



Weather Forecast




HYDERABAD




H	36° C
L	27° C

VIJAYAWADA



H	37° C
L	28° C

TIRUPATHI



H	37° C
L	27° C

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APPSC SCAM

KIDS OF OFFICIALS, POLITICIANS ARE ONLY THE BENEFICIARIES...?

TPN Correspondent |
Amaravati

APPS Scam is vibrating the employees who were recruited based on the 2018 batch Group-I Exam, as the scam was done for this batch only. Already Mr. Seeta Ramanjaneyulu, IPS, and Madhusudhan Rao, a vendor, are listed in the chargesheet as accused. Taking advantage of Manual Valuation, Mr. Seeta Ramanjaneyulu has done this scam under the direction of Mr. Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy allegedly.

As per an allegation, a story is circulating around. According to that story, the beneficiaries were selected under two aspects. One is money, and the other one is loyalty. Most of them belong to the families of senior officials in the Police Department and other departments. A few are also of politicians. The second aspect, loyalty, means a big plan. To have secured and loyal followers among Government Machinery, the YSRC leaders have sketched it this way allegedly. Whether YSRC will be in power or not in the future, the Government Machinery should work in favor of them only; that is the actual plan. The top leaders have planned it and asked Mr. Seeta Ramanjanyulu to execute it. Mr. PSR has executed it and minted huge money uti-



lizing this plan. He has approached many officials of the Police Department and other departments using his connections and YSRC political connections. He hatched crores of money through this operation allegedly. Identifying And Removing those Employees is a Big Task

When we go to districts, a few officials are revealing the names of those beneficiaries. Now the Police have to extract evidence for this. The dangerous thing is that all those beneficiaries are working in the Government now, utilizing a stay order

issued by the High Court. If the stay is vacated, the Government is planning to remove all of them and is planning to arrest them as per a buzz. But here, identifying the real beneficiaries is a big task for the Police and the Government. If PSR reveals those names, it will be easy; otherwise, it will be difficult for them to identify and remove them. A few beneficiaries are working as MPDOs, a few are in the Collectorate; like this, they have been recruited by the Government. Now the question is how to identify the culprits and remove them.

The Role of Mr. Gautam Sawang:



Allegations are coming that there is a role of Mr. Gautam Sawang also. Mr. N. Vijay Kumar of TDP has alleged it in a press meet earlier. But the manual valuation was started in December 2021 and completed in January 2022. The payment for the vendor was released in February 2022, just three days before Mr. Gautam Sawang took charge as Chairman of APPSC. He took charge on February 19th, 2022. But the results were declared in May 2022, when Mr. Gautam was in the chair. Even he filed an affidavit in the High Court that the results were accurate. Apart from that, he has no role in the scam as per the information. But a few have alleged that Sawang also has a role in it.

WHO IS CALLING FROM MINISTER'S PESHI? FOR WHOM?



- **Project Directors report coercion by ministerial staff**
- **Concerns raised over legality and transparency in auditor selection.**

TPN Correspondent | Amravati

In a development that raises serious concerns about governance and transparency in rural development administration, several Project Directors (PDs) of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) across Andhra Pradesh have reportedly received unofficial directives from individuals claiming to represent a Minister's office (commonly referred to as the "peshi"), instructing them to appoint a specific audit firm for reviewing the accounts of Village Organizations (VOs), Mandal Samakhyaas (MSs), and Zilla Samakhyaas (ZSs). Sources suggest that the instructions were delivered with veiled threats: "We will give you the name of the auditing company, and you must select them only for auditing your VO, MS, ZS books of accounts. You have to follow our instructions. Otherwise..." While the direct involvement of the Minister remains unverified, most

PDs, fearing potential repercussions, have reportedly complied with the directives.

This development marks a significant deviation from established protocol. Traditionally, under the aegis of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), a decentralized system governed the appointment of auditors for community-based organizations. As per the MACS Act, 1995, which governs these organizations, federations enjoy legal autonomy and are empowered to select their auditors based on locally-driven evaluations, experience, and resolutions.

Until March 2024, SERP facilitated this process through annual circulars guiding federations to empanel qualified audit firms at the district level—typically 5 to 25 firms per district—ensuring a rotation-based, merit-driven selection process.

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Fire Near Charminar Kills 17 Including 8 Children

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A tragic fire broke out in a two-storey building at Gulzar House near the historic Charminar on Sunday morning, claiming the lives of 17 people, including eight children. The incident is one of the deadliest fire accidents in Hyderabad in recent years, exposing serious lapses in fire safety standards and enforcement. The fire is believed to have started due to a short circuit. The building housed shops on the ground floor and residential units above, a common structure in many parts of the city. Despite efforts to escape, many residents were trapped, resulting in the devastating loss of lives. This tragedy comes just two days after another fire in a nearby three-storey building in Afzalganj, where timely intervention by the fire brigade saved eight

people, including a baby, with no casualties reported. Both fires have raised concerns about persistent safety violations. Hyderabad and Secunderabad have witnessed several major fire accidents over the past years. Notable incidents include the deaths of ten people in a Nampally building fire in November 2023, six fatalities in Secunderabad's Swapnalok complex in March 2023, and multiple other tragedies involving residential and commercial buildings. These accidents have repeatedly exposed negligence by authorities and poor adherence to fire safety regulations. Following previous incidents, authorities had promised stringent action against illegal commercial activities in residential buildings and violations of safety norms.

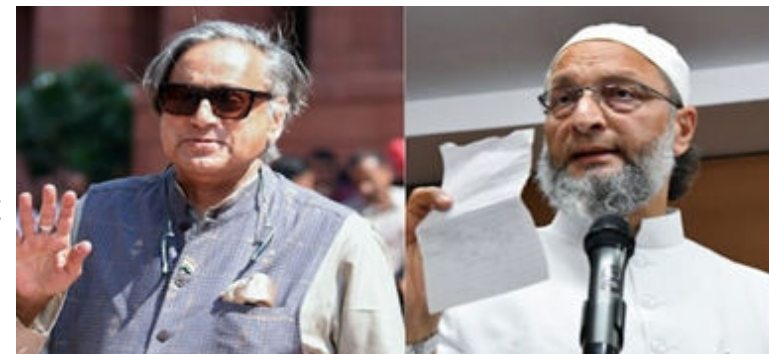
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Tharoor to US, Owaisi to Saudi

- **India Sends 59-Member Delegations to 32 Nations**
- **Centre launches global outreach on terrorism**
- **Seven MP delegations to visit 32 countries from May 23**
- **Leaders from BJP, Congress, regional parties included in mission**

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a major diplomatic initiative to highlight India's zero-tolerance stance on terrorism and promote the country's post-Pahalgam response dubbed "Operation Sindoor," the Government of India has announced seven all-party parliamentary delegations that will visit 32 countries starting May 23. The outreach follows the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. A total of 59 members—including MPs from the BJP, Congress, regional parties, nominated leaders, and former diplomats—will engage with international stakeholders to explain India's counter-terrorism efforts and strategic position. These delegations will be led by prominent leaders such as BJP's Bajiyant Panda and Ravi Shankar Prasad, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, JDU's Sanjay Jha, Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde, DMK's Kanimozhi, and NCP (Sharad Pawar) leader Supriya Sule. Each delegation is supported by former senior diplomats.



Key Delegations and Destinations:

- Group 1 (Baijayant Panda, Asaduddin Owaisi, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Harsh Shringla): Will travel to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Algeria.
- Group 2 (Ravi Shankar Prasad, Daggubati Purandeshwari, MJ Akbar, Pankaj Saran): Visiting UK, France, Germany, EU HQ in Brussels, Italy, and Denmark.
- Group 3 (Sanjay Jha, Salman Khurshid, John Brittas): Headed to Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore.
- Group 4 (Shrikant Shinde, Bansuri Swaraj, Mohammad Bashir, Sujan Chinoy): Visiting UAE, Liberia, Congo, and Sierra Leone.
- Group 5 (Shashi Tharoor, Tejaswi Surya, TDP's GM Harish Lalayogi): Will go to United States, Panama, Guyana, Brazil, and Colombia.
- Group 6 (Kanimozhi, Mian Altaf Ahmed, AAP's Ashok Mittal): Covering Spain, Greece, Slovenia, Latvia, and Russia.
- Group 7 (Supriya Sule, Manish Tewari, Anurag Thakur, V Muraleedharan): Heading to Egypt, Qatar, Ethiopia, and South Africa.

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WHO IS CALLING...

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However, a sudden policy shift was observed beginning FY 2024–25. SERP issued new instructions suggesting centralized auditor selection, with a single firm or limited firms conducting audits across all districts. Legal experts argue that this approach not only contradicts the federations' legal autonomy under the MACS Act but also undermines the transparency and accountability that auditing is supposed to safeguard.

A similar model was adopted by the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), where the Mission Director allegedly bypassed local processes and directly appointed auditors. The policy sparked legal backlash, leading to a writ petition filed in the High Court. The petition challenged the state's authority to unilaterally impose audit firms on independent community bodies and flagged the monopolistic control being exercised over such appointments. The High Court reportedly observed that monopolies in public audits are unacceptable and emphasized the need to ensure fair opportunities for all qualified firms.

Following the court's remarks, SERP appeared to roll back its stance partially and introduced a revised, marks-based scoring model for auditor selection. Official circulars directed PDs to oversee this process and select firms on merit. However, reports now indicate that behind the scenes, the process remains compromised.

Multiple PDs have allegedly been pressured by a personal officer associated with a Minister's office to ensure that only a pre-identified audit firm is selected, irrespective of the firm's eligibility or the outcomes of the official evaluation process. In some cases, PDs have been asked to influence Zilla Samakhyas to pass resolutions appointing the said firm—without naming the source of the directive. Ironically, the firm being promoted is said to lack the qualifications required under SERP's own circulars, raising questions not only about procedural violations but also about audit integrity. The move has prompted alarm among stakeholders, with experts warning that the credibility of the entire audit process is at risk if external influences dictate the selection of auditors—whose core mandate is to ensure financial accountability and detect irregularities. With PDs caught between legal obligations and unofficial pressure, and with no clarity on whether the Minister is aware of the situation, the incident has highlighted a troubling governance vacuum. Unless addressed promptly, this interference could severely undermine transparency, financial discipline, and public trust in rural development institutions

Liquor Policy In NTR District In Tatters

- Bars run openly in wine shops without permits
- Traders set up illegal belt shops across mandals
- Locals question role of excise, vigilance officers



TPN Correspondent | NTR District

Despite the coalition government introducing a strict liquor policy with ambitious reforms, the ground reality in NTR district's Kanchikacharla and Veerulapadu mandals paints a grim picture. Wine shops here have transformed into fully operational bars, complete with permit-room-style setups, despite having licenses only to

sell alcohol. Cold beer is being served in “cold sheds” built right beside wine shops, and in some areas, brandy shop owners are seen consuming liquor openly in front of customers. Traders have even set up pan shops and chicken pakoda stalls next to these outlets, creating tavern-like zones where everything from drinking glasses to snacks and cigarettes are sold in the same

vicinity. Surprisingly, traders have installed flex banners over the sheds to advertise their services and attract more customers. The illegal belt shops, operating in the middle of roads, are thriving. These belt shops are open 24/7 and sell liquor at inflated prices. Locals allege that not a single one of these operations has the necessary permit for a bar or permit room. Traders appear emboldened, reportedly claiming, “We invest in lakhs and run business as we wish.” Many liquor shops are operating well beyond the government-stipulated hours. Locals strongly suspect that the confidence of these shop owners stems from alleged backing by excise department officials. A disturbing question has emerged: what is the role of vigilance officers in all this? There's little to no visible action from vigilance or excise wings. The syndicate of officers and middlemen is being openly discussed among the public, leading to doubts about whether enforcement bodies are turning a blind eye or are complicit in the racket. Reliable sources say that belt shops and illegal sales are flourishing under the very noses of district-level officials. Residents are demanding immediate intervention from higher authorities to restore order and enforce the liquor policy in its true spirit.

Tharoor to US, Owaisi to Saudi

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The Ministry of External Affairs, in coordination with Parliament and the diplomatic community, is facilitating the visits. Former ambas-

sadors like Harsh Shringla, Pankaj Saran, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Syed Akbaruddin, and others will support the delegations. This unprecedented global outreach aims to consolidate international support for India's

counter-terrorism measures and convey solidarity in the wake of the recent terrorist attack. The mission also aims to showcase India's growing leadership role in global peace and security conversations.

“We Should Stand by the Indian Army”

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana has urged the people of India to stand firmly behind the Prime Minister and the Indian Army amid accusations against them. He emphasized that India's forces have dealt a powerful and irreparable blow to terrorists who targeted innocent civilians. On Sunday, thousands gathered in Nellore city for a grand rally from the VRC Center to the Gandhi statue, waving the national flag and chanting “Bharat Mata Ki Jai.” The event saw participation from coalition leaders, youth, students, ex-servicemen, and people from various communities, holding a thousand-foot-long tricolor flag while the VRC Center echoed with slogans of “Vande Mataram.”



Speaking to the media at the Gandhi statue, Minister Narayana recalled how the terrorist camps were destroyed swiftly, fulfilling the Prime Minister's promise to retaliate against the killers of 26 civilians. He hailed the bravery of the Indian Army during Operation Sindhur, which sent a strong message to terrorists and their supporters. He also highlighted global solidarity with India's efforts to fight

terrorism and praised the sacrifices made by the martyrs for the nation's security and pride. Nuda Chairman Kotamreddy Srinivasulu Reddy added that India has never promoted terrorism but firmly warns that any threat will be met with decisive retaliation. RTC Zonal Chairman Suresh Reddy said India has a long history of peace, but Pakistan has consistently been a hub of destruction.

Ration Through Fair Price Shops from June 1?

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

A major change may be coming to the public distribution system in Andhra Pradesh, with growing reports suggesting that ration goods will soon be distributed through government-run fair price shops instead of the Mobile Delivery Unit (MDU) vehicles, starting from June 1. Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar has stated that a final decision on the matter will be taken in the next two days. Since the formation of the new coalition government, speculation has intensified over the fate of the MDU system introduced by the previous YSRCP government, which aimed to deliver ration directly to households. However, many within the ruling alliance claim the vehicles have turned into “street ration” rather than door delivery, and that the system is placing an unnecessary financial burden on the state. Public representatives in various constituencies have already begun informing local residents that the distribution method is likely to return to the traditional model through



cheap price shops. Ruling party leaders have also conducted meetings with local dealers, instructing them to ensure smooth and transparent distribution to ration cardholders.

Minister Nadendla Manohar had earlier criticized the efficiency of the MDU model, stating it had failed to serve its intended purpose and instead contributed to logistical inefficiencies. In line with this, the government also gathered feedback from beneficiaries to assess public opinion on continuing MDU services versus returning to shop-based distribution. The feed-

back, however, appears to have been mixed. During a program held in Tenali, Guntur district on Saturday, a woman raised a concern regarding the MDU service. She noted that due to her unavailability at home during the vehicle's arrival, she had missed receiving her ration and had no way to get it later. Responding to this, Minister Manohar assured that the government is actively considering all aspects and that a clear decision will be announced within two days.

Attack on TDP Worker: Nandigam Suresh Arrested

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former YSR Congress Party MP Nandigam Suresh has been arrested in connection with the alleged attack on a TDP worker, Isakapalli Raju, in the Amaravati region. The incident took place last night near Uddandarayunipalem when a car reportedly sped through the area, prompting Raju to reprimand the driver.

Following this, allegations surfaced that Nandigam Suresh's followers assaulted Raju and forcibly took him to the residence of the former MP. In her complaint to the Tullur police, Raju's wife Lakshmi accused Nandigam Suresh and his brother Prabhudas of physically attacking her husband at their home. Based on the complaint, the Tullur police registered a case and arrested Suresh today. He was taken into custody and brought to the Tullur police station for questioning. Authorities have also launched a search operation to locate his brother Prabhudas and other individuals allegedly involved in the attack. Meanwhile, Nandigam Suresh's wife strongly opposed the arrest and staged a protest outside the Tullur police station, demanding his immediate release and condemning the action taken by the authorities.



Kodali Nani Plans US Trip Citing Health – Escape Route from Probes?

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former minister and senior YSRCP leader Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao, popularly known as Kodali Nani, is currently staying in Hyderabad citing health concerns—but political circles are abuzz that he may be planning to leave for the United States under the pretext of advanced treatment to escape possible legal action.

Nani, who recently returned from Mumbai after undergoing treatment for heart-related issues, is reportedly considering flying to the US for further medical care. However, insiders claim this move is being seen as a strategic attempt to avoid the vigilance and anti-corruption probes initiated by the new TDP government.

Ever since YSRCP lost power, Kodali Nani has been keeping a low profile, avoiding his home turf of Gudivada and staying away from party followers. He has reportedly not been in contact with local leaders or cadres, further fuelling speculation that he is deliberately distancing himself from ongoing developments in Andhra Pradesh.

The TDP government has accused Nani of being involved in large-scale corruption during his tenure as Minister for Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs. Vigilance officials are said to be gathering evidence related to alleged irregularities and misuse of office in Gudivada.

Known for his aggressive political style and harsh attacks on then opposition leaders N. Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh, Kodali Nani now finds himself at the receiving end of political pressure and scrutiny. With multiple departments now reportedly investigating his tenure, his sudden focus on seeking treatment abroad has raised eyebrows.

Political observers believe this could be a calculated attempt to dodge possible arrest or questioning. “He is trying to use health as an excuse to flee the country, as he knows cases are likely to be filed soon,” a senior TDP leader said off record.

As Kodali Nani continues to remain silent and isolated in Hyderabad, uncertainty looms over whether he will face the probe head-on or seek refuge overseas under the guise of medical need.

Fire Near Charminar Kills 17...

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However, recurring tragedies suggest those assurances have not translated into effective measures on the ground. Union Minister and Secunderabad MP G. Kishan Reddy expressed shock over the latest incident and urged all responsible departments—including police, fire services, GHMC, and electricity boards—to enforce fire safety regulations strictly. He emphasized the urgent need for coordinated action to prevent such disasters in the future. The government has ordered a detailed inquiry into the fire, and political leaders visiting the site have called for strong preventive measures. The city's residents demand that authorities prioritize public safety to avoid the recurrence of such tragic incidents.



Jagan Condemns Attack On Dalit Student In Tirupati

- YCP chief says law and order has collapsed in AP
- Alleges growing attacks on Dalits and weaker sections
- Demands strict action against those involved in the assault

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

YCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has strongly condemned the attack on Dalit engineering student James in Tirupati, calling it a glaring example of the deteriorating law and order situation under the current TDP-led government. Jagan expressed his concerns through a strongly worded message on social media.

"I strongly condemn the attack on Dalit engineering student James in Tirupati. This incident is an example of the deteriorating law and order situation in the state and the increasing attacks on Dalits," Jagan posted.

He alleged that attacks on Dalits and marginalized groups have become alarmingly frequent across Andhra Pradesh. He claimed that the police have become partisan and ineffective, acting under the pressure of ruling party leaders, particularly under the direction of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

"Dalits and other groups who cannot make their voices heard are left defenseless in this state. Such incidents are happening because the police machinery, which is immersed in partisan activities under the direction of Chandrababu and the ruling party leaders, completely ignores its responsibility to protect citizens," Jagan remarked.

He further stated that the public has lost faith in the police system, as filing complaints often results in counter-cases against the victims themselves. Referring specifically to the Tirupati incident, Jagan alleged that political interference had reached a point where the police were not even accepting formal complaints from the victim's side.

"The police machinery has not only failed in the attack on James, but due to political interference, it is not even possible to accept a complaint," he said.

Jagan concluded by demanding strict legal action against those responsible for the attack and urged the state government to act impartially in safeguarding Dalits and other vulnerable communities.

Free Bus Scheme to Cost ₹3,182 Cr Annually

- Scheme to roll out from August 15;
- Concerns over viability and impact on transport sector

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's flagship welfare initiative—offering free bus travel for women across Andhra Pradesh—is set to be launched on August 15. While the move has been welcomed by many for its social impact, it's also sparked a debate over its financial and logistical implications. The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) is estimated to require an annual reimbursement of ₹3,182 crore from the state government to run the scheme.

As per preliminary projections, the occupancy rate in buses is expected to surge from the current 69% to 94% once the scheme is implemented. Daily female ridership is likely to rise by an additional 10.84 lakh passengers, drastically increasing the burden on public transport infrastructure. Reactions to the scheme are sharply divided. Supporters argue that free travel for women is a



much-needed step toward gender equity, especially benefiting daily wage earners, students, and working women. They highlight that this will reduce financial pressure on households and promote female participation in education and the workforce.

Critics, however, describe it as another populist measure that will strain the state exchequer. There are concerns that men, especially in peak hours, may find it harder to secure seats. The ripple effect could hurt private transport operators, including auto drivers and

cab aggregators, many of whom rely on daily income. One of the core apprehensions is whether APSRTC will receive timely reimbursements from the government. Given that public transport corporations have often been underfunded and neglected by successive governments, any delay in payments could deepen the financial crisis of the RTC. Furthermore, the potential misuse of the scheme through non-essential travel or joyrides remains a challenge. Regulating and monitoring ridership to prevent such misuse would be crucial to ensure the scheme's sustainability. During the recent legislative sessions, Transport Minister V. Sandhya Rani hinted that the free bus travel scheme might be restricted to intra-district routes. If this limitation is enforced, it could help reduce losses and prevent misuse, though an official clarification is awaited.

The scheme, while ambitious and socially progressive, will depend heavily on transparent execution, financial discipline, and effective monitoring to ensure it does not derail APSRTC's operations while striving to uplift women.

CM Mourns Death Of 7 Children In Two Tragic Incidents

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed profound sorrow over the tragic deaths of seven children in two separate incidents that occurred on the same day in Chittoor and Vizianagara districts. The Chief Minister said these incidents have left him deeply distressed.

In the first tragedy, three children from the same family died after falling into a pond in Devarajpuram village of Kuppam mandal, Chittoor district. The children — Gautami, Shalini, and Ashwin — reportedly fell into the pond while playing. Despite immediate efforts, all three lost their lives. The Chief Minister offered his heartfelt condolences to the grieving family members who are mourn-



ing the irreplaceable loss of their children. In the second incident, four children suffocated to death inside a locked car in Dwarapudi village

of Vizianagaram district. According to initial reports, the children had gone out to play and entered a parked car, which accidentally got locked. Unable to open the doors

or call for help, the children were trapped and eventually died due to suffocation. The victims have been identified as Uday, Jashrita, Charulata, and Maniswari — all under the age of 10. Chandrababu Naidu said the news of these back-to-back tragedies has caused him immense pain. He expressed his deep condolences to the parents and families of the deceased and said the state government would extend all necessary support to the bereaved families. "These accidents, which claimed the lives of very young children, are heart-wrenching. We will stand by the affected families and ensure that they receive all the help they need," the Chief Minister stated. He also urged parents and communities to stay vigilant to prevent such unfortunate incidents in the future.

Kadapa Shop Demolitions Spark Political Storm

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

The demolition of temporary structures in front of shops at the YSR Shopping Complex in Kadapa Municipal Corporation has ignited a political controversy. Town Planning officials demolished these structures citing encroachments, including the building leased by YCP leader Jayachandra Reddy's brother, currently managed by Jayachandra. Nine other shops in the complex were also affected. Shop tenants had installed temporary rakes and ramps outside their shops for ease of access. Despite this, municipal authorities demolished these structures at night without prior notice. Critics point out that public toilets near the Municipal Urdu Boys High School and facilities at the Municipal Stadium, also close by, were left untouched, raising questions about selective enforcement.

YCP leaders claim the demolitions are politically motivated under the orders of Kadapa MLA Madhav Reddy, targeting those opposing him. Jayachandra Reddy, vocal against the MLA's alleged factional activities and recent political defections, said these actions are aimed at silencing



dissent. The demolition has left around 50 families homeless, triggering protests from the city mayor Suresh Babu, corporators, and YCP leaders who gathered at the site in large numbers. They warned that such measures will only strengthen their resolve to question government failures and seek justice. The YCP corporators vowed to oppose these illegal demolitions at the polls and demanded restoration of the affected families' rights and properties.

YCP Ex-MLA Bats for Jagan-Modi Alliance in Next Elections

Calls past decision to skip BJP tie-up a mistake

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Senior YSR Congress Party leader and former Kovvur MLA, Nallapureddy Prasanna Kumar Reddy, has stirred a new debate in the political circles with his latest remarks. Speaking to the media, Reddy expressed his strong desire for an alliance between YSRCP and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming elections. He said he would personally convey this suggestion to party chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. "I want to see YSRCP contesting along with BJP in the next elections. I believe that will be a stronger and more strategic move," Reddy said. Prasanna Kumar Reddy didn't hold back from criticizing his own party's earlier stance. He stated that the decision to contest the 2024 elections without aligning with the BJP was a significant mistake. He pointed out that the YSRCP had extended support to the Modi-led NDA government throughout its previous tenure and said there was nothing wrong in forming an electoral alliance with them.



"The YSRCP stood by Modi's government for five years. It was unfortunate that despite this support, we didn't proceed with a formal alliance. That misstep gave an opportunity for the BJP to shift towards TDP and Janasena," Reddy commented. Highlighting BJP's uneasy history with TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, Reddy said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah never had a favorable view of Naidu, especially after the past criticism and protests led by TDP against the Centre." He argued that the BJP was initially inclined towards partnering with the YSR Congress Party, but due to Jagan's silence, they eventually went with the TDP-Janasena combine. "There's still a chance. If such an opportunity arises again, Jagan should not let it slip away," he emphasized. Reddy's statement has now opened up speculation about potential future alliances in Andhra Pradesh politics. With the shifting dynamics post the 2024 elections, many in the YSRCP may start viewing the BJP alliance as a pragmatic path forward.

Minister Manohar Turns 'People's Doctor' at Free Medical Camp

- Free mega camp held at Kollipara with 20 doctors, 50 support staff
- Manohar interacted with patients, handed over medicines personally
- Pledged to establish a blood bank at Kollipara CHC soon



TPN Correspondent | Guntur

In a remarkable display of public service, Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar turned into a 'people's doctor' on Saturday as he launched a large-scale free medical camp at the Community Health Center (CHC) in Kollipara, Tenali constituency. Aimed at delivering corporate-level healthcare services to rural citizens, the camp drew widespread praise for its scope and the minister's personal involvement. Speaking at the inaugural event, Minister Manohar emphasized that the government's top priority is the



health and wellbeing of its citizens. "This camp has been set up to ensure that the poor and those in remote areas receive high-quality medical services without cost. No one should be denied treatment due to financial or logistical limitations," he said. The camp saw participation from 20 specialist doctors and around 50 support staff. Comprehensive tests and consultations were provided across departments including women's and children's health, ENT, eye care, dental, and cardiac specialties. Diagnostic services such as X-rays, scans, and minor surgeries were also

conducted. All prescribed medicines were distributed free of charge to patients. In a unique gesture that won the admiration of many, the minister moved beyond formalities. He went around the OPD lines, directly interacting with patients, understanding their concerns, escorting them to relevant departments, and even handing over their medications himself. His hands-on approach and compassionate demeanor earned him the title "people's doctor" from grateful locals. Addressing the gathering, Manohar announced plans to establish a blood bank center

at the Kollipara CHC soon, ensuring timely support to the local population during emergencies. He reaffirmed that such medical camps would continue across rural areas to bridge the healthcare gap and deliver services at par with urban facilities. The event was attended by local public representatives, medical professionals, officials, and hundreds of villagers who benefited from the services. The overwhelming response and emotional connection between the minister and the people added a new chapter to grassroots governance.

Castes Are Irrational, Religions Are Taboo

Traita Siddhanta Bhagavad Gita Promotion in Villages

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Traita Siddhanta Prabodha Seva Samiti Vijayawada Committee organized a special promotion of the Traita Siddhanta Bhagavad Gita and related spiritual books in the villages of Jakkampudi and Shabad on Sunday, May 18, 2025. The event aimed to spread awareness about the core teachings of Traita Siddhanta, which emphasize that social constructs like castes are irrational and religions are considered taboos from the perspective of divine knowledge. The program focused on educating



people about the uniqueness of Karma Yoga and the spiritual wisdom that comes from understanding the soul, the self, and the Supreme Soul. Speaking during the promotion, committee members explained that Traita Siddhanta

encourages transcending societal divisions and religious barriers to realize spiritual unity and inner peace. The organizers emphasized the importance of this knowledge in fostering harmony and a deeper connection to the universal

truth. Jagirpu Suresh, President of the Indu Gyan Vedika Vijayawada Committee, led the program along with other committee members, including Satyam, Tirupati, Durga Rao, Lakshmi, Paidappadu, Chenchu, Lakshmi Bhai, and Surrappadu. The group highlighted their commitment to promoting spiritual education through literature and community outreach. This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts by the Traita Siddhanta Prabodha Seva Samiti to encourage spiritual enlightenment and social cohesion by breaking down outdated barriers and prejudices.

Museums Are Mirrors of Civilization

Collector Lakshmi Shah on International Museum Day

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Shah emphasized that museums are not merely collections of memories but living mirrors of our civilization. Participating in the International Museum Day celebrations on Sunday, he highlighted the unique role of museums in preserving cultural and historical heritage for future generations. To mark the occasion, Dr. Lakshmi Shah, along with officials from the Archaeology, Revenue, Tourism, and Urban Administration departments, as well as members of adventure and tourism associations, undertook a symbolic trekking rally from Kondapalli Doll Artists Street to the Kondapalli Fort Museum. The initiative was aimed at promoting awareness about the rich historical and cultural signifi-



cance of the Kondapalli Fort area. Speaking at the fort, the Collector explained that this year's International Museum Day is being celebrated with the theme "Museums for Education and Research" (implied in the context of rapidly changing societies). She stressed that

museums are evolving institutions that play a crucial role in educating society while preserving the essence of history. He encouraged students and youth to visit museums such as the Bapu Museum in Vijayawada and the Kondapalli Fort Museum to connect with their roots and better understand

the direction of our collective future. He stated that the Kondapalli Fort, a historical structure that has witnessed the rule of multiple dynasties, houses everything from traditional Kondapalli toys to rare inscriptions and artifacts. Efforts are underway to develop the fort into a major tourism destination. As part of the district's strategic plan, steps are being taken to boost the tourism sector and increase public awareness about the importance of preserving heritage. The event was attended by Vijayawada RDO Kavuri Chaitanya, District Tourism Officer A. Shilpa, DFO Satish, Kondapalli Municipal Commissioner Ramya Keerthan, AP Adventure Association Vijayawada President Tarun Kakani, AP Tourism Authority Consultant Sahithi, representatives from Tours and Travel Associations, and others.



Chandrababu Visits Sujana Chowdhury in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu visited BJP MLA Sujana Chowdhury at his residence in Hyderabad today to inquire about his health following a recent injury. Sujana Chowdhury, who had travelled to London recently, suffered a serious shoulder injury after accidentally slipping in a bathroom. He underwent surgery upon his return to Hyderabad and is currently resting as per doctors' advice. The Chief Minister met Sujana Chowdhury at his residence located in Sagar Society, Banjara Hills. During the visit, Chandrababu spoke to him and his family members, gathering details about the incident and his recovery process. He showed concern for his well-being and spent time understanding the treatment he is undergoing. Chandrababu expressed his best wishes for a speedy recovery and encouraged Sujana Chowdhury to take proper rest. He also conveyed his hope that he would soon return to active public service in good health.



One Killed, Two Critically Injured in Auto-Lorry Collision

TPN Correspondent | Nujiveedu

A tragic road accident occurred on Sunday near Tatabbai Plant Company in Venkatadripuram, a suburb of Nujiveedu mandal, resulting in the death of one person and critical injuries to two others. The incident involved a collision between an auto-rickshaw and a lorry coming from the opposite direction. According to local sources, Ajay, a resident of Hanumantula Gooda, had picked up four passengers in his auto and was heading towards Nujiveedu. While en route, the auto was struck by a lorry in a head-on collision. The impact of the crash left one person dead on the spot, while two others sustained severe injuries. The remaining two passengers reportedly suffered minor injuries. Upon receiving information, the police arrived at the scene and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital. Authorities have begun an investigation to determine the exact cause of the accident and to identify the driver of the lorry involved. The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the local community, with residents expressing concern over frequent accidents in the area. Further details are awaited pending the completion of the investigation.



Retired Soldiers Should Be Partners in Society's Upliftment

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu has called on the coalition government to extend job opportunities to retired soldiers who have served the nation and can contribute significantly to the progress of society. The MLA stressed the importance of recognizing the sacrifices made by veterans and ensuring their welfare after retirement. Several retired soldiers met MLA Ramu at his residence in Rajendranagar, where they discussed various concerns and challenges faced by the veterans. Coming from an army family, MLA Ramu personally understands the hardships retired soldiers endure. "My father, Venkateswara Rao, served in the army, so I am aware of the difficulties our soldiers face after their service ends," he said. Speaking to the media later, MLA Ramu highlighted the need to honor and respect soldiers who have displayed courage and dedication in defending the country. He assured that the coalition government would work towards addressing the issues of retired soldiers, who have undergone rigorous training and performed their duties selflessly, often risking their lives. The MLA promised to take these matters to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and appeal for schemes that integrate retired soldiers into the broader goal of societal upliftment. He said, "We must provide job opportunities and empower retired soldiers to become active partners in building a better future for our communities."

Telugu State Theaters To Shut From June 1??

Exhibitors oppose rental system, demand revenue share
Decision taken in Film Chamber meeting with Dil Raju, Suresh Babu
Releases of upcoming films likely to be affected



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A major development has rocked the Telugu film industry as theater exhibitors across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have decided to shut down cinema theaters indefinitely

starting June 1. This decision comes in protest against the existing rental model for screening films, with exhibitors demanding a shift to a percentage-based revenue sharing system. The decision was taken on

Sunday during a key meeting held at the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce in Hyderabad. Prominent producers and industry leaders, including Dil Raju and D. Suresh Babu, were present. Exhibitors from both Telugu states raised their concerns and conveyed their inability to continue operations under the current model. "We are incurring heavy losses due to the rising operational costs. The rental system is no longer sustainable for us. From now, we want a share of the film collections through a percentage system," the exhibitors reportedly said during the meeting. They unanimously resolved not to screen any films from June 1 unless their demand is accepted. An official letter will soon be submitted to the pro-

ducers, informing them of the decision and urging them to consider the percentage-based model. This development is likely to have serious implications for the Telugu film release calendar. Several small and mid-budget films scheduled for release from June 1 could face delays or cancellations. The decision has sparked concern across the industry, with stakeholders waiting to see how the producers will respond. Industry insiders believe that if no compromise is reached soon, the entire distribution-exhibition ecosystem could face disruption. Talks are expected to continue in the coming days to find a mutually acceptable solution.

Heavy Rush in Tirumala, 24-Hour Wait for Sarvadarshan

TPN Correspondent | Tirumala

A heavy rush of devotees was witnessed in Tirumala, with the Sarvadarshan queue time extending up to 24 hours for those without time-slot tokens. All compartments in the Vaikuntha Queue Complex have been filled, and the line has stretched up to the Krishna Teja Guest House, reflecting the growing devotion and footfall at the temple. According to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) officials, 87,347 devotees had darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy on Saturday alone. Among them, 39,490 devotees offered their talaneelalu (hair offerings). The TTD also reported a hundi income of ₹3.13 crore on the day. Meanwhile, a series of VIP and celebrity visits added to the spiritual vibrancy of the temple. Indian cricket team head coach and former cricketer Gautam Gambhir visited Tirumala in the early hours along with his family. They participated in the morning rituals and had darshan of the Lord. Prominent film personalities also visited the temple during the VIP break. Actor Aadi Pinisetty, his half-brother Nikki Galrani, actor Vaibhav, and actress Aishwarya Rajesh offered prayers and participated in the Srivari Seva. The TTD officials received them at the Vaikuntha Queue Complex and facilitated their darshan. After offering prayers, Vedic scholars at Ranganayakula Mandapam blessed the guests with Vedic hymns and prasadam. In addition, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda also visited the temple separately and had darshan of the deity, highlighting Tirumala's continued importance as a national spiritual hub. With the rising influx of devotees, TTD officials have urged pilgrims to cooperate with temple authorities and follow the guidelines for a smooth and divine experience.

Ministers Reviews Mahanadu Arrangements in Kadapa

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

A group of ministers convened a review meeting to oversee the preparations for the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) upcoming Mahanadu at Pabbapuram near Kadapa city. The meeting included key MLAs, MPs, and party functionaries from Rayalaseema districts. The agenda focused on the assembly premises setup, VIP security, food, drinking water, and other essential facilities. Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha took charge of reviewing the security arrangements for visiting VIPs. Kadapa District In-charge Minister Savita, Angani Satya Prasad, BC Janardhan Reddy,

Nimmala Ramanaidu, Payyavula Keshav, Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao, and other senior TDP leaders participated actively. Addressing the gathering, TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao assured that the Mahanadu, scheduled for May 27-29 on a sprawling 125-acre venue at Pabbapuram village, would be organized in a historic and prestigious manner. He stated special committees have been formed to ensure smooth arrangements and a hassle-free experience for all leaders attending the event. Many district leaders also participated, reflecting the party's unified effort to make this a grand success.



Four Children Die After Getting Locked Inside Car in Vizianagaram



TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

A tragic incident has shaken the small village of Dwarapudi in Vizianagaram Rural Mandal, where four young children lost their lives after being accidentally locked inside a parked car on Sunday morning. The children, who had gone out to play as usual, did not return home, causing their families to search desperately throughout the morning. After hours of searching, their heartbreaking discovery came when the parents found the children lying unconscious inside a locked car near the Mahila Mandal office in the vil-

lage. Upon being informed, the car owner quickly unlocked the vehicle, only to find that the children had tragically succumbed to suffocation caused by lack of oxygen inside the sealed space. The deceased children have been identified as Uday (8), son of Mangi Buchibabu and Bhavani; Charumathi (8) and Charishma (6), daughters of Burlu Anand and Uma; and Manaswini, daughter of Kandi Suresh and Aruna. This devastating loss has cast a dark shadow of grief over the entire village community, with residents mourning the sudden and untimely deaths of the four innocent children.

Took advice from PM on Vikasit Bharat: Minister Lokesh

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Andhra Pradesh Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh met Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his family in New Delhi on Saturday. The meeting, held at the Prime Minister's residence, was cordial and meaningful, with discussions covering development goals and Andhra Pradesh's future role in the national vision. During the visit, Prime Minister Modi formally launched the 'Yuvagalam' coffee table book, which documents Lokesh's 3,132-km padayatra conducted prior to the 2024 elections. The Prime Minister unveiled the book, signed it personally, and presented it to Lokesh. The book highlights Lokesh's journey and grassroots interactions across Andhra Pradesh. Modi inquired about the health and well-being of Lokesh and his wife Brahmani. He also affectionately spent time with their son Devansh, engaging in a warm and light-hearted conversation. Following the meeting, Minister Lokesh shared his thoughts on the social media platform 'X'. "It is a great honour to meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi today at his residence in New Delhi along with my family. Thank you for your support towards the progress of Andhra Pradesh and your decisive leadership in national development and security. I took advice from the Prime Minister on how the state can contribute to achieving the goal of Vikasit Bharat by 2047," Lokesh wrote. The meeting is seen as a key moment in building strong coordination between the Centre and the Andhra Pradesh government on development priorities.



Terror Suspects Nabbed in Vizianagaram

- Explosive materials recovered from local residence
- Accused revealed links leading to Hyderabad arrest
- Police to produce both suspects in court

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

Tension gripped Vizianagaram town after police unearthed a suspected terror plot involving explosive materials. Following a specific intelligence input, the Vizianagaram police raided a house in the town and arrested a 29-year-old man identified as Siraj Ur Rehman. During the operation, the police recovered ammonia, sulphur, and aluminium powder, which are commonly used in the making of explosives. These materials were reportedly found in Siraj Ur Rehman's possession. Officials confirmed that after interrogating Rehman, they obtained leads pointing to another suspect based in Hyderabad. Acting swiftly on the information, police arrested Syed Sameer, 28, from Hyderabad, in connection with the case. Authorities stated that both individuals are being questioned further, and will be produced in court soon. The police have not yet disclosed the motive or intended target, but the arrest has raised serious concerns over potential terror activities being planned from within the region. Security has been tightened in and around Vizianagaram, and the police are continuing their investigation to uncover any broader network or plot linked to the arrested individuals.

786 Rafi Elected TDP Naidupeta Town President



TPN | C Shekar

Naidupeta: Telugu Desam Party's 786 Rafi was unanimously elected as the Naidupeta town president in a recent working meeting. Rafi, who joined TDP after facing injustice in YSRCP, has gained strong support within the party. This includes backing from Sullurpet MLA Nelavala Vijayasri and constituency in-charge Nelavala Subramaniam, who ensured he received a key party position. The election was celebrated by

local leaders, with young leader and SJ Jewellery head Potlapudi Rajesh honoring Rafi by presenting a shawl. The event marked an atmosphere of celebration and unity, ending past speculations and misunderstandings. Party members believe this combination will strengthen the party's local leadership. Supporters expressed hope that Rafi will continue serving the people and take on greater responsibilities in the future.



India at the Crossroads: Seizing the Moment for a Viksit Bharat

India today stands at a historic juncture. The dream of Viksit Bharat—a developed India—hinges on three pillars: becoming a robust, high-income economy, possessing strong defence and military capabilities, and asserting an influential presence on the global stage. All three are now within reach, thanks to a unique alignment of geopolitical circumstances, domestic resilience, and diplomatic assertiveness. How we choose to navigate these opportunities will define the India of tomorrow.

The ongoing US-China trade war, coupled with heightened tensions with Pakistan, presents India with critical openings. On the economic front, India's fundamentals are sound. Inflation remains under control, the country is following a clear fiscal consolidation path, foreign exchange reserves are healthy, and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows have reached historic highs. Infrastructure growth and the rise of digital public platforms like UPI and ONDC are transforming service delivery and commerce. Capital markets are booming, and public sector undertakings along with banks are showing signs of revival. These trends point to the emergence of a resilient economic base.

India's trade dynamics are also

undergoing a positive transformation. The US-China tensions are prompting American buyers to shift sourcing to India, boosting Indian exports and manufacturing. India has capitalised on this with free trade agreements signed with Australia and the UAE, and an expansive FTA with the UK already in place. A trade deal with the US is expected soon. Lower import duties are improving competitiveness, enhancing productivity, and attracting global interest. Structural reforms—both completed and underway—are laying the foundation for long-term growth, although overcoming political resistance remains a key challenge.

On the security front, India has shown boldness and clarity in dealing with threats. In response to terrorism sponsored by Pakistan, India launched decisive operations that struck deep into Pakistani territory, disabling key terrorist infrastructure and degrading air force capabilities at multiple locations. Operations like Sindoor demonstrated India's ability to deliver strategic and psychological blows, while remaining non-escalatory in tone—ensuring international backing. The assertion that any future talks with Pakistan will be limited to Pak-Occupied Kashmir and state-sponsored terrorism reflects a firm and clear stance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration that terrorism and dialogue cannot coexist has resonated globally. The suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty adds further pressure on Pakistan, a country already struggling with a collapsing economy, internal uprisings, and institutional instability.

Globally, India's rise is unmistakable. PM Modi's statesmanship, especially during the Ukraine-Russia conflict and the G20 presidency, has elevated India's stature. His statement to President Putin—"This is not an era of war"—was lauded internationally. India's frank dialogue with the West, including on democracy and energy issues, reflects growing confidence and maturity in foreign policy. The country is now widely seen as a responsible and powerful global player.

Still, challenges remain. India must achieve sustained GDP growth of over 8% annually—something we have yet to realize. The foundation is strong, the global environment is favorable, and Brand India is on the rise. What remains is for the Indian people, and its politics, to fully rise to the moment. Our tryst with destiny awaits—how we respond will shape the next chapter of the Indian story.

The Awkward Truth About Creditworthiness: A Modern Financial Dilemma

Creditworthiness is a word that carries weight, power, and often, a fair amount of discomfort. It's the silent evaluator that hovers over financial decisions—from buying a home or car to simply applying for a credit card. While it sounds like a straightforward concept—your ability to repay debt—it's laced with awkwardness, misunderstandings, and an emotional complexity that few openly talk about.

For many, being judged on their credit score can feel like a personal evaluation, one that digs into your life's financial choices and hands you a number. This number then quietly determines what opportunities you can access. The awkwardness begins when individuals realize that their credit history speaks louder than their actual intent or capability at the present moment. Take, for instance, young adults entering the financial world. Many find themselves in a paradox—they need credit to build credit, but can't access meaningful credit because they don't have a history. So they start with small credit cards or loans, each decision scrutinized, and one misstep—a missed payment or high utilization—can haunt them for years. It's like being graded on a test you didn't know you were taking.

Then there's the issue of financial trauma or past mistakes. Many people have faced economic hardship—job losses, medical emergencies, or simply poor financial decisions made under stress or lack of knowledge. These situations often tank a credit score, creating a sense of shame or failure. The awkwardness intensifies when they're denied a loan or apartment lease, not because they can't afford it now,

but because of the past. Creditworthiness doesn't easily account for personal growth or recovery. There's also the systemic awkwardness—how the credit system, while seemingly impartial, often disadvantages those from marginalized communities. Access to credit, financial literacy, and even fair banking institutions are not distributed evenly. The result is a lopsided system where some must work much harder to prove their "worthiness."

And then comes the strange dance of improving your credit. People start doing things that seem counterintuitive—taking out loans they don't need, keeping old credit cards open just to maintain a longer credit history, or juggling multiple cards to keep utilization rates low. It becomes less about genuine financial behavior and more about playing the game right.

Even conversations around creditworthiness are awkward. It's not something people are comfortable discussing, like salary or debt. Yet it's a major factor in one's financial life. People often feel isolated in their credit struggles, unaware that many others are navigating the same maze of rules, penalties, and arbitrary metrics. Ultimately, the awkwardness of creditworthiness lies in its invisibility and influence. It quietly shapes financial lives, opens or closes doors, and yet feels disconnected from the full picture of a person's financial reality. As we move toward more inclusive financial systems, perhaps the future of credit will consider more than just numbers. Until then, many will continue to live under the quiet discomfort of being judged by their financial past.



INDIA in tatters: Congress not doing enough

Senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has voiced what many within political and public circles have been whispering for months—the once-promising INDIA bloc is now little more than a fragmented memory. Formed nearly two years ago as a grand alliance of Opposition parties with the intent to counter the might of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the bloc has gradually drifted into political obscurity, and Chidambaram's recent remarks only underline its near comatose state.

Speaking candidly, Chidambaram admitted he is unsure whether the INDIA alliance, designed to unify diverse regional and national Opposition forces under one banner, is even "intact" anymore. While expressing a faint hope that the alliance can "still be put together," his tone carried more doubt than optimism. The honesty of his assessment reflects the deepening cracks and lack of cohesion within the bloc—issues that have remained unaddressed for far too long.

What makes his statement even more



striking is the unexpected praise he directed toward the BJP, calling it the most "formidably organised" political party in India's history. For a senior Congress leader to publicly acknowledge the BJP's unparalleled electoral machinery, grassroots penetration, and political discipline is significant, and perhaps uncomfortable, especially for his own party, which has struggled to project unity, purpose, or clarity

in recent times.

This recognition of the BJP's formidable strength comes at a time when the Modi government is riding high on both perception and performance, with a strong narrative control and continued popularity among large sections of the electorate. The BJP's ability to dominate both national and regional discourse, align state units

with central leadership seamlessly, and outmaneuver fractured Opposition fronts is precisely what the INDIA bloc was supposed to counter. But instead of offering a cohesive alternative, the bloc has become a study in contradictions, plagued by personality clashes, ideological rifts, and electoral one-upmanship among allies.

Chidambaram's comments, there-

fore, are not merely a critique—they are a warning. The Congress, as the principal Opposition party, cannot afford to remain passive or internally divided while praising the strategic brilliance of its main adversary. That kind of acknowledgment, while intellectually honest, risks demoralising party cadres and further disillusioning voters who are seeking a viable alternative.

Moreover, his words come at a sensitive time. With national elections looming closer, and the BJP consolidating its influence across key states, the vacuum left by a disjointed Opposition could further tilt the balance in the ruling party's favor. If the INDIA bloc is to have any future relevance, now is the time for a radical course correction—one that demands humility, unity, and a clear common agenda, not just rhetoric.

In the end, P. Chidambaram has done what few in Indian politics dare to do: speak an uncomfortable truth. Whether his party and allies will listen—or continue down the path of disintegration—remains to be seen.

PM Modi To Chair NITI Aayog Meet On May 24, Focus on Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision

Centre to Collaborate with States on Development Strategy Post-Operation Sindoor

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a key development in India's governance framework, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the 10th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog on May 24 in New Delhi. This crucial meeting will bring together Chief Ministers, Lieutenant Governors, and senior officials to chart the roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047—India's long-term vision to become a developed nation by its 100th year of independence.

This will be PM Modi's first collective engagement with state leaders since Operation Sindoor, the high-profile national security action conducted earlier this month. The meeting is expected to focus on fast-tracking progress in underperforming districts, enhancing Centre-State coordination, and strengthening implementation of key schemes under the joint federal structure.

The agenda includes a comprehensive review of current development initiatives, identifying gaps in delivery at the state and district levels, and incorporating feedback from states into national policy reforms. Officials said the Centre aims to ensure that the long-term goals of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision are inclusive, collaborative, and grounded in grassroots



realities.

Among other priorities, the Council will assess the status of flagship government schemes related to infrastructure, health, education, agriculture, and digital governance. The importance of cooperative federalism will be highlighted as the Centre seeks more robust participation from states in shaping the developmental roadmap.

Following the main NITI Aayog session, PM Modi is also scheduled to hold a separate meeting on May 25 with Chief Minis-

ters and Deputy Chief Ministers from BJP and NDA-ruled states. This closed-door session is expected to align state-level governance strategies with the Centre's broader reform agenda.

The two-day engagement underscores a renewed focus on collaborative governance post-Operation Sindoor and amid ongoing geopolitical challenges. As India prepares for the 2047 milestone, the Centre is keen on transforming this vision into actionable, time-bound goals through unified efforts across all levels of government.

"3 Pillars Of Democracy Equal": Chief Justice BR Gavai's Big Protocol Remark

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai, during his first official visit to Maharashtra after assuming office, subtly criticized the state's Executive over a breach in protocol. His remarks have sparked renewed attention on the ongoing debate surrounding judicial overreach and the balance of power between the three pillars of democracy.

Speaking at a felicitation event organized by the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in Mumbai, CJI Gavai pointed out the absence of three key officials — the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, and Mumbai Police Commissioner. He emphasized that constitutional institutions must respect each other and noted that such protocol lapses raise important questions.

"If a constitutional head visits their home state for the first time and is not received appropriately, it warrants reflection. Had judges done the same, debates around Article 142 would have erupted," he said.



Article 142 grants the Supreme Court the power to pass any order necessary for doing complete justice.

After his comments, the aforementioned officials appeared at Chaitya Bhoomi, where CJI Gavai paid homage to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Speaking to the press there, he downplayed the incident, stating he was "not fussy" about protocol, but merely pointed out a factual lapse.

The CJI's remarks come amid a broader debate over the judiciary's role in governance, especially following a Supreme

Court ruling on Tamil Nadu's legislative standoff with Governor RN Ravi. Using Article 142, the court had directed that delayed Bills be cleared, terming the Governor's inaction "arbitrary." This ruling prompted President Droupadi Murmu to question whether courts could impose timelines on Governors, who enjoy constitutional discretion under Articles 200 and 201.

President Murmu sought clarity on whether the President or Governor's decisions under these articles are justiciable, citing Article 361, which offers them immunity from legal accountability while in office. Political reactions followed swiftly. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey criticized the court, accusing it of overstepping its bounds. However, the Supreme Court chose not to entertain a contempt plea, stating courts are "not fragile as flowers," though it called the remarks "highly irresponsible."

The episode underscores the fragile balance between India's constitutional bodies at a time of increasing friction.

ISRO's 101st Space Mission Fails as PSLV Rocket Malfunctions After Launch

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a rare setback for India's space programme, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) faced failure in its 101st space mission as the PSLV-C61 rocket malfunctioned minutes after liftoff on Sunday morning. The mission was intended to launch the Earth Observation Satellite EOS-09 into a sun-synchronous orbit but was unsuccessful due to issues with the rocket's third stage.

The launch took place at 5:59 am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. While the lift-off proceeded normally, telemetry data soon indicated a deviation in performance, leading to an incomplete orbital injection. ISRO, in a brief official statement, confirmed that an anomaly had occurred during the third stage of the flight. Further details are expected after a full analysis of flight data.

"An anomaly was observed in the third stage of the PSLV-C61 mission, which prevented the satellite from being placed in



the intended orbit," ISRO stated, without elaborating on the technical failure or the fate of the EOS-09 satellite.

The EOS-09 satellite was designed for earth observation purposes, including agricultural monitoring, land use mapping, and disaster management support. The failed deployment marks a significant disruption in ISRO's otherwise consistent record of successful PSLV launches—often referred to as the "workhorse" of India's space programme.

This mission was ISRO's 101st from Sriharikota and was expected to reinforce the reliability of the PSLV after recent successes, including multiple satellite launches and collaborations with international space agencies. The failure has come as a setback not just for ISRO but also for several scientific institutions relying on data from the EOS-09.

An internal failure review committee is likely to be constituted immediately to investigate the anomaly. ISRO is expected to make a detailed presentation on the root cause and corrective measures in the coming weeks.

Despite the failure, experts affirm that ISRO's overall mission success rate remains high and that such incidents, while unfortunate, are part of complex space operations.



India Shines Amid Global Economic Slowdown, Tops UN Growth Forecasts

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a world grappling with economic uncertainty, India has emerged as a standout performer, leading global growth projections, according to the United Nations' mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects. The report forecasts India's GDP to grow at 6.3% in FY 2025, the highest among major economies, and slightly higher at 6.4% in 2026.

This optimistic outlook comes as the global economy faces multiple headwinds — from trade tensions and waning cross-border investments to persistent policy uncertainty. The UN has downgraded its global growth projection for 2025 to 2.4%, from 2.9% in 2024.

India's performance is driven by strong domestic demand, robust capital markets, record-breaking exports, and consistent government spending. Inflation is expected to stay contained at 4.3%, well within the Reserve Bank of India's target range, thanks to stable employment and prudent fiscal management.

Capital Markets & Manufacturing Surge

India's financial markets have remained buoyant, with indices climbing to record highs. A vibrant primary market has attracted global players like Hyundai and LG, who are listing their local subsidiaries, signaling India's strategic importance in the global financial system. The manufacturing sector has shown exceptional growth. The Gross Value Added (GVA) of manufacturing at constant prices nearly doubled in the last decade — from ₹15.6 lakh crore in 2013–14 to an estimated ₹27.5 lakh crore in 2023–24, according to the Ministry of Statistics.

Export & Defence Milestones

India's exports touched a historic high of \$824.9 billion in 2024–25, a 6% increase over the previous year and a dramatic leap from \$466 billion a decade ago. In the defence sector, indigenous manufacturing hit ₹1.27 lakh crore in 2023–24, marking a 174% rise since 2014–15. Defence exports soared from just ₹686 crore in 2013–14 to ₹23,622 crore in 2024–25, with Indian defence equipment now reaching nearly 100 countries. The UN report highlights that India's structural reforms, export strength, and proactive policies have positioned it as a beacon of stability in an otherwise fragile global economic environment.

Jaishankar to Embark on Six-Day Europe Tour from Today

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will begin a crucial six-day official visit to Europe from May 19 to 24, covering the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany. The tour aims to bolster India's strategic and economic partnerships with these key European nations amid rapidly evolving global dynamics.

According to an official release, Jaishankar will hold bilateral meetings with the top leadership and foreign ministers of the three countries. Discussions are expected to cover a broad spectrum of bilateral ties, with a strong focus on trade, technology, renewable energy, and defense cooperation. Regional and international issues of shared concern—including Indo-Pacific security, climate change, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict—will also be on the agenda.

The visit to the Netherlands will include engagements with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and other senior officials. India and the Netherlands enjoy a long-standing relationship rooted in shared democratic values and strong trade ties, especially in sectors like water management, agriculture, and innovation.

In Denmark, Jaishankar is expected to follow up on the outcomes of the Green Strategic Partnership, launched during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2022 visit. This partnership emphasizes cooperation in sustainable development, green technologies, and climate action—areas where Denmark has global expertise.

Germany will be the final stop of the visit, where Jaishankar will engage with Chancellor Olaf Scholz's administration. India and Germany have deep-rooted economic and defense relations, and the two sides have been working closely on strengthening their bilateral partnership under the Inter-Governmental Consultations framework. Discussions in Berlin will likely include collaboration on AI, cybersecurity, and critical technologies, as well as furthering investments in manufacturing and green energy.



Trump to Call Putin in Effort to End Ukraine ‘Bloodbath’

Intervenes as Civilian Deaths Mount in Ukraine War

In a significant development following the first direct talks between Russia and Ukraine in over three years, U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Saturday, May 18, 2025, that he will speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone on Monday to push for an end to what he called the “bloodbath” in Ukraine.

Trump has been urging Moscow to agree to a 30-day unconditional ceasefire as a first step toward halting hostilities. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed to Russia’s state TASS news agency that preparations for the call are underway.

The call announcement comes just a day after Ukrainian and Russian delegations met in Istanbul and reached an agreement to exchange 1,000 prisoners on each side — the first such deal since the early months of the war in 2022. Ukrainian Defence Minister and lead negotiator Rustem Umerov hailed the exchange and indicated that the next step could be a high-level meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Putin.

However, the Kremlin has stated that a meeting between the two leaders would only occur once both sides have reached a preliminary agreement. Russian negotiator Vladimir Medinsky said both parties are expected to present their respective visions for a possible ceasefire soon.



Despite the progress, violence continues. On Saturday, a Russian drone strike on a civilian minibus in Ukraine’s eastern Sumy region killed nine people and injured five. In a separate attack in the Kyiv region, a drone strike killed a woman and wounded three others, including a child.

President Zelenskyy condemned the attacks and reiterated his call for tougher sanctions against Moscow. “Without stronger pressure, there will be no meaningful diplomacy,” he warned.

Posting on Truth Social, Trump emphasized his desire to end the violence, stating, “A ceasefire will take place, and this very violent war... will end.” He added that after his call with Putin, he would also speak with Zelenskyy and NATO officials.

Both Washington and Moscow have acknowledged the importance of Trump and Putin meeting directly to discuss the conflict’s future, with Trump insisting that real progress hinges on personal diplomacy.

Netanyahu Signals Openness to Gaza Ceasefire Deal as Pressure Mounts Over Hostage Crisis



In a notable shift in Israel’s approach to the Gaza conflict, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has indicated that his government is now open to a potential agreement with Hamas to “end the fighting.” The announcement comes amid growing domestic and international pressure to secure the release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), Israel’s negotiation team in Doha is actively exploring every avenue for a deal. This includes considering a proposal by U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff, which outlines two options: a limited exchange involving some hostages and a temporary ceasefire, or a broader agreement that could end the war entirely.

The more comprehensive option would require Hamas to release all remaining hostages, surrender its operatives, and agree to disarmament. “Even at this very moment, the negotiation team in Doha is working to exhaust every possibility for a deal — whether according to the Witkoff framework or as part of ending the fighting,” the PMO stated.

Currently, Israel estimates that 58 hostages are still being held in Gaza, with only 23 believed to be alive. The shift in tone from Netanyahu’s government is significant, as it has previously insisted that military operations in Gaza would not cease until Hamas is fully dismantled.

In parallel, Hamas has stated that it will not release hostages unless Israel agrees to a complete ceasefire. Mediators from Egypt and Qatar, supported by the United States, resumed indirect ceasefire talks over the weekend.

Further complicating the situation are reports—unconfirmed by both sides—that Hamas leader Mohammed Sinwar may have been killed in an Israeli airstrike. Meanwhile, the Israeli military continues its operations in Gaza, with recent overnight strikes reportedly killing at least 100 Palestinians in anticipation of a new ground offensive.

Back home, Netanyahu is facing increasing criticism. Einav Zangauker, mother of hostage Matan Zangauker, accused the Prime Minister of placing political interests above the lives of hostages. “The government still insists on only partial deals. They are deliberately tormenting us,” she said in a social media post, echoing a sentiment shared by many frustrated Israeli families.

Pakistan Announces Peace Delegation Led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Following India's Diplomatic Push

TPN Correspondent | Baghdad

In an apparent response to India’s recent diplomatic initiatives, Pakistan has announced a delegation led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to advocate for peace on the global stage. This move follows India’s extensive diplomatic outreach, where New Delhi sent seven multi-party delegations to various international forums to highlight the success of Operation Sindoor and its commitment to combating cross-border terrorism.

On Saturday, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, chairman of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), revealed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had appointed him to lead the peace delegation. Zardari emphasized that the delegation’s goal was to present Pakistan’s stance on the growing tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor.

The operation, launched by India on May 7, targeted terrorist infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), resulting in over 100 terrorist casualties. India’s subsequent military actions, including cross-border shelling and airstrikes, intensified tensions between the two nations, leading to calls for global attention on Pakistan’s alleged support for terrorism.

Pakistan’s decision to send Zardari as its representative is seen as a move to salvage its international reputation, which has been heavily criticized due to its historical ties with terrorist groups. Despite Pakistan’s intentions, the delegation faces an uphill battle in convincing the global community, given the ongoing international concerns about Pakistan’s role in cross-border terrorism. Meanwhile, India’s Union Minister Kiren Rijiju announced that the seven multi-party delegations would visit key partner countries, including members of the UN Security Council, to present India’s united front on its stance against terrorism. The delegations, which include prominent Indian politicians such as Shashi Tharoor and Ravi Shankar Prasad, aim to communicate India’s zero-tolerance approach to terrorism and project national unity in the face of growing security challenges.

IMF Imposes 11 New Conditions on Pakistan, Warns of Risks Amid India Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Lahore

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has imposed 11 new conditions on Pakistan for the release of the next tranche of its bailout package, raising the total number of conditions to 50, according to a report by The Express Tribune on Sunday, May 18, 2025. The IMF also warned that escalating tensions with India could pose significant risks to the programme’s fiscal, external, and reform objectives.

Among the newly imposed requirements is the parliamentary approval of a massive ₹17.6 trillion federal budget, which includes a 12% increase in defence spending, bringing the allocation to ₹2.414 trillion. However, the Pakistani government has reportedly proposed a defence budget exceeding ₹2.5 trillion—an 18% jump—following the military confrontation with India earlier in May. This comes in the wake of India’s ‘Operation Sindoor’ on May 7, which targeted terror infrastructure in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that



claimed 26 lives.

Despite the recent cross-border tensions, financial markets in Pakistan have shown modest reaction. The stock market has largely retained its gains, though bond spreads have widened slightly.

The IMF’s newly outlined conditions span several critical sectors. In energy, the government must rebalance electricity tariffs by July 1 and adjust gas tariffs by February 15, 2026, to ensure cost recovery. Parliament must also legislate to make the captive

power levy permanent and remove the current ₹3.21 per unit cap on the debt service surcharge—measures seen as necessary to curb rising circular debt and address inefficiencies in the power sector.

Additionally, provinces are now required to implement new agriculture income tax laws, complete with a system for return processing, taxpayer registration, and compliance plans. This move must be finalized by June 2025.

The IMF has also called for a governance action plan to address administrative shortcomings, and the development of a financial strategy for the post-2027 period. Furthermore, Pakistan must submit legislation to Parliament by July to lift restrictions on importing used motor vehicles up to five years old.

Lastly, a roadmap for phasing out tax incentives for Special Technology Zones and industrial parks by 2035 must be prepared before the end of this year.

Russia Launches Largest Drone Attack on Ukraine Following Failed Ceasefire Talks

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

In a dramatic escalation of its war on Ukraine, Russia launched its most intense drone assault since the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022, with a total of 273 drones fired into Ukrainian territory. This attack came after the collapse of the first direct peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv in years, which failed to produce a ceasefire agreement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin rejected Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s offer for a face-to-face meeting in Turkey, despite initially proposing direct negotiations as an alternative to Ukraine’s demand for a 30-day ceasefire. The talks, which took place in Istanbul on Friday, lasted less than two hours before breaking down. However, both sides did agree to exchange 1,000 prisoners of war each, with Kyrylo Budanov, Ukraine’s intelligence chief, suggesting that the exchange could occur as soon as next week. The drone attack, launched overnight into Sunday, targeted multiple regions of Ukraine, including Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Donetsk. According



to Ukraine’s air force, 88 drones were intercepted, and a further 128 were likely disabled due to electronic jamming. Despite these defenses, the attack remains the most significant drone strike since Russia’s invasion began, surpassing the previous largest attack on the third anniversary of the war, when Russia deployed 267 drones.

The barrage also led to casualties in the Kyiv region, where Mykola Kalashnyk, the regional governor, confirmed that a 28-year-old wom-

an was killed, and three others, including a 4-year-old child, were injured in the attacks. On the Russian side, the Defense Ministry reported shooting down seven Ukrainian drones overnight and 18 more on Sunday morning, as the conflict shows no signs of de-escalating.

In the midst of these escalating hostilities, US President Donald Trump announced plans to speak with Putin on Monday, followed by discussions with Zelenskyy and NATO leaders about efforts to end the war.

Bullish Sentiment Builds: Defense, Railways, Oil & Gas Lead Market Momentum.



Domestic stock markets are likely to perform this week on positive international signals and easing border tensions. Last Friday, Nifty closed above 25,000, adding to the positive sentiment. It is noteworthy that it reached the high of December last year. Currently, shares of defense, shipbuilding, railways, aviation, oil and gas supply, diamond and jewellery sectors are showing strength. Momentum is not seen in media, hospitality, healthcare and IT sectors. Investors can buy quality shares through buy-on-dips.

Stock Recommendations
Tata Technologies: These shares, which have been in a downtrend since September last year, are current-



ly accumulating. Short-term momentum and volume are gradually increasing. Moreover, they have broken the high for months. Investors should take a position in the Rs.740 range with a target price of Rs.810/900 in this counter, which closed last Friday with a gain of 4.3%. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.710.

RVNL: These shares, which have been in a downtrend for a year, have increased momentum. They have exceeded the base as well as the 20 and 50 day moving average price. Investors should enter the Rs.400 range with



a target price of Rs.425/440 in this counter, which closed last Friday with a gain of 8.9%. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.385.

Container Corporation of India:



These shares, which have been falling for a long time, have now formed a good base. They closed last Friday with a gain of Rs.5.8% at Rs.730, surpassing the last month's high. Moreover, relative strength is increasing. Investors should take a position in this counter in the Rs. 700 range with a target price of Rs. 810. Stop loss is mandatory at Rs. 775.

Motilal Oswal: Momentum and relative strength are currently increasing in this counter. The decline that has been going on since



January has ended. Accumulation is continuing. It has also surpassed the monthly high. Investors should enter the Rs. 780 range with a target price of Rs. 850/890 in this counter, which closed with a gain of 3.8% last Friday. Stop loss should be placed at Rs. 750.

CG Power: These shares are in the end stage of accumulation. They are showing momentum in the short and medium term. They have also surpassed the 20 and 50 day moving averages. Investors should take a position in the Rs.690 range with a target price of Rs.770/800 in this counter, which closed at Rs.696 with a gain of Rs.2.7% last Friday. A stop loss at Rs.670 is mandatory.



Singtel Sells 1.2% Stake in Bharti Airtel for \$1.5 Billion as Part of Portfolio Optimization Strategy



Singapore-based telecommunications giant Singtel has announced the sale of approximately 1.2% of its direct stake in Bharti Airtel for SGD 2 billion (approximately USD 1.5 billion or ₹12,880 crore). The move aligns with Singtel's ongoing capital management strategy aimed at optimizing its asset portfolio and enhancing shareholder value.

The transaction was executed through Singtel's wholly owned subsidiary, Pastel Ltd, which offloaded 7.10 crore shares of Bharti Airtel via a bulk deal on the Na-

tional Stock Exchange (NSE). The shares were sold at an average price of ₹1,814.08 per share, bringing the total deal value to ₹12,879.96 crore.

Following the stake sale, Singtel's direct holding in Bharti Airtel has now been reduced to 28.3%. Despite the partial divestment, the Singaporean telecom major continues to retain a significant position in India's second-largest telecommunications company.

In a statement, Singtel said that the sale is in line with its "active capital management approach to optimize its asset portfolio and drive shareholder returns." The proceeds from the sale are expected to be used to bolster Singtel's balance sheet, invest in higher-growth areas, and return capital to shareholders.

Bharti Airtel, which has a strong presence in India's telecom and digital services space, has seen rising investor interest, buoyed by its expanding 5G network, stable financial performance, and strategic international partnerships. The company remains a key asset in Singtel's portfolio, and the latest move is seen as a step towards monetizing part of its investment while still maintaining a substantial stake.

Singtel's divestment comes amid broader efforts by global telecom operators to reassess and reallocate capital across core and emerging markets. The Indian telecom sector, which has seen consolidation in recent years, continues to be an important region for long-term strategic growth.

The transaction is also reflective of growing foreign investor confidence in India's telecom sector, especially with increasing demand for data and digital connectivity.

Gold Prices Surge , Silver Up ₹1,000 Despite Global Pullback

Gold prices in the national capital witnessed a sharp increase on Friday (May 17, 2025), rising by ₹1,400 to ₹96,450 per 10 grams due to renewed buying by jewellers and stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The rise marks a strong rebound in the domestic bullion market even as international gold prices showed signs of weakening. Gold of 99.9% purity climbed to ₹96,450 per 10 grams, while 99.5% pure gold settled at ₹96,000, both inclusive of all applicable taxes. This represents a steep gain from Thursday's closing prices of ₹95,050 and ₹94,600, respectively. Silver also followed suit, appreciating by ₹1,000 to reach ₹98,000 per kilogram, up from ₹97,000 in the previous session.

However, the domestic rally came in contrast to a decline in global gold prices. Spot gold in international markets dropped by USD 50.85, or around 1.57%, to USD 3,189.25 per ounce. The pullback was attributed to market reactions surrounding anticipated trade agreements between the United States and key economic partners, including the United Kingdom and China.

Jateen Trivedi, Vice President – Research Analyst for Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, noted that global gold prices remained volatile around the USD 3,200 mark. He pointed out that the lack of a dovish stance from the US Federal Reserve, particularly in terms of delaying any immediate interest rate cuts, has capped global bullion buying momentum. Kaynat Chainwala, AVP of Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, highlighted that investors are now awaiting fresh macroeconomic cues from the US. Key data expected includes housing market statistics and the preliminary University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment and Inflation Expectations reports for May. Additionally, comments from Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) member Mary Daly later in the day are likely to influence market sentiment.

Analysts believe that these data points and the Fed's tone will offer clearer direction for the interest rate outlook and may impact global gold prices in the coming sessions. For now, however, Indian bullion markets remain buoyant on the back of strong local demand.

India limits 42% of imports from Bangladesh, targeting \$770 million in goods

India has introduced fresh restrictions on imports from Bangladesh through land ports, significantly affecting goods worth around USD 770 million—approximately 42% of the total bilateral imports between the two nations. The move, announced by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Saturday, comes under directives from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), the new policy restricts several major Bangladeshi export categories such as readymade garments, processed foods, and plastic items from entering India via traditional land routes. Instead, many of these goods are now limited to specific sea ports or, in some cases, face outright import bans through land-based entry points.

One of the most heavily impacted sectors is the garment industry. Bangladeshi apparel exports to India, which are valued at approximately USD 618 million annually, will now be restricted to entry through only two designated seaports—Kolkata and Nhava Sheva. This effectively blocks access through several previously active land ports along the India-Bangladesh border, including those in West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura.

Trade analysts believe the move will severely disrupt Bangladesh's garment supply chain into India, raising logistics costs and delivery times. The policy could also affect small and medium exporters who rely on cross-border trade through land ports due to their cost efficiency and proximity.

Besides garments, exports of pro-



cessed food items and plastic goods from Bangladesh will also face similar limitations. These restrictions are expected to impact a wide range of small-scale Bangladeshi businesses that have built trade linkages with Indian importers through overland channels. While the Indian government has not officially stated the reason behind the move, experts suggest it may be aimed at improving regulatory oversight, quality control, and customs procedures by consolidating imports through major ports. However, this development could strain trade relations between the two countries and is likely to trigger discussions at the diplomatic level. Trade bodies on both sides are expected to seek clarification or request a review of the policy in the coming days.

Pizza Hut Introduces Snake Meat Pizza in Hong Kong: A Bold Culinary Experiment

Pizza lovers in Hong Kong are in for a daring treat as Pizza Hut rolls out one of its most unusual creations yet—a pizza topped with shredded snake meat. This unexpected twist on the traditional Italian favorite is creating quite a buzz, especially among adventurous foodies and fans of local cuisine.

The American pizza chain has partnered with Ser Wong Fun, a renowned Hong Kong restaurant with over a century of history in traditional Chinese dishes, to bring this experimental pizza to life. Instead of the usual tomato base, this unique nine-inch pizza is topped with abalone sauce, offering a rich, umami flavor that complements its exotic ingredients.

What sets this pizza apart is its unusual mix of toppings: shredded snake meat, black mushrooms, and Chinese dried ham. These are the same ingredients found in traditional snake stew, a dish that enjoys popularity in Hong Kong and southern China, particularly during colder months. Snake meat, often considered a delicacy and known for its health benefits in Chinese medicine, is believed to be warming for the body and is commonly enjoyed during winter.

Pizza Hut Hong Kong released a statement to CNN describing the inspiration behind the dish: “Paired with cheese and diced chicken, the snake meat becomes richer in taste. Combined with pizza, it marks a breakthrough from the conventional

concept of what maintaining good health means while challenging one’s taste buds.”

The snake pizza will be available only until November 22, making it a limited-time offering for those curious to try this fusion of Italian and Cantonese cuisine. Reactions online have been mixed—some are stunned, others intrigued, and a few are even tempted to book a flight just to try it.

With this bold step, Pizza Hut continues to explore unconventional toppings tailored to local tastes. Whether it becomes a hit or remains a niche novelty, one thing is certain—this snake pizza is not for the faint-hearted.



Over 30,000 Ancient Roman Coins Found Off Sardinia Coast, Indicates Hidden Shipwreck

In a stunning archaeological find, over 30,000 ancient Roman bronze coins have been recovered from the waters off the coast of Sardinia, Italy, near the town of Arzachena. The discovery was made after a diver spotted unusual metallic objects in shallow water, prompting an official investigation by Italy’s Culture Ministry.

The coins, known as follis, date back to between 324 and 340 CE and were first introduced during the reign of Roman Emperor Diocletian. These coins were also used later during the Byzantine era. The Culture Ministry noted that although more than 30,000 coins have already been found, the total number could be as high as 50,000, as the process of sorting and cataloging them continues.

A team comprising divers from the ministry’s underwater archaeology department and an art protection squad was deployed to the site. The coins were discovered near the northeast shore of Sardinia, a region rich in maritime history. Remarkably, most of the coins are in exceptional condition, with even the few damaged pieces retaining clearly legible inscriptions.

Experts believe the find points to the likely presence of a sunken Roman ship, as the coins were located in a compact area often associated with ancient shipwrecks. This theory is being supported by further investigation into the surrounding seabed. Luigi La Rocca, Director General of Archaeology, Fine



Arts, and Landscape for the region, emphasized the significance of the discovery. “The treasure found in the waters of Arzachena represents one of the most important numismatic finds in recent years,” he said. La Rocca also highlighted the vulnerability of such underwater sites, which are constantly at risk from both natural elements and human interference.

This discovery is reminiscent of another major numismatic find in Seaton, United Kingdom, in 2013, where over 22,000 Roman coins were uncovered. The Sardinia find adds yet another chapter to the Mediterranean’s rich archaeological history and offers invaluable insight into ancient Roman commerce and maritime activity.

Apple Developing AirPods and Apple Watch with Built-In Cameras, Launch Expected by 2027



Apple is reportedly working on advanced versions of its AirPods and Apple Watch that will feature built-in cameras, according to a recent report by Bloomberg. These next-generation wearables are expected to launch around 2027, potentially marking a major leap in Apple’s wearable technology strategy. The tech giant is said to be developing specialised chips to

power these devices—“Nevis” for the camera-enabled Apple Watch and “Glennie” for the upgraded AirPods. These chips are designed to support enhanced artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, moving Apple’s wearables beyond fitness tracking and notifications into a new era of “Visual Intelligence.” While these new AirPods and Apple Watch models are not

expected to support traditional photography or video calling features like FaceTime, the built-in cameras are believed to serve advanced AI-driven functions. For the Apple Watch, one proposed design could embed a camera within the screen or place it near the Digital Crown, especially in the upcoming Apple Watch Ultra models. These cameras could interpret the user’s environment, providing context-aware insights, navigation help, and environmental recognition.

On the AirPods side, Apple is exploring the use of infrared cameras to improve spatial audio experiences, particularly when paired with products like the Apple Vision Pro. The visual sensors may also enable gesture recognition, allowing users to control devices through hand movements, potentially revolutionising how we interact with

wearables.

According to Bloomberg’s Mark Gurman, these features are part of Apple’s broader push into on-device AI, where visual data collected by the cameras would be processed locally for privacy and speed. Beyond the AirPods and Apple Watch, Apple is also making strides in developing a low-power chip for its upcoming smart glasses, inspired by the energy-efficient processors used in the Apple Watch. Unlike the high-performance chips in the iPhone or Mac, this new chip will prioritise battery life and compact design—key elements for future augmented reality (AR) devices. Although a few years away, these developments suggest that Apple is preparing to transform its wearable ecosystem into smart, AI-powered companions that combine audio, visual, and contextual awareness.

UK Man Sets World Record with 667 Tattoos of Daughter's Name

Mark Owen Evans, a 49-year-old man from the United Kingdom, has set a new Guinness World Record by tattooing his daughter’s name, Lucy, an astonishing 667 times on his body. Driven by a deep sense of love and determination, Evans went to extreme lengths to reclaim his former title after it was surpassed in 2020.

Evans originally held the record in 2017, when he had Lucy’s name inked 267 times across his back. However, the title was later overtaken by Diedra Vigil, a 27-year-old woman from the United States, who tattooed her own name 300 times on her body.

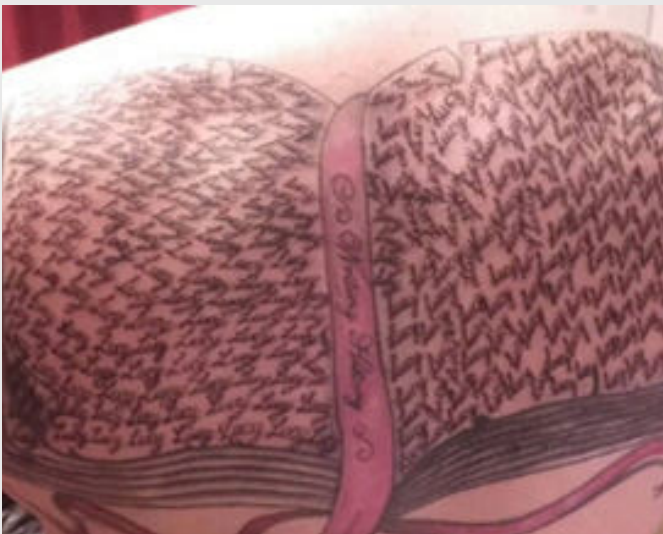
Unwilling to let go of the unique honor, Evans was determined to regain his spot in the record books. With no space left on his back, he opted to have 400 additional tattoos—200 on each thigh—to bring his total count to 667. The tattoo session took five and a half hours, and he proudly declared, “I couldn’t wait to claim the record back and dedicate this to my daughter.”

But for Evans, this was more than just a record attempt. The tattoos also serve as a tribute to Lucy’s birth and the medical care she received during her early days. As part of the initiative, he also aimed to raise funds for the hospital that supported her recovery.

Evans had initially planned for only 100 tattoos during his first attempt. However, with the help of two skilled tattoo artists from Dexterity Ink in Wrexham, he managed to fit twice as many on his back. The design featured an open Guinness World Records book, with Lucy’s name repeatedly inked on both pages.

Speaking about the experience, Evans recalled, “It felt weird—because there were two tattooists doing it at the same time, the pain was kind of cancelled out.” Despite the unusual nature of his achievement, he takes pride in what he calls a “living tribute.”

“I love that I’m literally wearing my record and it goes everywhere with me,” he said. For Evans, this remarkable display of dedication is both a personal celebration and a lasting symbol of paternal love.



A Cup Final 2025: Crystal Palace Stuns Manchester City with Historic 1-0 Victory

In a stunning upset at Wembley Stadium, Crystal Palace defeated Manchester City 1-0 on May 17, 2025, to win the FA Cup for the first time in the club's history. Eberechi Eze's decisive first-half goal etched Palace's name into football folklore and ended City's season without silverware for the first time in eight years.

The result ranks among the biggest FA Cup shocks, reminiscent of Wigan's 2013 win over City and Wimbledon's 1988 upset against Liverpool. For Palace, the victory marks a moment of redemption after losing their two previous FA Cup finals in 1990 and 2016, both to Manchester United.

The winning moment came in the 16th minute when Eze coolly finished Daniel Muñoz's cross following a rapid Palace counterattack. Manchester City, the defending FA Cup runners-up, had a golden opportunity to equalize just 20 minutes later. After Tyrick Mitchell fouled Bernardo Silva,



the referee awarded a penalty. Surprisingly, Omar Marmoush stepped up instead of

Erling Haaland. His shot to the bottom corner was brilliantly saved by goalkeeper Dean

Henderson, preserving Palace's lead and sending the fans into a frenzy.

In the second half, Muñoz thought he had doubled Pal-

ace's lead after scrambling the ball over the line, but the goal was disallowed for offside. Despite late pressure from City, Palace held firm in front of a crowd of over 84,000 spectators, with captain Joel Ward and defender Marc Guehi later lifting the trophy in emotional scenes.

For Pep Guardiola's City, it was the latest blow in a disappointing campaign. After four consecutive Premier League titles, the team surrendered their domestic crown, crashed out of the Champions League play-offs, and now lost the FA Cup final for the second year in a row. With only two league games remaining, City is still fighting to secure a top-five finish to qualify for next season's Champions League.

While City's focus now shifts to the Club World Cup, it's Palace celebrating a landmark moment—one that will be remembered for years as a symbol of resilience, belief, and a truly historic triumph.



Sporting Lisbon Clinch Primeira Liga Title on Final Day with 2-0 Win Over Guimaraes

Sporting Lisbon successfully defended their Primeira Liga title on the final day of the Portuguese season, securing a 2-0 win over Vitória Guimaraes on Saturday to edge out rivals Benfica in a thrilling conclusion to the campaign.

Heading into the final round, both Sporting and Benfica were level on points, with last weekend's tense 1-1 Lisbon derby draw leaving the championship race finely balanced. Benfica needed to better Sporting's result to claim the title but could only manage a 1-1 draw at Braga. Even a victory wouldn't have been enough, as Sporting held the superior head-to-head record.

In front of a packed Estádio José Alvalade, Pedro Goncalves opened the scoring in the second half to calm nerves. Shortly after, Viktor Gyökeres, the league's standout striker, sealed the win with his 39th goal of the season, capping off a sensational individual campaign.

The triumph marks Sporting's 21st top-flight title and further solidifies their resurgence as a dominant force in Portuguese football. It also sets the stage for a potential domestic double, with Sporting set to face Benfica once again next Sunday in the Portuguese Cup final.

The journey to the title was not without turbulence. After winning the league last season under Ruben Amorim, the coach left in November for Manchester United. His replacement, Joao Pereira, lasted just six weeks in a rocky spell before the club turned to Rui Borges. Under Borges, Sporting stabilized and regained momentum, showing resilience and consistency when it mattered most.

Benfica, despite a strong run-in, fell short again and will now pin their hopes on salvaging silverware in the upcoming cup final.

Sporting's latest triumph is a testament to their squad depth, tactical discipline, and the scoring brilliance of Gyökeres, who has firmly established himself as one of Europe's most prolific forwards this season. As celebrations erupt in Lisbon, the club now turns its attention to completing the season with a historic double.

PSG's European Glory Masks Deep Crisis in French Football

Paris Saint-Germain's march to the UEFA Champions League final should be a moment of celebration for French football. However, their success only serves to highlight the wider struggles plaguing the domestic game, as the 2024-25 Ligue 1 season comes to a close.

While PSG have once again dominated domestically—claiming their fourth consecutive league title and poised for a French Cup final—the rest of French football is grappling with financial instability, underachievement in Europe, and a crumbling television rights structure.

PSG, backed by Qatari wealth, are aiming to become just the second French club to win Europe's premier club competition, following Marseille's triumph in 1993. Despite France's strong international presence—winning the FIFA World Cup twice—its clubs have consistently underperformed in Europe. The country's tally of European Cup wins remains on par with Scotland and Romania, and below that of Nottingham Forest.

There is a rare unity among rival fans and coaches supporting PSG in their final clash against Inter Milan on May 31. "I support Nice, not Paris," said Nice coach Franck Haise. "But I want PSG to win because I'm French—just like when Marseille won in 1993."

Yet, behind the scenes, cracks are growing. One of France's biggest clubs, Lyon, is drowning in debt. With financial losses reaching €540 million, the club faces UEFA sanctions and potential relegation to Ligue 2 unless urgent fiscal reforms are implemented. Their failure to qualify for European competitions only compounds the problem.

Meanwhile, Ligue 1's television rights crisis remains unresolved. A last-minute deal with streaming platform DAZN guaranteed just €400 million annually—far below the league's €1 billion target. With the agreement likely to collapse early, the French league is now considering launching its own channel to manage broadcasts.

In stark contrast, the Premier League's domestic rights are valued at over €2 billion per season, underscoring the growing disparity. PSG's financial firepower and potential Club World Cup earnings—up to \$125 million for the winner—further distance them from domestic rivals. Unless structural reforms take place, PSG's dominance may become even more unassailable in the seasons to come.



Harpreet Brar, Nehal Wadhara Shine As PBKS Inch Towards Playoff Berth With Win Over RR

Punjab Kings inched closer to securing a playoff berth with a thrilling 10-run win over Rajasthan Royals in a high-scoring encounter at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Sunday. Stellar performances from Harpreet Brar, Nehal Wadhara, and Shashank Singh powered the victory, lifting PBKS to 17 points—second on the table behind Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who lead only on net run rate.

Put into bat, PBKS posted an imposing 219/5. The foundation was laid by Wadhara, who hammered 70 off 37 balls (5x4, 5x6), and Shashank Singh, whose unbeaten 59 off 30 deliveries (5x4, 3x6) gave the innings a strong finish. The duo stitched together a 67-run partnership with skipper Shreyas Iyer (30 off 25) also contributing, before retiring hurt due to a finger injury.

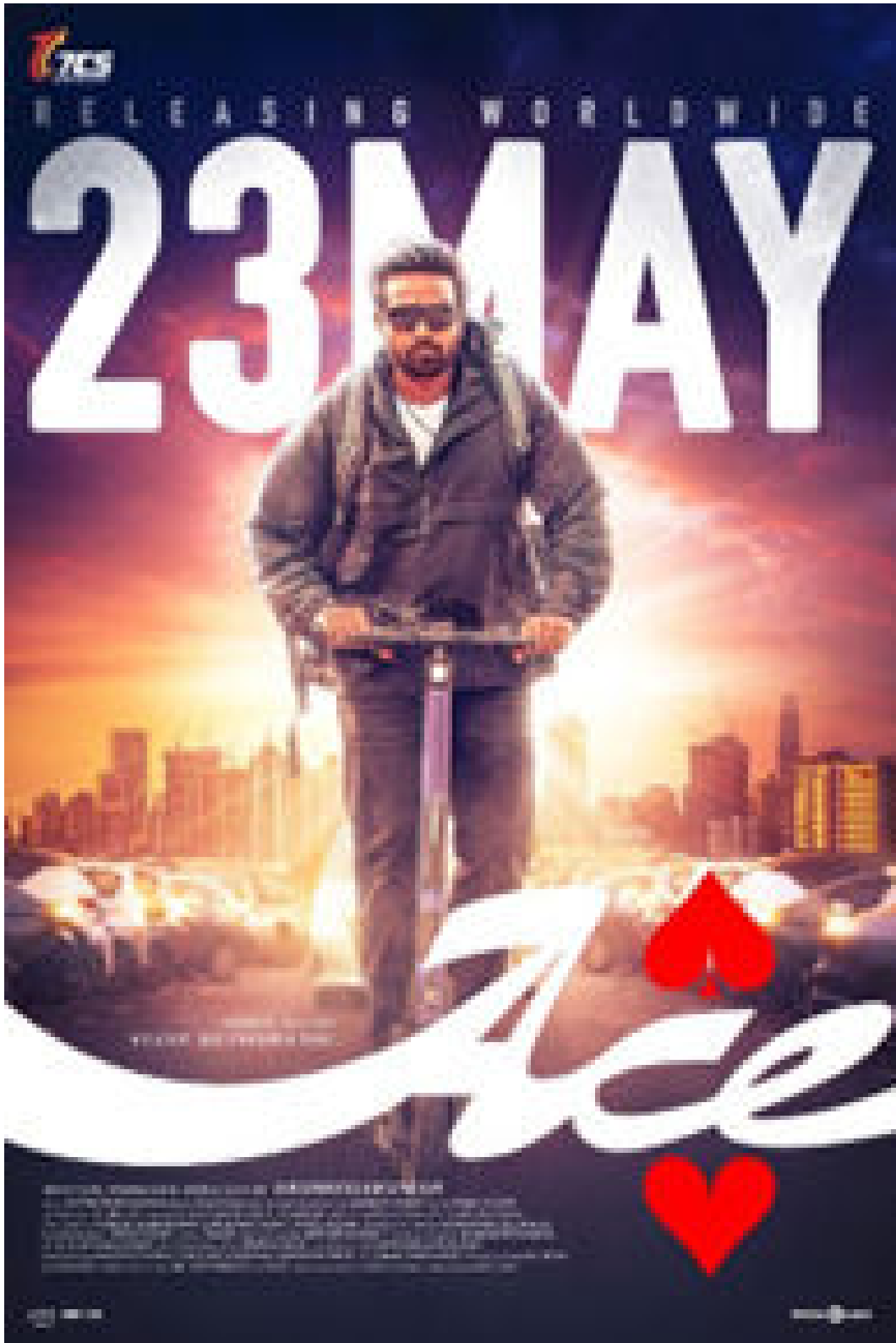
Despite a flying start in the chase, RR faltered under pressure. Young prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi and opener Yashasvi Jaiswal blasted 76 runs in just 4.1 overs. Jaiswal raced to a 24-ball fifty, his sixth of the season, while Suryavanshi smacked 40 off 15 balls, including four fours and four sixes.

However, Harpreet Brar turned the game on its head. Coming in as a substitute for Iyer, the left-arm spinner delivered a match-defining spell of 3/22 in four overs. He removed both Suryavanshi and Jaiswal, halting RR's momentum and pushing the required rate above 12.

Azmatullah Omarzai (2/44) further dented RR's chase, dismissing Sanju Samson (20) and Shimron Hetmyer (11) in quick succession. Though Dhruv Jurel fought back with a valiant 53 off 31 balls, his efforts were cut short by Marco Jansen in the final over. Jansen (2/41) also accounted for Wanindu Hasaranga, sealing the win.

With this win, Punjab Kings need just one more point from their final league fixture to guarantee a playoff spot—their first since 2014. Rajasthan, meanwhile, are now in a must-win scenario, hoping for favorable outcomes in other games to keep their postseason hopes alive.

Vijay Sethupathi's 'Ace' Set for May 23 Release



Kollywood's celebrated star Vijay Sethupathi, fondly known as "Makkal Selvan," is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film *Ace*. Directed by Arumugakumar, best known for *Oru Nalla Naal Paathu Solren*, this film marks another unique venture for Sethupathi, blending romance, crime, and comedy in an engaging narrative. The film is all set to hit theaters worldwide on May 23, 2025.

Ace features Rukmini Vasanth in the female lead role, marking her official debut in Tamil cinema. Alongside her, popular comedian Yogi Babu plays a significant role, promising to bring his trademark humor to the story. The film's trailer, which was recently released, has received an overwhelmingly positive response from audiences across languages, building solid momentum ahead of its theatrical release.

Adding to the excitement for Telugu moviegoers, the makers have confirmed that SP Cinemas will handle the Telugu distribution of *Ace*. This move is expected to broaden the film's reach in the Telu-

gu-speaking states, given Vijay Sethupathi's strong fan base there.

Produced under the 7Cs Entertainment Private Limited banner, *Ace* boasts a diverse supporting cast, including Divya Pillai, Bablu Prithviraj, BS Avinash, Muthu Kumar, Raj Kumar, Denes Kumar, Alvin Martin, Priscilla Nair, Jasper Supaiah, Karthik Jai, Nagulan, and Jahri Naris. The movie's genre—romantic crime comedy—sets it apart from typical commercial films, promising audiences a fresh cinematic experience.

With its intriguing premise, talented ensemble, and Vijay Sethupathi at the forefront, *Ace* is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of the year. The theatrical release on May 23 is expected to draw crowds not just in Tamil Nadu, but across India, especially with the Telugu version being made accessible through SP Cinemas.

Fans and cinephiles alike are eagerly counting down the days to see what surprises *Ace* has in store.

NTR's Fans Celebrate Yamadonga's 4K Re-Release with Grand Fervor

The magic of *Yamadonga* returns to the big screen, and fans couldn't be more thrilled. The iconic 2007 fantasy action film starring Jr. NTR has been re-released in a brand-new 4K version, and it is receiving a thunderous response across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The re-release coincides with NTR's birthday celebrations, turning the event into a nostalgic festival for Telugu cinema lovers.

Directed by master storyteller SS Rajamouli, *Yamadonga* was a game-changer in Telugu cinema. It combined mythology with modern storytelling, action, and humor, making it a stand-out film of its time. For NTR, the film marked a significant turning point in his career, showcasing his versatility not only as an action hero but also as a skilled performer in fantasy roles.

Audiences have embraced the 4K version with open arms. Ear-



ly morning shows are running full in many theatres, and the film is trending across ticketing platforms like BookMyShow. The re-release is more than just a movie screening—it's an emotional celebration. Fans are showing up in huge numbers, some dressed as characters from the film, others holding cutouts and banners, chanting slogans in support of their beloved star.

Social media is buzzing with ex-

citement. Clips of dance numbers, iconic dialogues, and fan-made tributes are being widely shared. Jr. NTR's electrifying screen presence and powerful performance are once again being lauded by fans and critics alike.

The re-release has also rekindled appreciation for other key contributors to the film. Mohan Babu's memorable portrayal of Yama, Priyamani's and Mamta Mohandas's performances, and MM Keeravaani's timeless music have all received renewed admiration. Rajamouli's vision continues to shine brightly even after nearly two decades. In essence, *Yamadonga's* re-release has not only revived a classic but has reignited fan passion and nostalgia. It's a tribute to a film that left a lasting impact on Telugu cinema—and to a star whose connection with the audience only continues to grow stronger.

Bhairavam Trailer: A Gripping Rural Action Drama with Spiritual Undertones



Director Vijay Kanakamedala, known for his intense storytelling, returns with *Bhairavam*, a high-octane rural action drama starring Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas, Manchu Manoj, and Nara Rohith in lead roles. The film's theatrical trailer, unveiled recently, has created strong anticipation among fans and cinephiles alike.

The trailer kicks off with a powerful verse from the *Bhagavad Gita*, where Lord Krishna declares the divine descent to Earth to protect righteousness and destroy evil. This spiritual opening sets a profound tone for the film, hinting at a larger-than-life conflict that blends action with devotion. The plot centers around the Vaarahi Temple, whose sacred land becomes the target of a corrupt and power-hungry Endowment Minister. As he schemes to seize the land for personal gain, three friends stand united to protect the temple and the values it represents. The narrative promises an emotional and action-packed journey of resistance, sacrifice, and justice.

Director Kanakamedala impressively handles the dynamics between the three protagonists, ensuring their arcs are balanced while keeping the story's spiritual and moral core intact. Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas seems to play the underdog, who eventually becomes the driving force of resistance. Manchu Manoj and Nara Rohith add depth and grit, complementing the ensemble with their intense screen presence. From a technical standpoint, the trailer stands out with Hari K Vedantam's cinematography, which captures raw, rustic visuals that elevate the rural setting. Sri Charan Pakala's background score adds to the intensity, delivering a thumping rhythm that matches the film's high-stakes drama. The production design by Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Pen Studios enhances the grandeur and authenticity of the story's environment.



Tollywood Faces Crisis: Theatre Shutdown Likely From June 1 Over Revenue Model Dispute

Tollywood may be heading towards a major crisis, as theatre exhibitors from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have proposed a complete shutdown of single-screen theatres starting June 1, in protest against the current rental-based revenue system.

In a high-stakes joint meeting held earlier today, over 60 exhibitors, including industry veterans Dil Raju and Suresh Babu, discussed their growing dissatisfaction with the flat rental model. Instead, they are pushing for a percentage-based revenue sharing model, which they argue is more sustainable and equitable, especially for single-screen operators who face declining footfalls and rising maintenance costs.

According to insiders, the majority of exhibitors present agreed to pursue the new model, demonstrating a rare show of unity across the sector. However, the meeting saw a noticeable absence of several top producers and distributors, fueling speculation that many are not on board with the proposed changes. Producers fear that a percentage model could significantly cut into their profits, especially for big-budget films.

The exhibitors plan to submit a formal bandh notice along with a written request to initiate dialogue with other stakeholders. If unresolved, the move could severely disrupt several high-profile June releases.

The first major film likely to be affected is Kamal Haasan's "Thug Life", especially its Telugu dubbed version, which may not find screens in Telugu states if the bandh goes ahead. Multiplex chains not aligned with the exhibitor association might still screen it, but coverage could be limited.

More critical is the potential impact on Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited "Hari Hara Veera Mallu", scheduled for release on June 12. With substantial investments and distribution advances at stake, any halt in screenings could lead to serious financial losses and contractual disputes.

With nearly two weeks remaining before the proposed shutdown, industry leaders and senior producers are expected to intervene and try to broker a compromise. A quick and balanced resolution is crucial to avoid a full-blown industry standoff.

Suriya's 'Retro' Set for Netflix Premiere on June 5

Suriya's recent release *Retro*, directed by Karthik Subbaraj, is all set to make its digital debut after a lukewarm run at the box office. The gangster love story, which hit theatres on May 1, 2025, failed to meet expectations commercially but is now generating fresh buzz as it heads to OTT.

According to reports, *Retro* will begin streaming on Netflix starting June 5, 2025, across multiple languages, including Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi. While fans are eagerly awaiting an official announcement, the streaming date has already started trending among Suriya's followers on social media.

Despite its underwhelming performance in theatres, the film is anticipated to reach a wider audience through its digital release. Many viewers who missed the theatrical



experience are expected to catch up on Netflix, giving the film a second lease on life. *Retro* stars Pooja Hegde as the female lead, alongside a powerful supporting cast that includes Joju George, Vidhu, Jayaram, and

Nassar. The film blends themes of romance and gangster drama with Karthik Subbaraj's signature style and storytelling elements.

The music for *Retro* has been com-

posed by Santhosh Narayanan, whose intense background score and catchy tracks received appreciation even before the film's release. His work continues to be one of the highlights of the movie. Produced by Suriya and Jyotika under their 2D Entertainment banner, in collaboration with Kaarthikeyan Santhanam and Rajsekar Pandian, *Retro* was positioned as a high-profile summer release. However, mixed reviews and strong competition at the box office affected its theatrical run.

Now, with its upcoming Netflix premiere, *Retro* has another opportunity to connect with audiences and find appreciation in the OTT space. Fans of Suriya and followers of Karthik Subbaraj's work are especially looking forward to revisiting—or discovering—the film from the comfort of their homes this June.