakrishnan. His appointment is being seen as a historic moment for representation and diversity in the country's top court.

Justice Gavai was appointed to the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019. Since then, he has served on several Constitution benches and has been involved in delivering key rulings on constitutional and legal matters. He is known for his balanced judicial approach and deep understanding of constitutional principles.

Born in Maharashtra, Justice Gavai enrolled as an advocate in 1985 and began practicing in the Bombay High Court. He served as a judge of the Bombay High Court for over 15 years before his elevation to the Supreme Court. His legal career spans decades of experience in civil, constitutional, and service law.

During his tenure as a Supreme Court judge, Justice Gavai has been part of several landmark judgments involving issues such as fundamental rights, election laws, and federalism. He is also known for his clarity in reasoning and accessibility in court proceedings.

Legal experts and the wider legal fraternity have welcomed his appointment, citing his judicial integrity and wide-ranging experience. As CJI, Justice Gavai is expected to oversee several crucial constitutional cases and administrative reforms in the judiciary.

With major pending issues on the docket, including electoral reforms, the functioning of tribunals, and challenges to key legislative changes, Justice Gavai's leadership is anticipated to shape the legal discourse in the coming months.



Neeraj Chopra Conferred Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Rank in Territorial Army

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Olympic gold medalist and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been awarded the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army, according to an official notification issued by the Ministry of Defence on May 13, 2025.

The announcement marks a significant recognition for Chopra's athletic achievements and his service to the nation as both a sportsperson and a soldier. The 27-year-old athlete, who hails from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana, becomes one of the few Indian sportspersons to receive this honor. His appointment is effective from April 16, 2025.

Before receiving the honorary commission, Neeraj Chopra served as a Subedar Major in the Indian Army. It is reported that he was slated for retirement this year. The notification stated, "...in exercise of the powers

conferred by Para-31 of the Territorial Army Regulations, 1948, the President is pleased to confer Honorary Rank of Lieutenant Colonel in Territorial Army on Ex-Sub Maj Neeraj Chopra, PVSM, Padma Shri, VSM..." Chopra rose to national and global fame after securing a gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, becoming the first Indian to win an Olympic medal in athletics. He followed up this historic achievement with a silver medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics and clinched gold at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, further cementing his status as one of the greatest javelin throwers in the world.

In 2024, he was named the world's best male javelin thrower by a leading U.S. track and field magazine. He has also been honored with prestigious civilian and military awards, including the Padma Shri, Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM), and Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM).

PM Modi Chairs High-Level Security Meeting Amid India-Pakistan Tensions

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in New Delhi on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, to review the national security situation in light of escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. The meeting was followed by a session of the Union Cabinet, and a formal briefing is expected later in the day.

The CCS meeting comes shortly after a fresh diplomatic stand-off between the two nations. On Tuesday, India declared a Pakistani staff member at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi persona non grata, citing "activities not in keeping with his official status." In a tit-for-tat move, Pakistan expelled an Indian High Commission official in Islamabad on similar grounds.

Tensions have been running high since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which killed several Indian security personnel. In response, India launched Operation



Sindoor on May 7, targeting nine terror infrastructure sites deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The surgical strikes were widely seen as one of India's most assertive military responses to cross-border terrorism.

In parallel developments, the chiefs of India's armed forces — Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi — met President Droupadi Murmu at Rash-

trapati Bhavan on Wednesday. During the briefing, the President was apprised of the execution and outcomes of Operation Sindoor. President Murmu lauded the Armed Forces for their courage and professionalism, calling the operation a "sterling success" in India's ongoing fight against terrorism.

Addressing the nation on May 12, PM Modi reaffirmed India's evolving doctrine on cross-border terror. "After the surgical strike in 2016 and the air strike in 2019, Operation Sindoor reflects India's unyielding policy against terrorism," he said.

In a significant diplomatic shift following the attack, the Indian government also moved to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960 with Pakistan, citing national security interests.

The meeting and the developments underscore a sharply intensifying phase in India-Pakistan relations, with strategic, military, and diplomatic consequences playing out in real time.

MP HC Orders FIR Against Minister for 'Gutter Language' Remarks on Col Sofia Qureshi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a scathing rebuke, the Madhya Pradesh High Court on Wednesday ordered the registration of an FIR against state minister Vijay Shah for making "scurrilous" and derogatory remarks against Indian Army officer Colonel Sofia Qureshi. The court described Shah's language as "language of the gutters" and stated that it had no choice but to take suo motu cognisance of the minister's inflammatory comments.

The division bench comprising Justices Atul Shridharan and Anuradha Shukla directed the state police to file the FIR under several sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Section 152 (acts endangering sovereignty and integrity of India), 196(1)



(b) (promoting enmity between groups), and 197(1)(c) (statements likely to cause enmity and hatred). The court mandated that the FIR be registered by 6 p.m. on Wednesday and warned that failure to comply could lead to contempt proceedings against the state's Director General of Police (DGP).

The controversy erupted after Vijay Shah, a senior BJP leader and Madhya Pradesh's Tribal Affairs Minister, made highly objectionable remarks against Colonel Qureshi at a public gathering in Ramkunda village near Indore. In his speech, Shah appeared to link Colonel

Qureshi to terrorism by calling her a "sister of terrorists," sparking widespread outrage.

Colonel Qureshi has recently been in the national spotlight for her role in briefing the media on 'Operation Sindoor'—a high-profile counter-terror operation carried out by Indian armed forces in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. She appeared alongside Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, underscoring her key role in military public affairs.

The High Court, while issuing its directive, underscored the sanctity of the armed forces, stating, "The armed forces are perhaps the last institution in this country that reflect integrity, discipline, sacrifice, and honour."

Pakistan Hands Over BSF Jawan To India After 21 Days

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Pakistan on Wednesday repatriated Indian Border Security Force (BSF) Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw, who had been detained by Pakistan Rangers after accidentally crossing the International Border on April 23, 2025. Shaw was handed over to Indian authorities at the Attari-Wagah border around 10:30 a.m., following sustained diplomatic and security-level efforts.

In an official statement, the BSF's Punjab Frontier Public Relations Office confirmed the successful return of Constable Shaw. "Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw, while on operational duty in the Ferozepur sector, inadvertently crossed into Pakistani territory around 11:50 a.m. on April 23 and was detained by Pakistan Rangers," the statement read. "His repatriation was made possible through consistent efforts involving regular flag meetings and formal communication channels with Pakistan Rangers."

Shaw, who hails from Hooghly in West Bengal, had been at the center of growing concern, with leaders across political lines urging the government to ensure his swift and safe return. On May 5, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee voiced her concern, calling the situation "extremely



unfortunate." She acknowledged that senior Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee was in touch with Shaw's family. "We stand with the central government on all matters of national security," she had stated, adding that political divisions should not exist on such sensitive issues.

The BSF emphasized that such incidents highlight the operational challenges faced by personnel guarding the India-Pakistan border, one of the most sensitive and volatile frontiers in the country. The 3,323-km-long border, spanning Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat,

is constantly monitored for infiltration attempts, smuggling, and other cross-border threats. Following the incident, the BSF issued fresh advisories, urging its troops to remain extra vigilant during patrols, particularly in high-tension areas like the Ferozepur sector.

The timely resolution of the issue has brought relief to Shaw's family and the BSF, with the force reiterating its commitment to the welfare and safety of its personnel. His return is seen as a diplomatic success in an otherwise tense bilateral environment between India and Pakistan.

Ready to begin talks on French nuclear weapons in European countries: Macron

TPN Correspondent | London

In a significant shift in European defense posture, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, that France is “ready to open” discussions about deploying its nuclear weapons in other European countries. His remarks come amid rising concerns over European security, especially in light of the Trump administration’s reduced commitment to underwriting the continent’s defense and growing threats from Russia.

Speaking in a televised interview with TF1, Macron was responding to recent statements made by Polish President Andrzej Duda, who in April expressed interest in hosting both American and French nuclear weapons on Polish soil. Macron stated that France was open to the idea, but emphasized that such deployment would be governed by strict conditions and require broader European consensus.

“Let’s be clear, France will not pay for the security of others. It can be a European effort or the effort of each nation,” Macron said, outlining the first of three core conditions for any nuclear sharing ar-

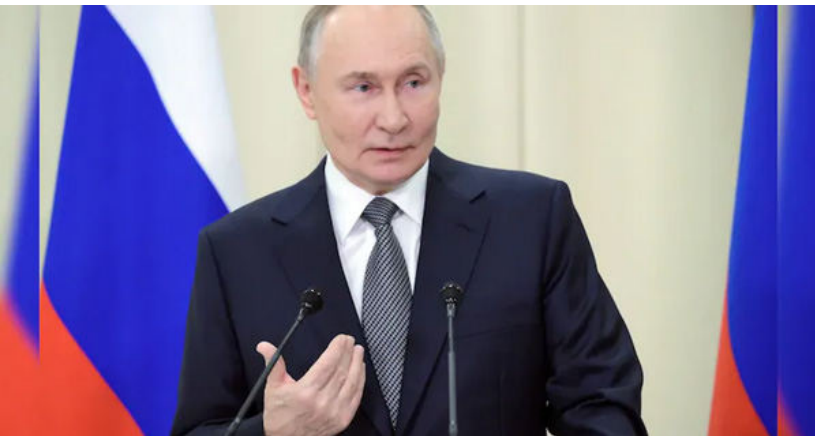


rangement. The second condition is that the relocation of nuclear weapons must not compromise France’s own strategic deterrence capabilities. Finally, Macron made it clear that the authority to use any such weapons would remain solely with the French President.

Macron’s remarks indicate that preliminary discussions on the subject have already begun. He confirmed that he

had held talks with Germany’s newly sworn-in Chancellor, Friedrich Merz, during the latter’s recent visit to Paris. Chancellor Merz had also called for deeper discussions on nuclear deterrence involving France and the United Kingdom — the only two nuclear-armed countries in Europe — as part of a broader strategy to reinforce Europe’s defense in coordination with the United States and NATO.

Currently, American nuclear weapons have been stationed in Europe since the 1950s under a NATO nuclear sharing agreement, with gravity bombs stored in countries such as Italy, Germany, Belgium, Türkiye, and the Netherlands. France’s potential move to share its nuclear arsenal could represent a strategic realignment and bolster Europe’s autonomous defense capabilities at a time of shifting geopolitical alliances.



Putin Claims Ukraine "Catching Men Like Dogs", Russians Joining Army "Willingly"

TPN Correspondent | Russia

During a meeting with the ‘Business Russia’ organization on May 13, 2025, Russian President Vladimir Putin sharply criticized Ukraine’s military recruitment methods, asserting that Ukrainian authorities were forcibly conscripting men from the streets like “dogs.” He contrasted this with Russia’s reliance on voluntary enlistment, claiming that tens of thousands of Russians were willingly joining the military, presenting this as a sign of high morale and national support for the war effort.

Putin’s comments aimed to portray Ukraine’s military recruitment as disorganized and unpopular, while emphasizing that Russia’s forces were composed of volunteers. He stated, “If the Kiev authorities are conducting forced mobilisation—catching people like dogs in the streets—here, our guys are volunteering; they come on their own. They’re currently catching about 30,000 there, while here, 50-60,000 come on their own every month,” according to the Russian News Portal. Ukraine began a general mobilization in early 2022, barring most men aged 18 to 60 from leaving the country and setting the conscription age limit at 27. In response to significant military losses and shortages, the Ukrainian government lowered the conscription age to 25 and introduced harsher penalties for draft evasion. As the conflict has escalated, mobilization efforts have become more chaotic and aggressive, with videos circulating online of Ukrainian enlistment officers, often accompanied by police, chasing down potential recruits in the streets and using force to drag them into service.

The term “busification” has come to describe this process, referring to the violent manner in which recruits are packed into minibuses for transportation to military training. Critics have highlighted the brutality and coercion behind these efforts, painting a picture of desperation within Ukraine’s military ranks. Putin’s comments, aimed at contrasting the two countries’ military approaches, serve to underline the ongoing propaganda battle surrounding the war and recruitment efforts in both Russia and Ukraine.



Anita Anand's Appointment as Canada's Foreign Minister

Will She Bridge the India-Canada Divide?

TPN Correspondent | Toronto

Anita Anand’s appointment as Canada’s first Hindu Foreign Minister has garnered significant attention, particularly in light of strained India-Canada relations following the assassination of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in 2023. Anand, a Canadian of Indian descent, was sworn in with the Bhagavad Gita, marking a historic moment in the country’s politics. Her appointment is celebrated by the Hindu community in Canada, as she is seen as a source of inspiration. However, her stance on the Nijjar case and the tensions between Sikh and Hindu groups in Canada make her role more complex.

Anand, who has held several key ministerial positions, including Minister of National Defence, has been at the forefront of shaping Canada’s Indo-Pacific Strategy. This experience positions her to potentially strengthen India-Canada relations, particularly in trade, security, and immigration, areas of shared interest. However, resolving contentious issues like the Khalistani movement may prove more challenging. In 2023, she supported statements condemning anti-India posters targeting Indian diplomats, which may not sit well with pro-Khalistani groups, who seek justice for Nijjar’s killing.

While Anand’s appointment could symbolize a new chapter for Indo-Canada relations, her approach to the Khalistani issue will be crucial. Canada’s large Sikh diaspora, with significant influence in domestic politics, complicates this matter. Anand’s ability to navigate these pressures while maintaining diplomacy will be key to determining her success in mending ties between the two nations.

The geopolitical landscape is also shifting, with Canada’s focus on diversifying international partnerships, especially with the Indo-Pacific region, which aligns with India’s strategic interests. Anand’s heritage and political acumen could pave the way for improved relations, but addressing the Khalistani issue and the Nijjar case will be vital.

Bangladesh calls for regional economic plan with India's Northeast, Nepal, Bhutan

Bangladesh’s Chief Adviser, Muhammad Yunus, has called for a comprehensive regional economic strategy involving India’s northeastern states, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. He emphasized the importance of regional collaboration, particularly in sectors like hydropower, healthcare, and road connectivity, highlighting that the countries stand to benefit more together than separately.

During a meeting with Indira Rana, the Deputy Speaker of Nepal’s House of Representatives, Yunus stressed the need for an integrated economic plan for Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and India’s northeastern states, collectively referred to as the “Seven Sisters.” One of the key areas of discussion was energy cooperation, specifically regarding



hydropower. Yunus and Rana reviewed the Bangladesh-Nepal-India tripartite agreement signed in October 2024, under which Bangladesh imports 40 MW of power from Nepal through Indian transmission lines. Both parties agreed that there is potential for scaling up hydropower projects in the region.

Yunus also announced Bangladesh’s commitment to improving healthcare access for neighboring countries. He

highlighted the construction of a new 1,000-bed hospital in Rangpur, which will be open to patients from Nepal and Bhutan. “We believe in regional health security and shared prosperity,” Yunus remarked, underscoring the importance of regional cooperation in improving public health.

Rana expressed Nepal’s eagerness to strengthen bilateral ties with Bangladesh, noting the presence of over 2,700 Nepali students in Bangladesh,

particularly in medical colleges. She called for more educational exchanges and academic collaborations between the two countries.

Additionally, both sides discussed the need for improved road connectivity to reduce trade costs and facilitate the movement of goods and people across the region.

Yunus’s recent comments on India’s northeastern states, particularly during his March visit to China, have stirred controversy. He proposed that China could help expand its economic presence in Bangladesh, suggesting that India’s northeastern states could become an extension of China’s economic influence. This remark was met with criticism from Indian leaders, concerned about China’s growing influence in the region.

tary campaign there.

Trump, speaking on Tuesday, noted that the Houthis had pledged to cease disrupting key shipping lanes in the Middle East, a significant development for international trade and regional security. In retaliation, Israel has conducted numerous airstrikes on Houthi targets in Yemen, marking an escalation in the ongoing conflict that has drawn in multiple international players.

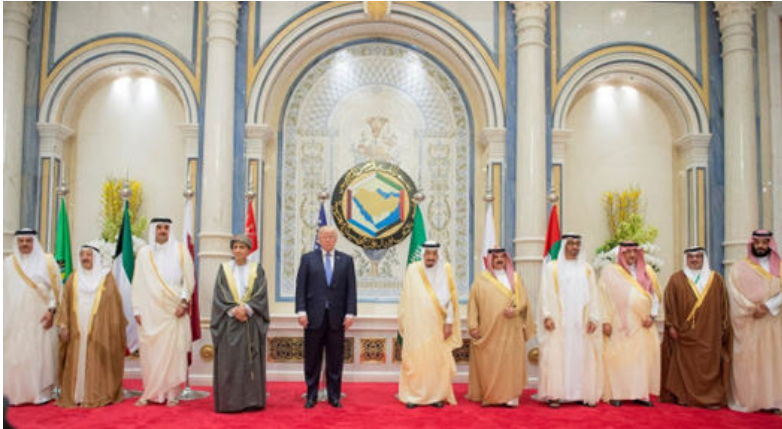
The continued missile threat from the Houthis highlights the complex geopolitical dynamics in the region, with Israel’s security concerns intertwined with broader Middle Eastern conflicts and the strategic interests of global powers, including the U.S.

Israel Issues Evacuation Warnings as Houthi Missile Threatens Ports Amid Trump’s Gulf Visit

TPN Correspondent | Israel

Israel issued evacuation warnings for three major seaports in Yemen after missile fire from the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels targeted the region. The missile launch occurred during U.S. President Donald Trump’s visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, raising tensions in an already volatile area.

The Israeli army reported that the Houthi group had targeted the Ras Issa, Hodeidah, and Salif ports, all of which are believed to be used by the Houthis for military and logistical operations. Israel also confirmed that it had intercepted a missile launched from Yemen toward its territory. This escalation fol-



lows a pattern of attacks by the Houthis, who have been launching missiles, drones, and targeting vessels in international shipping lanes.

Trump had initiated a more aggressive military campaign against Houthi strongholds in Yemen starting on March 15. He subsequently agreed to a ceasefire deal medi-

ated by Oman, which aimed to halt hostilities between the Houthis and a coalition of forces, although the Houthi is stated that the agreement did not include Israel. Despite this, the Houthis continued to target Israel and disrupt global shipping, framing their actions as a form of solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza amid Israel’s ongoing mili-

Markets End Higher Amid Global Cues and Inflation Relief; Nifty Nears 24,800, Sensex Gains 182 Points

Domestic stock markets closed with moderate gains on Wednesday. The indices initially rose on mixed signals from global markets. Investors took profits and diverted investment to China as tensions with the US eased. They recovered on the back of falling inflation, expectations of interest rate cuts and a stronger rupee. In the end, the Nifty rose by 88 points and the Sensex by 182 points. The India VIX also calmed down somewhat.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,148 in the previous session, opened at 81,278 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 80,910. It reached an intraday high of 81,691. It finally closed at 81,330 with a gain of 182 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,613, touched a low of 24,535 and a high of 24,764. It closed at 24,767, up 88 points. The Nifty Bank rose 139 points to settle at 54,801.

In the Nifty50, 38 companies gained while 12 lost. Tata Steel, Shriram Finance, BEL, Hindalco, Tech Mahindra were the top gainers. Asian Paints, Cipla, Kotak Bank, Tata Motors, Power Grid were the biggest losers. Metal, realty, IT, media, oil, auto, health-care, pharma, consumer durables indices rose. Private bank and finance indices rose marginally.

The market breadth is completely in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of a total of 2960 stocks traded, 2183 gained and 694 lost. 61 shares reached their 52-week high and 13 shares reached their 52-week low. 200 shares touched the upper circuit and 30 shares touched the lower circuit.



cuit.

The rupee strengthened by 7 paise to settle at 85.27 against the dollar. NIIT's Q4 net profit fell 10.6% to Rs.48.7 crore from Rs.54.5 crore. CLSA has given an outperform rating to Bharti Airtel with a target price of Rs.2030 and GAIL with a target price of Rs.210. It is noteworthy that Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to Aditya Birla Capital with a target price of Rs 250. CLSA has given an outperform rating to Tata Motors with a target price of Rs 805. The cabinet has approved the HCL-Foxconn JV for the semicon plant. Sree Cement's net profit fell 16% to Rs 556 crore from Rs 662 crore. Ariyan Pro Solution's consolidated profit rose 30% and revenue by 32%. Berger Paints' net profit rose 18.2% to Rs 263 crore from Rs 222 crore. Weegaard's net profit was Rs 78 crore compared to the estimated



Rs 87 crore. Edelweiss' net profit fell 38% to Rs 105 crore. 16 lakh shares changed hands in Bharti Airtel. Bharti Hexacom's net profit rose 110% to Rs 468 crore, while revenue rose 22.5% to Rs 2289 crore.

1. Tata Steel (TATASTEEL)



Tata Steel is one of India's largest steel producers, with operations in India and Europe, focusing on steel manufacturing for automotive, construction, and infrastructure sectors. Tata Steel is transitioning to electric arc furnace steelmaking at Port Talbot, UK, with approval secured in November 2024, aiming for lower carbon emissions. . Focus on optimizing raw material costs and operational efficiency to counter global price volatility. Tata Steel benefits from reduced Chinese steel imports due to China's

output reduction, but U.S. tariffs and a strong dollar pose risks. Domestic demand and cost control are key growth drivers.

2. Hindalco Industries

Hindalco, part of the Aditya Birla Group, is a leading aluminium and copper manufacturer, with its subsidiary Novelis driving global aluminium recycling. Noted as a strong performer in the metal sector, trading within a range with bullish momentum. Hindalco is poised for growth in aluminium due to strong prices and domestic trade barriers, but global macro risks and U.S. tariff volatility could impact performance.



3. CG Power and Industrial Solutions



CG Power, part of the Murugappa Group, manufactures electrical equipment, including transformers, motors, and railway solutions, serving power and industrial sectors. The stock has shown resilience, with analysts noting its outperformance due to India's infrastructure push and electrification trends. Secured significant contracts in Q3 FY24 for transformers and railway components, boosting revenue visibility. CG Power is well-positioned to capitalize on In-

4. Vedanta Limited



Vedanta is a diversified natural resources company, with operations in aluminium, zinc, iron ore, oil, and gas, focusing on mining and metals. Progressing with business demerger to unlock value, expected to enhance investor focus on individual segments. Scaling up aluminium and zinc production from FY26, with capex plans on track. Vedanta's diversified portfolio and demerger plans position it for growth, but global trade wars and commodity price volatility are key risks.

5. Jindal Steel and Power



Jindal Steel and Power is a major steel producer, with operations in steel, power, and mining, focusing on infrastructure and automotive sectors. Jindal Steel benefits from strong domestic steel demand and China's output reduction, but near-term headwinds from global tariffs persist.

Tata Motors Q4 Profit Declines 51% YoY, Faces Challenges Amid Global Uncertainty

Tata Motors reported a significant 51% year-on-year decline in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter, bringing it down to Rs 8,556 crore. This is a sharp drop from the Rs 17,528 crore recorded in the same period last year. The decline was attributed to lower volumes and operating leverage pressures. Despite this, the company's total revenue from operations for the quarter remained almost flat, standing at Rs 1,19,503 crore compared to Rs 1,19,033 crore in the previous year.



For the fiscal year 2024-25, Tata Motors posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 28,149 crore, which was a decrease from Rs 31,807 crore in the previous year. However, total revenue increased slightly, reaching Rs 4,39,695 crore compared to Rs 4,34,016 crore in FY24.

The company's CFO, PB Balaji, noted that Tata Motors' automotive business is now debt-free, marking a significant improvement in financial health and reducing interest costs. "This is a testament to the resilient team and healthy business fundamentals," he added. The company remains focused on driving growth, improving cash break-even, and continuing investments in future technologies.

In its UK-based Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) division, the company reported a slight dip in revenue, with a 1.7% decrease year-on-year to 7.7 billion pounds for the March quarter. For the full fiscal

year, JLR's revenue stood almost unchanged at 29 billion pounds compared to FY24. Tata Motors welcomed a positive US-UK trade deal announced in May 2025, which reduces tariffs on UK auto exports to the US from 27.5% to 10%. This deal is expected to provide greater certainty for JLR's future operations.

On a standalone basis, Tata Motors posted a net profit of Rs 1,382 crore, down 35% from Rs 2,126 crore a year earlier. The standalone revenue also declined to Rs 19,999 crore from Rs 20,260 crore in Q4 of FY24.

The passenger vehicle (PV) segment saw a drop in volumes by 5.5%, with sales standing at 1.47 lakh units. However, Tata Motors continues to lead the SUV market and saw growth in CNG vehicle sales, driven by the increasing preference for environmentally friendly powertrains.

Looking ahead, Tata Motors remains cautious but optimistic, with a focus on driving growth in SUVs, CNG, and electric vehicles while keeping an eye on macroeconomic factors and global geopolitics.

Wholesale Inflation Eases to 0.85% in April, Driven by Lower Food and Manufactured Prices

India's wholesale price inflation (WPI) eased significantly in April, dropping to 0.85% from 2.05% in March, as food articles, manufactured products, and fuel costs saw a decline, according to government data released on Wednesday. This marks a decrease from the 1.19% inflation recorded in April 2024.

The Ministry of Industry attributed the positive inflation rate in April primarily to higher prices in the manufacturing of food products, chemicals, chemical products, other transport equipment, and machinery. Despite this, the easing of prices in several key sectors offset the overall inflationary pressure.

The WPI data revealed that food articles experienced de-



flation of 0.86% in April, a sharp improvement from the 1.57% inflation observed in March. This was largely driven by a significant drop in vegetable prices, with the category witnessing a deflation of 18.26% in April, compared to 15.88% in March. The inflation in onions eased to a mere 0.20% in April, down from a steep 26.65% in March.

Manufactured goods saw inflation at 2.62% in April, slightly lower than the 3.07% in March. Meanwhile, fuel and power recorded a deflation of 2.18% in April, compared to a slight 0.20% inflation in March.

The data also showed a downward trend in retail inflation,

which dropped to 3.16% in April, the lowest since July 2019. This was mainly due to the subdued prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses, and other protein-rich items. The easing of both retail and wholesale inflation offers the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) more flexibility in its monetary policy decisions.

The RBI, which primarily focuses on retail inflation when making policy decisions, had already reduced the benchmark policy rate by 0.25% to 6% in April to support economic growth amid external challenges like the threat of US reciprocal tariffs. The central bank's forecast for retail inflation in FY25 has been revised to 4%, down from the earlier estimate of 4.2%.

Airtel Q4 FY25: Net Profit Soars 432% to Rs 11,021 Crore, Announces Rs 16 Dividend

Bharti Airtel has posted a stellar performance in its Q4 results for the fiscal year 2024-25, reporting a 432% year-on-year (YoY) growth in net profit. The telecom giant's net profit surged to Rs 11,021 crore, up from Rs 2,071 crore during the same quarter in FY24. This impressive growth was driven by an increase in Average Revenue Per User (ARPU), which rose to Rs 245 in Q4 FY25, compared to Rs 209 in Q4 FY24.

The company's revenue for the quarter stood at Rs 47,876 crore, marking a 27.3% YoY increase. This growth was primarily fuelled by the expansion of mobile services, including tariff hikes, strong smartphone customer additions, and ef-

forts to drive premiumization within its customer base.

In recognition of its strong performance, Airtel's board has recommended a final dividend of Rs 16 per fully paid-up equity share of face value Rs 5 each. For partly



paid-up equity shares, the recommended dividend is Rs 4 per share with a paid-up value of Rs 1.25 per share. The dividend, subject to approval by the shareholders at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), will be credited within 30 days of the meeting.

Airtel's Q4 performance highlights its continued growth trajectory in the competitive telecom market, driven by strategic efforts in customer acquisition, premium service offerings, and improved financial metrics. The company remains well-positioned to continue its strong performance into the next fiscal year, with solid dividends further enhancing shareholder value.

“Rude” Chinese Customers Not Allowed At This Japan Restaurant, Row Erupts

A grill restaurant in Osaka, Japan, has ignited a firestorm of controversy after posting a sign explicitly banning Chinese customers. The restaurant, Hayashin, known for its popular grilled dishes, put up a notice written in simplified Chinese that labeled Chinese patrons as “rude” and declared they were not welcome.



The reason behind the restaurant’s decision remains unclear, but the discriminatory message quickly went viral on social media, triggering intense debate across both Japanese and Chinese online platforms. According to a report by the South China Morning Post, the notice has divided opinion — with some nationalist voices in Japan defending the move, while many others, especially in China, condemned it as overtly xenophobic and inappropriate.

One Chinese netizen criticized the restaurant, stating, “A business that puts up such a sign has worse manners than the rude customers it claims to reject.” Another user commented, “This is a shallow attempt to gain attention through misplaced patriotism.”

This incident isn’t without precedent. In recent years, tensions between Chinese and Japanese citizens have occasionally spilled into public spaces, including eateries. Notably, in 2020, during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, a restaurant in Shenyang, China, drew global backlash after displaying a mas-

sive red banner that celebrated the spread of the virus in the United States and Japan. The banner read, “Congratulations to the United States for the outbreak of Coronavirus and wish the pandemic lasts forever in Japan.” The manager responsible was later fired for putting it up without authorization.

The Hayashin controversy once again highlights how political and cultural tensions can influence — and sometimes poison — cross-cultural interactions in everyday settings like restaurants. Critics have argued that such blanket bans harm a nation’s image and fuel division rather than resolve interpersonal or cultural misunderstandings.

As the backlash grows, questions remain about how authorities and local communities in Japan will respond, and whether the restaurant will retract its statement. The incident underscores the importance of diplomacy not just between governments, but in daily social conduct and business ethics as well.

Can AI Really Replace Friends? Zuckerberg Thinks So Psychologists Strongly Disagree

In a world increasingly shaped by technology, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg believes artificial intelligence may be able to fill a growing emotional void in people’s lives. In a recent episode of The Dworkesh Podcast, Zuckerberg claimed that while the average American has about three close friends, many desire deeper connections with up to 15 people. To him, AI companions could step in to meet this unmet social need.



But mental health experts are pushing back on that notion, warning that while AI might mimic aspects of friendship, it can never truly replace the richness of real human relationships.

Omri Gillath, a psychology professor at the University of Kansas, told CNBC Make It that Zuckerberg’s numbers paint a misleading picture. “For many people, three or four meaningful relationships are more than enough,” Gillath said, adding that what matters more is the quality of connections, not the quantity.

Zuckerberg’s vision sees AI as a 24/7 supportive friend — always present, always polite, never judgmental. And to some extent, the idea appeals to those feeling isolated or emotionally unfulfilled. AI companions, including chatbots and virtual assistants, are already being used for emotional support. A New York Times report recently highlighted individuals forming deep attachments — even romantic feelings — toward

AI chatbots.

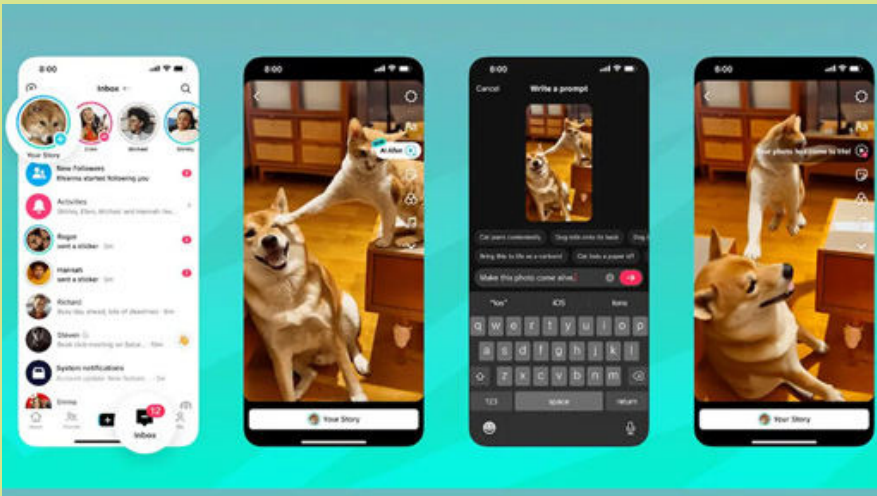
However, psychologists stress that these interactions are fundamentally one-sided. “AI might offer temporary emotional relief,” Gillath explained, “but it can’t touch you, it can’t surprise you with genuine care, and it can’t love you back.”

The real concern lies in the long-term emotional consequences. While AI may provide comfort in the short term, experts argue it lacks the capacity for empathy, growth, and vulnerability — key ingredients of authentic human connection. Relationships with AI are inherently limited, unable to evolve or reciprocate in the way human friendships do.

In an age of digital companions, psychologists urge caution. Rather than replacing real friends, they advocate for using AI to enhance — not substitute — human interactions. “We must not forget,” Gillath said, “that true connection comes from shared experiences, not just shared words.”

TikTok Unveils AI Alive: Turn Photos into Animated Videos

TikTok has launched an innovative new feature called AI Alive, allowing users to transform static images into animated videos using artificial intelligence. Announced on Tuesday, this new tool taps into generative AI technology, offering users the ability to create short video clips from photos, though currently limited to TikTok Stories and not directly on the main feed.



The AI Alive tool is the first of its kind among major video-based social media platforms, making TikTok the leader in AI-driven image-to-video generation. While other platforms like Instagram, X, and Snapchat do not offer such a feature, TikTok’s AI-powered tool stands out as a game-changer. Although YouTube Shorts is experimenting with a text-to-video feature, it hasn’t rolled it out to users at a large scale yet.

To use the AI Alive feature, TikTok users simply tap the blue plus icon (+) found on the top of the Profile or Inbox page. They then select a photo from their Story Album, where the AI Alive icon

appears on the right side of the editing toolbar. Upon selecting the icon, users can either input a custom text prompt describing how they want the image animated or use one of the suggested prompts. After clicking “generate,” a short animated video is created that can be shared within the user’s Story, appearing in the For You and Following feeds, as well as on their profile page.

In an effort to prevent misuse, TikTok has introduced moderation technology that scans the uploaded photo, text prompt, and

the resulting video before the content is shown to users. Another check happens before the video is posted to ensure it complies with platform guidelines. Additionally, TikTok is adding a visible AI-generated label to identify synthetic content, along with C2PA metadata to track the origin of AI-generated videos.

With AI Alive, TikTok has taken a bold step in integrating AI tools into social media, offering users an exciting way to enhance their content while balancing safety and authenticity.

McDonald’s Food Truck in Saudi Arabia Goes Viral During Trump’s Visit

A mobile McDonald’s food truck has taken social media by storm after being set up in Riyadh during US President Donald Trump’s visit to Saudi Arabia. The food truck, catering to Trump’s well-known love for McDonald’s, was spotted as part of the lavish royal welcome from Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman.



Upon Trump’s arrival, he was greeted by Prince Mohamed with a grand display, including a purple carpet and a guard of honor. But what really captured attention was the presence of a McDonald’s food truck, a gesture that quickly went viral. Videos and pictures of the truck, with its iconic golden arches and signage in both English and Arabic, were widely shared online. American commentator Benny Johnson shared a video on X (formerly Twitter), noting, “Saudi Arabia brought in a mobile McDonald’s for President Trump on his visit.”

The sight of the food truck resonated with many, with some viewers praising the gesture. One user commented, “Saudi hospitality is AAA level,” while another called it “a very thoughtful gesture.” Some even added humor to the situation,

joking about the infamous McDonald’s ice cream machine, “I wonder if the ice cream machine is still broken?”

The viral moment was also dubbed “Big Mac diplomacy,” with one social media user remarking, “Now that’s some Big Mac diplomacy! President Trump has the golden arches following him like a VIP entourage.” Another chimed in, “Now, that’s what I call the Royal treatment.”

McDonald’s is a well-established brand in Saudi Arabia, with 267 restaurants across the central, eastern, and northern regions. This mobile food truck, however, was a unique and personal touch for Trump’s visit, capturing the spirit of hospitality while offering a lighthearted, yet symbolic, diplomatic gesture during the trip.

Why Birds Fly in a V-Shape: The Science Behind the Formation

The sight of birds soaring in a perfect V-shape across the sky is mesmerizing, but did you know this formation is far from random? It’s actually a smart survival strategy that helps them conserve energy during long migrations, thanks to the principles of aerodynamics.

The Science of V-Formation

Migratory birds like geese and pelicans fly in this unique V-formation to make their long journeys more efficient. Just like an airplane needs optimal takeoff and landing techniques, birds rely on aerodynamics to save energy while flying. The lead bird works the hardest, facing the most wind resistance, while the birds following behind catch a break. They

benefit from the updraft created by the lead bird’s wings, reducing drag and allowing them to use less energy.

Nature’s Flight Strategy

A study on ibises revealed fascinating details about this process. Researchers tracked these birds and found that they consistently fly about a meter behind and to the side of the bird in front, where the rising air provides the most lift. What’s remarkable is that these birds don’t stick to one position—they switch places regularly, unlike airplanes with a fixed leader. This dynamic formation ensures that no single bird carries the burden of wind resistance for too long.

The V-shape works like a well-coordinated team effort. When a bird flaps its wings, it creates both downwash (air pushed downward) and upwash (air pushed upward). Birds flying slightly behind and to the side place themselves in the upwash zone, where the air rising from the leading bird gives them extra lift, making it easier to stay airborne with less effort.

A Shared Technique

Interestingly, fighter jets use the same technique in formations to reduce air resistance and save fuel. In fact, birds flying at the back of the V have lower heart rates and flap their wings less often, conserving energy for the long journey ahead.



Pakistan’s Participation in Asia Cup Hockey in India Uncertain After Pahalgam Terror Attack



Pakistan’s participation in the 12th edition of the Hero Asia Cup hockey tournament in India is now in serious doubt following the recent escalation of tensions between the two countries, particularly after the Pahalgam terror attack. The Asia Cup is set to be held in Rajgir, Bihar, from August 27 to September 7, with India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia, Oman, and Chinese Taipei scheduled to compete. This tournament is crucial as it serves as a qualifying event for the 2026 World Cup, which will be hosted in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Hockey India Secretary General Bholanath Singh stated that the federation is awaiting a government advisory on the issue, as the current political situation between India and Pakistan remains volatile. Singh emphasized that the federation would follow the government’s directive, as it has in previous cases. The ongoing tensions, heightened by India’s military response to the Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives, has made it uncertain whether Pakistan will be allowed to participate.

The situation escalated after India’s “Operation Sindoor,” which targeted terrorist hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, leading to further military clashes. Both nations agreed to a ceasefire on May 10, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear that any future engagement with Pakistan will depend on concrete actions against terrorism by the country.

The Pakistan Hockey Federation is closely monitoring the situation, and the final decision will depend on the government’s stance at the time. If Pakistan is barred from participating, the Asian Hockey Federation will decide whether the tournament will continue with six teams or if a replacement team will be brought in.

This is not the first time Pakistan’s participation in a multi-nation event in India has been questioned, with the 2016 Junior World Cup being another instance where Pakistan was replaced by Malaysia following a terror attack. The Asia Cup holds significant importance, as the winning team earns a direct qualification spot for the 2026 World Cup.

Lakshya Sen Exits Thailand Open; Aakarshi Kashyap and Unnati Hooda Progress

Indian badminton star Lakshya Sen was knocked out of the Thailand Open in the opening round, suffering a hard-fought defeat to Ireland’s Nhat Nguyen in a men’s singles match. The encounter, which lasted one hour and 20 minutes, saw Sen losing 18-21, 21-9, 17-21. Despite a strong comeback in the second game, where Sen dominated with aggressive rallies, Nguyen regained control in the decider. After a tight 17-13 lead, Nguyen sealed the victory, advancing to the next round.

Meanwhile, Priyanshu Rajawat also exited in the first round, falling 13-21, 21-17, 16-21 to Indonesia’s Alwi Farhan in a closely contested match.

In women’s singles, Aakarshi Kashyap triumphed in a thrilling battle against Japan’s Kaoru Sugiyama, winning 21-16, 20-22, 22-20. The match was



an intense affair, with Aakarshi holding her nerve in the final stages of the decider to secure the win.

Unnati Hooda also moved past her opponent, recording a determined 21-14, 18-21, 23-21 victory over Thailand’s Thamonwan Nithiittikrai. Unnati’s perseverance in the final game ensured her place in the next round of the tournament.

However, the tournament proved to be the end of the road for Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj. She was defeated 18-21, 7-21 by eighth seed Yeo Jia Min of Singapore in her opening match of the women’s singles event.

As the Thailand Open continues, Aakarshi and Unnati will look to build on their impressive performances and push further into the tournament.

Dan Ballard’s Last-Minute Goal Sends Sunderland to Championship Play-Off Final

Sunderland secured a dramatic 3-2 aggregate victory over Coventry City to reach the Championship play-off final, thanks to a last-gasp goal from Dan Ballard in the final seconds of extra-time. With the tie finely poised, Sunderland’s hopes of a return to the Premier League seemed set to be decided by a penalty shoot-out until Ballard’s heroic header in stoppage-time earned a 1-1 draw in the second leg, sparking wild celebrations from the 46,000-strong crowd at the Stadium of Light.



The dramatic climax followed a tense match where Sunderland trailed 1-0 on the night due to Ephron Mason-Clark’s 76th-minute goal. Coventry had the better chances throughout, with Jack Rudoni missing a golden opportunity just before half-time and Haji Wright failing to convert a header from close range in

stoppage-time. Sunderland, however, was resolute in defense, despite a nervous display, and nearly sealed the tie through Trai Hume, whose volley was saved in the second half.

With the aggregate score level at 2-2, extra-time loomed large, and just as it seemed the tie would go to penalties,

Ballard delivered. Meeting Enzo Le Fee’s corner with an unorthodox header, Ballard’s effort struck the crossbar before bouncing over the line, sending Sunderland’s fans into raptures.

Sunderland, who had suffered five consecutive defeats heading into the play-offs, will now face Sheffield United in the final at Wembley on May 24. Despite finishing 14 points behind their opponents in the regular season, Sunderland’s resilience and dramatic victory have kept their Premier League dream alive after an eight-year absence.

For Coventry, it was a heart-wrenching defeat, with their hopes of promotion dashed in cruel fashion, while Sunderland’s fairy-tale journey continues.

South African Players Set to Miss IPL Playoffs for WTC Final Duty

South African cricketers selected for the World Test Championship (WTC) Final against Australia are likely to miss the IPL playoffs, as Cricket South Africa (CSA) stands firm on prioritizing national duty over league commitments. The IPL, which was temporarily suspended due to geopolitical tensions, is set to resume on May 17, with the final scheduled for June 3. However, the resumption has created a scheduling conflict for players from both Australia and South Africa, as they are required for the WTC Final, which starts on June 11 in London.

CSA has reiterated its commitment to ensuring the team’s preparation for the WTC Final, insisting that players return no later than May 26 to allow sufficient time for acclimatization before the tournament. Enoch Nkwe, CSA’s director of national teams and high performance, confirmed during a press conference that the board is sticking to its original plan, prioritizing the WTC Final preparations over IPL commitments.

“We are finalizing this with the IPL and the



BCCI, but the No. 1 priority is the WTC Final,” Nkwe stated. “The latest players can return is May 26, and we are engaging with the IPL to ensure everything is aligned with our plans.”

Eight South African players are part of the Proteas squad for the WTC Final, including Kagiso Rabada, Lungi

Ngidi, Aiden Markram, Marco Jansen, and others, all of whom are involved in the IPL. With the revised IPL schedule, the playoff dates overlap with CSA’s plans, making it difficult for these players to participate in both events.

South Africa’s head coach, Shukri Conrad, echoed this stance, saying the players should return by May 26 for proper preparation. “We’re not budging on this; our players need to be back by the 26th,” Conrad confirmed.

While CSA has taken a hardline position, Cricket Australia has left the decision to its players, and the England and Wales Cricket Board is still reviewing its No Objection Certificate policy.

India, England Narrow Gap as Australia Maintain Lead in ICC Women’s ODI Rankings

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has released its updated Women’s ODI team rankings, with Australia continuing to lead the chart. However, their once-commanding position has slightly diminished as both England and India made notable gains, narrowing the points gap at the top.

As per the latest rankings released on Wednesday, Australia remain the No. 1 team in Women’s ODIs with 167 rating points. Despite holding their top spot, their lead has reduced from 44 points to 40 after the ICC’s annual ranking update. The new update reflects matches played from May 2022 to April 2024 with a 50% weighting, and those after April 2024 at full value.

England, holding firm in second place, now have 127 rating points. India, in third, gained eight points to move up to 121, reducing the gap with England from 11 points to just six. This marked improvement for India reflects their consistent performances in recent series and places them in a strong position as they aim to climb further.

New Zealand retained their fourth spot with 96 points, while South Africa, despite staying in fifth place, suffered a significant drop—losing nine rating points to finish at 90. A key factor in this decline was the removal of South Africa’s 2022 World Cup semi-final performance from the ranking calculation.

Sri Lanka also maintained their sixth position with



82 points. However, one of the biggest shake-ups involved the West Indies, who slipped from seventh to ninth place after losing 10 points. Their 2022 World Cup semi-final run no longer counts toward the current rankings, severely impacting their standing.

Bangladesh and Pakistan took advantage of West Indies’ decline, climbing to seventh and eighth positions with 79 and 78 points, respectively.

The latest rankings reflect not only current team form but also how previous performances are gradually phased out of the calculations. With major tournaments and bilateral series ahead, these updated standings set the stage for increased competition among the top sides.

India and England’s upward momentum signals a tighter race at the top, while Australia, though still dominant, face growing pressure from their closest rivals.



Vijay Deverakonda's 'Kingdom' Postponed: New Release Date Announced

Vijay Deverakonda's highly anticipated spy action thriller Kingdom has officially been postponed. Originally slated for a May 30, 2025 release, the film will now hit theaters on July 4, 2025. The announcement was made earlier today by the makers, who cited unforeseen national events and an unsuitable promotional environment as reasons for the delay.

Directed by Gowtham Tinnanuri, Kingdom has generated significant buzz since its announcement, with fans eagerly awaiting Deverakonda's next big-screen appearance. However, recent developments have led the production team to reconsider their release strategy. In a heartfelt statement, the makers explained their decision:

"We explored every possibility to stick to the original date, but recent unforeseen events in the country and the current atmosphere have made it difficult for us to move forward with promotions or celebrations. We believe this decision will help us present Kingdom in the best possible way, with the creative excellence and spirit it deserves. We truly value your support and hope to receive your love when we meet you at the cinemas on July 4."

The producers also expressed gratitude to actor Nithiin and producer Dil Raju for their understanding and support. Notably, the original release date for Kingdom would have clashed with Nithiin's film Thammudu, leading to potential competition at the box office. The change now allows both films to have breathing space and their own dedicated viewership.

Starring Bhagyashree Borse as the female lead, Kingdom is being produced by Sithara Entertainment

in collaboration with Fortune Four Cinemas. The film's music is composed by the acclaimed Anirudh Ravichander, adding further excitement to the project.

While the delay may disappoint some fans, it also raises anticipation for a bigger and better release. The team has promised to return stronger with full-scale promotions in the coming weeks. With a power-packed cast, a gripping spy narrative, and a visionary director at the helm, Kingdom is expected to be a major cinematic event this July.



Critically Acclaimed Courtroom Drama Kesari Chapter 2 to Release in Telugu on May 23

Following its impressive theatrical run in Hindi, the powerful historical courtroom drama Kesari Chapter 2 is now set to captivate Telugu-speaking audiences. Asian Suresh Entertainment has officially announced that the Telugu-dubbed version of the film will release on May 23, 2025.

Originally released on April 18, 2025, Kesari Chapter 2 received widespread acclaim from both critics and audiences. Starring Akshay Kumar, R. Madhavan, and Ananya Panday, the film delves deep into one of the most tragic events in India's colonial history — the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919. The movie brings to life the intensity of the courtroom battle that followed, shedding light on the brutalities of British rule and the resilience of Indian revolutionaries.

Directed by Karan Singh Tyagi, the film is rated "A" for its intense and emotionally charged content. Its success in Hindi has paved the way for the Telugu version, allowing regional audiences to witness a major cinematic retelling of history in their own language. Digital promotions for the Telugu release will commence shortly, as anticipation begins to build in the Telugu states.

The film is produced by Dharma Productions, Leo Media Collective, and Cape of Good Films, three major production houses known for backing content-driven cinema. With its hard-hitting courtroom sequences, emotional performances, and strong historical context, Kesari Chapter 2 has struck a chord with audiences across the country.



Akshay Kumar delivers a commanding performance as a freedom fighter turned legal crusader, while R. Madhavan brings depth to his role as the opposing counsel. Ananya Panday surprises viewers with a mature and impactful performance in a supporting but significant role.

As the Telugu version gears up for its release, all eyes are on how it will resonate with regional audiences. With its gripping narrative and historical relevance, Kesari Chapter 2 is expected to make a strong impression in the Telugu market. Mark your calendars for May 23, and don't miss this compelling drama in theatres.

RAPO22 Title Glimpse to Be Unveiled on Ram Pothineni's Birthday

Tollywood star Ram Pothineni is all set to make headlines once again with his upcoming film, currently known as RAPO22. Directed by young filmmaker Mahesh Babu P, the film has been generating buzz since its announcement — and now, fans have something exciting to look forward to.

The makers have officially confirmed that the title glimpse of RAPO22 will be released tomorrow, May 15, 2025, at exactly 10:08 AM, coinciding with Ram Pothineni's birthday. This strategic and celebratory reveal has fans eagerly counting down the hours, as it marks a major milestone in the film's promotional journey.



In RAPO22, Ram will be seen portraying a relatable middle-class character who is an ardent admirer of Sandalwood superstar Upendra. This intriguing layer adds emotional depth and personal passion to the character, setting the stage for a heartwarming and possibly intense narrative. The film's team is confident that the story will strike a strong emotional chord with audiences across regions.

Bhagyashree Borse has been cast as the female lead, further raising curiosity among movie lovers. With her recent projects gaining attention, her pairing with Ram is expected to offer fresh on-screen chemistry.

Produced by the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers, RAPO22 boasts solid production values. The music is being com-

posed by the dynamic duo Vivek-Mervin, known for their energetic and modern soundtracks. Fans can expect the film's music to complement its emotional and narrative tones perfectly.

As anticipation builds, tomorrow's title reveal is expected to set the tone for the film's promotional campaign. Given the buzz around the project and Ram's growing popularity, the glimpse could offer a deeper look into the film's theme, mood, and visual style.

With a promising cast, an emotionally rich storyline, and a director eager to make his mark, RAPO22 is shaping up to be one of the most awaited Telugu films of the year. Don't miss the big moment tomorrow at 10:08 AM, as the title and glimpse are officially unveiled.

Sitaare Zameen Par Trailer: Love, Laughter & Happiness

Amir Khan is back on the big screen with Sitaare Zameen Par, the official Hindi adaptation of the Spanish hit Champions. Directed by RS Prasanna, the film's trailer dropped recently, offering a glimpse into a heartfelt story filled with warmth, humor, and emotional growth. The film is slated for a grand release on June 20, 2025.

Sitaare Zameen Par follows the story of a hot-headed basketball coach who is assigned to train a team of specially abled players for a national championship. What begins as a punishment soon transforms into a life-changing journey for the coach, as he learns about compassion, teamwork, and resilience from the very team he's sup-



posed to guide.

While the film shares thematic similarities with Aamir's past masterpiece Taare Zameen Par, it carves out its own emotional space. The core message revolves around acceptance, inclusivity, and the transformative power of human connection. However, the trailer, while informative, leaves little to the imagination — revealing much of the plot upfront and not quite de-

living the deep emotional punch that one might expect from a film with such themes. Still, there's anticipation about how Sitaare Zameen Par will adapt Champions to an Indian setting. The trailer hints at a mix of light-hearted moments and poignant storytelling, with a focus on bonding, self-discovery, and redemption.

Joining Aamir Khan in pivotal roles are Genelia

Deshmukh, Aroush Datta, Gopi Krishnan Varma, Vedant Sharmaa, and several talented newcomers. The ensemble cast is rounded out by actors like Dolly Ahluwalia, Brijendra Kala, Gurpal Singh, Simran Mangeshkar, and others who add richness to the narrative.

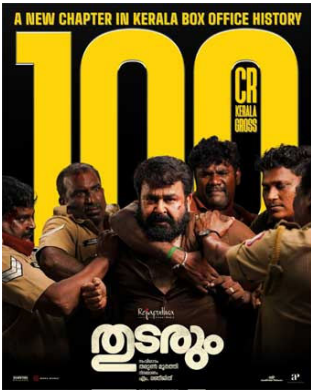
Produced by Aamir Khan and Aparna Purohit, the film features music by the celebrated trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, adding another layer of emotional depth to the project.

With a story focused on hope and second chances, Sitaare Zameen Par has the potential to touch hearts — if it can balance entertainment with authenticity. Audiences will find out when it lights up theatres on June 20.

Mohanlal's Thudaram Creates Box Office History, Shatters Records in Kerala

Mollywood megastar Mohanlal has once again proven his unmatched box office appeal with his latest film, Thudaram. Directed by Tharun Moorthy, the film had a relatively low-key release but has now exploded into a massive blockbuster, stunning audiences, critics, and trade analysts alike. Defying expectations, Thudaram has created history by becoming the first-ever Malayalam film to cross the ₹100 crore mark in Kerala alone. This unprecedented feat cements the film's legacy as a true game-changer for the Malayalam film industry. Despite arriving with minimal pre-release buzz, the film's strong word-of-mouth and Mo-

hanlal's magnetic screen presence have propelled it to extraordinary commercial success. Now in its third week of theatrical run, Thudaram continues to draw full houses across the state, with no signs of slowing down. Its success isn't just confined to Kerala; globally, the film has grossed around ₹200 crore, making it the third-highest grossing Malayalam film of all time. The film's storyline and execution, paired with emotionally powerful performances, have struck a chord with viewers. Critics and fans have particularly praised the mature and nuanced direction by Tharun Moorthy, who has skillfully balanced mass appeal



with meaningful storytelling. In addition to Mohanlal's commanding lead performance, Thudaram boasts a strong supporting cast. Sobhana, Prakash Varma, Binu Pappu, and Thomas Mathew have all delivered impactful performances, contributing significantly to the film's success. Each character adds depth and

substance, making the narrative even more engaging. The massive success of Thudaram also marks a significant comeback for Mohanlal, whose recent films had seen mixed responses. This triumph reaffirms his enduring stardom and ability to connect with audiences across generations. With more records likely to fall in the coming days, Thudaram has not only elevated the benchmark for Malayalam cinema but also reinforced Mohanlal's status as a true cinematic legend. As the film continues its stellar run, it stands as a proud moment for Mollywood and its ever-growing audience.