

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

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# Massive Fire Near Charminar Claims 17 Lives

**Rs. 5 Lakh Aid For Fire Victims’ Families**  
**CM and cabinet deeply shocked by Gulzar House fire**

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The Telangana state government has announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic fire near Gulzar House in Hyderabad’s old city. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, who rushed to Osmania Hospital from Madhira in Khammam district following Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s instructions, assured that the government would extend full support to the victims’ families.

Speaking to the media at the Osmania Hospital mortuary, Deputy CM Bhatti expressed profound sorrow over the incident, which claimed 17 lives in the early hours of the day. He said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the entire cabinet were deeply shocked by the tragedy. The CM responded swiftly by coordinating with ministers and top officials, personally monitoring rescue and relief operations from the moment the incident was reported. Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Damodar Raja Narasimha, visited the hospital to meet the families of the deceased and oversee the treatment of the injured. Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand, GHMC Commissioner Karnan, and Fire Department DG Y Nagi Reddy briefed them on the developments. The Deputy CM said he was instructed by CM Revanth Reddy to rush to the hospital and ensure all necessary support was extended to the victims.

According to officials, a short circuit is suspected to have caused the blaze. The fire control room received a distress call from the Gulzar House area at 6:16 am. A fire engine from Mogalpur reached the spot within four minutes at 6:20 am, and firefighting operations began immediately. In total, 12 firefighting vehicles, including 11 fire engines and one firefighting



robot, were deployed along with 17 fire officers and 70 personnel. Despite swift action, 17 people who were trapped inside succumbed to the fire. Officials managed to rescue the victims and shift them to hospital, but many were declared dead on arrival. Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha confirmed that quality treatment is being provided to the injured. In his remarks, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said he rushed to the scene as soon as he was informed and ensured that relief efforts were in full swing. Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, who was at Osmania Hospital, assured that the best possible medical care is being provided. The state cabinet, the Deputy CM added, has previously held detailed reviews on fire safety

and reiterated that measures will be intensified to prevent such tragic incidents in the future. PM Modi Deeply Anguished Prime Minister Modi also announced solatium of Rs 2 lakh each for the families of the deceased. “Deeply anguished by the loss of lives due to a fire tragedy in Hyderabad, Telangana. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. An ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000:PM,” read the post by the Prime Minister’s Office.

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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 Baijayant 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.

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## Operation Ghost SIM Assam Police Arrest One in Telangana

**7 arrested nationwide for using fraudulent SIM cards linked to Pakistan.**  
**Assam police nab 19-year-old from Sangareddy.**

**TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy**  
Assam police arrested Mofijul Aslam, 19, an Assam native working at a farmhouse in the remote Gollapally village of Kondapur mandal, Telangana, for allegedly using a ghost SIM card on Saturday. The arrest is part of “Operation Ghost SIM,” a nationwide crackdown launched by Assam police following the success of “Operation Sindoor.” The operation targets individuals using fraudulent SIM cards, with WhatsApp accounts created through these SIMs having their OTPs routed back to Pakistan. These SIM cards were reportedly employed for cybercrimes and anti-India activities. So far, Assam police have arrested seven people across the country, including Aslam in Telangana. The arrest caused a stir in the otherwise quiet Gollapally village. The operation was conducted with active support from the Sangareddy police.



# Telangana Showcases Safety and Tech to Miss World Contestants

**Telangana highlights advanced public safety systems to contestants.**  
**107 contestants toured TGICCC.**  
**Julia Morley praises Telangana’s innovation in public safety.**



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
As part of the ongoing 72nd Miss World Festival, 107 contestants visited the Telangana Police Integrated Command and Control Centre (TGICCC) on May 18, 2025. The visit showcased Telangana’s cutting-edge public safety infrastructure and commitment to securing tourism in the state. The event commenced with a grand escort

by mounted police from the entrance to the alighting point, setting a ceremonial and disciplined tone. The contestants were warmly welcomed with a Pipe Band performance followed by a captivating Dog Show demonstrating the agility and training of the K9 units deployed for security operations. An Arms Exhibition displayed the latest weaponry and protective equipment used by the Telangana



police to ensure public safety. Inside the TGICCC, contestants witnessed the integration of advanced technology, including real-time surveillance, data analytics, and artificial intelligence, which collectively enable rapid emergency response and efficient urban management. The TGICCC acts as the nerve center for Hyderabad City Police’s safety operations. The visit concluded with a vibrant cultural show that highlighted Telangana’s rich heritage and artistic diversity. Julia Morley CBE, Chairman and CEO of the Miss World Organization, lauded Telangana’s focus on safety and innovation, describing the TGICCC as “a shining example of how technology and dedicated policing come together to create safer communities.” This visit not only gave contestants a first-hand experience of Telangana’s technological excellence but also strengthened the state’s reputation as a safe and progressive destination for global tourists.





## Massive Fire Near Charminar Claims 17 Lives



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Heartbreaking: Mother Dies Embracing Her Child

According to eyewitnesses and local rescuers, the scene inside the building was devastating. Zahid, a glass merchant who rushed to help, was visibly emotional as he recounted the horror. “The fire was raging... we broke into the building. In one room, we found a woman clutching her children tightly — all of them were burnt together in that embrace. We couldn’t hold back our tears,” he said. Zahid added that thick smoke and intense heat made the rescue extremely difficult. “We managed to bring out 13 people, but visibility was zero. We had to break down a wall to gain entry. Some victims were burnt alive, others died due to suffocation.”

This heart-wrenching tragedy unfolded in a crowded commercial building, where a family had come to attend a function. Most victims were caught unaware as the fire spread rapidly through the structure. The shocking visuals and the emotional weight of a mother’s attempt to shield her chil-



dren from certain death have moved citizens and officials alike. The incident has once again sparked serious questions over fire safety mea-

sures, building regulations, and emergency preparedness in densely populated areas like the Old City.

## Phone Tapping Accused Seeks Bail In ₹24 Crore Fraud Case

- Kumar Rao claims arrest violates SC directions on commercial disputes
- Says case stems from private business deal, already settled
- Bail plea to be heard by High Court on May 21

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad** Kumar Rao, one of the accused in the phone-tapping case, has filed a bail petition before the Telangana High Court following his recent arrest in a financial fraud case involving a ₹24 crore transaction. Rao argues that the arrest is unlawful and a misuse of criminal law in what he describes as a purely commercial dispute between two private companies.

In his petition, Rao claimed that his arrest contradicts the Supreme Court’s directions that civil or commercial disputes should not be treated as criminal cases. Referring to the Arnesh Kumar judgment, he stated that when offences carry a maximum sentence of less than seven years, bail should be the rule rather than the exception. The case pertains to a transaction

between Akhanda Infratech India Limited and Ecore Industries. Rao clarified that his company, Inrhythm Energy Private Limited, had merely purchased iron ore from Ecore Industries for resale and was not directly involved in any default. He stated that he assisted in the transaction only due to a personal connection—his friend is a director at Akhanda Infratech.

According to the police complaint, Akhanda Infratech paid ₹24 crore without receiving the promised iron ore. Rao maintained that the issue was civil in nature and had already been resolved between the companies involved. He further alleged that the case was registered at the behest of the complainant and was part of a broader conspiracy to target him.



Rao also expressed dissatisfaction with the lower court proceedings, stating that his remand order was passed in just five minutes without adequate judicial scrutiny, despite objections raised by his counsel. He alleged that he was summoned to court to furnish sureties in another

unrelated criminal case but was instead arrested in this matter. He has requested the High Court to intervene and grant him bail, asserting that the criminal charges are being misused to harass him. The High Court is scheduled to hear the petition on May 21.

## Fire Incidents Continue to Rattle Hyderabad Third Blaze in 24 Hours at Cherlapally Tanker Yard



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Hyderabad witnessed a third fire accident within 24 hours, this time at a petrol tanker yard in Cherlapally, Medchal-Malkajgiri district, triggering panic among locals. The incident occurred on Sunday, May 18, near an Indian Oil Corporation facility, when a petrol tanker reportedly caught fire due to a technical fault.

Thanks to the swift response of the tanker driver, who immediately halted the vehicle upon noticing signs of fire, a major explosion was averted. Firefighters rushed to the spot and managed to extinguish the flames before they could spread.

Earlier the same day, another fire broke out in a residential building located at Moghal Colony in Mailardevpally. The fire, suspected to have been triggered by a short-circuit in a G+3 floor building with a penthouse, started around 7:18 am. Upon receiving an emergency call, a fire tender from Chandrayangutta Fire Station was immediately dispatched to the site. Fortunately, no injuries or fatalities were reported in that incident.

Tragically, Sunday began with a deadly blaze at Gulzar House near Charminar, which claimed 17 lives and injured nearly 10 others. The fire



erupted around 6 am at the Srikrishna Pearls building, filling the premises with thick smoke. Around 30 individuals were inside the building, including a pearl trader’s family and his workers. Several people lost consciousness due to smoke inhalation before rescue efforts began. The injured victims were shifted to Osmania Hospital, Yashoda Malakpet, Apollo DRDO, and Apollo Hyderguda for treatment. The back-to-back fire incidents have raised serious concerns over fire safety compliance in the city, especially during the ongoing summer season. Authorities are under growing pressure to review preparedness and enforce stricter safety measures to prevent further tragedies.

## Tharoor to US, Owaisi to Saudi

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- 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 Balayogi): 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 Muraliedharan): Heading to Egypt, Qatar, Ethiopia, and South Africa.

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

## CM To Launch ₹12,600 Cr Indira Saura Giri Jal Vikasam On May 19



**TPN | N Naveen**

Nagarkurnool: State Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will formally launch the Indira Saura Giri Jal Vikasam scheme on May 19 at Macharam village in Amrabad Mandal, Achampet constituency of Nagarkurnool district, aimed at ensuring economic upliftment of forest-dependent tribal communities through sustainable agriculture supported by solar-powered irrigation. State Excise, Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao stated that the scheme is a significant step towards empowering tribals who have lived in dependency on the forest for generations. He said each acre under this project will receive benefits worth ₹6 lakh, funded entirely by the state government.

The Minister explained that the government will provide land plots, borewells, solar-powered irrigation, and fruit plantations—all at zero cost to beneficiaries. The initiative is expected to benefit two lakh tribal farmers across the state, with a total budget of ₹12,600 crore.

“This scheme reflects the government’s firm commitment to tribal welfare. Under the leadership of CM Revanth Reddy, we are taking steps to bring long-neglected tribal communities into the mainstream,” said Minister Jupally Krishna Rao.

Ahead of the public meeting, Minister Jupally, Nagarkurnool MP Dr. Mallu Ravi, District Collector Badawat Santosh, Achampet MLA Dr. Rikudu Vamsi Krishna, and District SP Vaibhav Gaikwad Raghunath reviewed arrangements including the helipad, barricading, photo exhibition, and CM’s interaction program with beneficiaries.

Dr. Mallu Ravi remarked that despite financial constraints, the Indiramma government is prioritizing tribal welfare. He emphasized that this people-centric governance aims to bring prosperity to even the most remote tribal villages.

Achampet MLA Dr. Vamsi Krishna expressed immense pride that the long-awaited solution to dry lands in the Nallamalla forest area is finally being realized. He said the scheme is a dream come true for local tribals, who are now hopeful of achieving economic independence through modern agriculture.

Minister Jupally urged all tribal communities to attend the Chief Minister’s meeting in large numbers on Monday and make the event a grand success. Over 40,000 tribal participants are expected to attend.



# HC Orders Full Trial In Azharuddin’s Plea Against BRS MLA

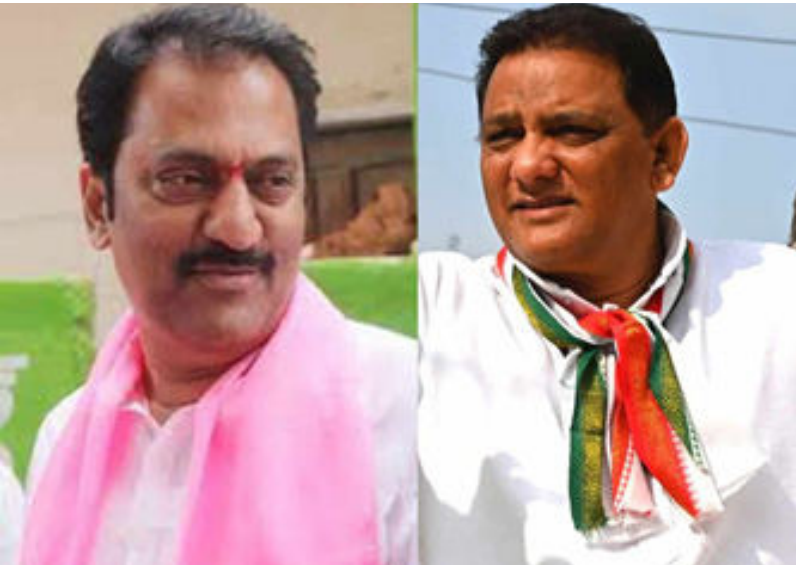
**Court says Azharuddin’s allegations are triable**  
**Jubilee Hills MLA Gopinath’s plea for dismissal rejected**  
**EVM tampering, seal issues, and officer inaction cited in petition**

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The Telangana High Court has ruled that the election petition filed by Congress candidate Mohammed Azharuddin against Jubilee Hills BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath will proceed to a full trial. The decision comes after the court dismissed Gopinath’s interlocutory plea seeking summary dismissal of Azharuddin’s case. Justice K Lakshman, while hearing the matter, observed that the allegations raised by Azharuddin were supported by documentary evidence and

were “triable in nature.” The judge said that such claims could not be brushed aside at the preliminary stage and required a full adjudication of facts and legal points. Azharuddin’s petition highlights multiple instances of alleged electoral malpractices during the 2023 Assembly elections. Among his key claims are the malfunctioning and unauthorized replacement of electronic voting machines (EVMs), mismatches in serial numbers between EVMs and Form 17C (used to record polled votes), and broken or missing seals on 26 machines. He also

contended that the returning officer ignored his formal complaints submitted on December 3, 2023, and January 2, 2024. To support his claims, Azharuddin attached official records including gazette notifications, Form 26 declarations, and detailed lists of defective machines. Gopinath, however, argued that the petition lacked specificity and failed to pinpoint the polling booths or EVMs in question. Rejecting this argument, the High Court held that the details provided were specific enough to warrant a factual trial. The

court emphasized that its duty at the preliminary stage is to examine whether the allegations, as presented, constitute a valid legal cause of action—not to evaluate their truth. It is significant to note that Azharuddin’s petition had earlier been dismissed by the High Court in September 2024, but the Supreme Court overturned that decision in March 2025 and directed the High Court to reconsider the case. Justice Lakshman also noted that a separate election petition had been filed by a voter, V Naveen Yadav, alleging suppression of material facts



by Gopinath. However, those issues are not connected to Azharuddin’s petition and will proceed independently. Based on legal precedent and the documents on record, the court concluded that Azharuddin’s allegations raise substantial questions that deserve a full trial. With this order, the case will now move into the evidentiary phase, where the claims and counterclaims will be thoroughly examined.

## One Nation, One Election Essential For National Progress

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
“Bringing reforms like One Nation, One Election is crucial for the country’s future development,” said BJP State President and Union Minister Kishan Reddy. As part of the nationwide awareness campaign on “One Nation - One Election”, Union Minister for Coal and Mines and BJP Telangana President Shri G. Kishan Reddy participated as the chief guest in a special event held today at Hotel Katriya in Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, Kishan Reddy emphasized that even after 76 years of independence, India still continues to follow policies introduced during British rule. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently called for modernizing laws and governance structures to suit



the current political and economic needs of the country. “We must create awareness among people about the importance of One Nation, One Election. This needs to become a people’s movement,” Kishan Reddy asserted. He stated that under Modi’s leadership, India has witnessed historic reforms like GST, abrogation of Article 370, and the abolition of Triple Talaq, which were once con-

sidered politically impossible. “It was the Modi government that passed the CAA and new criminal laws. Only a leadership that thinks for the country, not just votes, can make such bold decisions,” he said. Touching on national security, Kishan Reddy said that today’s India no longer tolerates terrorism. “Gone are the days when we responded with candlelight vigils. After the Pahalgam attack, we tar-

geted terror camps directly with Operation Sindoor. This is Modi’s India,” he said. He urged intellectuals, analysts, and political parties to support the idea of One Nation, One Election and help spread awareness among the public. “This is not just about political convenience but about ensuring long-term national development,” he added. Concluding his speech, Kishan Reddy called upon the people to think beyond political lines and support structural reforms like One Nation, One Election for a stronger, more efficient India. “If we want to leave behind a better India for future generations, we must support these reforms. One Nation, One Election is a step in that direction,” he concluded.

## Harish Rao Slams Govt Over Hyderabad Fire Tragedy

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Former Minister T. Harish Rao expressed deep sorrow over the tragic fire accident near Gulzar House in the Old City of Hyderabad that claimed the lives of 17 people. In a strongly worded statement, he blamed the state government for its continued negligence in taking preventive steps to avoid such devastating incidents. He called the incident “extremely heart-breaking” and urged the government to immediately rescue any families still trapped in affected buildings and ensure the best medical treatment for the injured, some of whom are in critical con-

dition. Harish Rao questioned the government’s preparedness in the face of a growing number of fire accidents across the state, particularly in Hyderabad city. He criticized the authorities for failing to adopt a preventive strategy during the summer season, when fire risks are at their peak. “Despite recurring tragedies, the government has not opened its eyes. Common people, who are innocent, are becoming victims of the government’s inaction. Many are being injured and killed due to administrative laziness,” he said. He demanded that the government conduct a comprehensive review of the fire

department’s preparedness and enhance fire safety protocols across residential and commercial areas. Further, Harish Rao demanded that the government announce an ex-gratia of ₹25 lakh each to the families of those who lost their lives in the fire. He emphasized the need for accountability and immediate action to ensure such tragedies do not repeat. The fire, which broke out in the early hours at a residential building near Charminar, spread rapidly due to the narrow lanes and dense population. While 17 lives were lost, fire personnel managed to rescue 14 others, four of whom remain in critical condition.



## BJP MLA Demands Probe Into Gulzar House Fire Tragedy

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
B.J.L.P. Leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy expressed deep sorrow and concern over the tragic fire incident at Gulzar House near Charminar in Old Hyderabad that claimed 17 lives. In a media statement released on Sunday, May 18, he described the incident as a heartbreaking tragedy and extended condolences to the bereaved families while praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. Calling the fire a grim reminder of the need for urgent reforms, Reddy urged the state government to intensify relief efforts and ensure that those injured receive high-quality medical care. He further demanded the announcement of a substantial ex-gratia to the families of the deceased and the injured. Reddy criticized the delayed response of the fire services, suggesting that prompt action could have minimized casualties. “If the fire brigade had responded more swiftly, such a massive loss of life might have been averted,” he stated.



He also highlighted the lack of modern fire-fighting equipment and called upon the state to modernize the Fire Department based on expert recommendations. “The government should take expert suggestions seriously and upgrade fire safety technology immediately,” he added. Finally, Reddy demanded a thorough investigation into the causes of the fire to ensure accountability and prevention of future tragedies.

## Govt Should Support Families of Deceased



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav visited the site of the tragic fire at Gulzar House in Patabasti and sought detailed information about the incident. Expressing deep condolences to the families of the 17 deceased, Talasani urged the government to provide better medical care to the injured and adequate financial support to the victims’ families.

BRS Senior MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy expressed shock over the loss of 17 lives in the fire that broke out in Hyderabad’s Old City on Sunday. He extended his sympathies to the bereaved families and wished a speedy recovery for the injured. Referring to concerns raised by victim families that timely government intervention could have minimized casualties, Vemula demanded a thorough review of the incident to prevent such disasters in the future. He emphasized the government’s responsibility to ensure the fire department and disaster management teams remain vigilant and on high alert, especially during the summer months. Both leaders called for strict fire safety preparedness and a focus on preventing future tragedies.



# Kishan Reddy Visits Fire Accident Site Near Charminar, Assures Full Support



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Union Minister Kishan Reddy immediately inspects tragic fire site; 17 dead, several injured in devastating incident at Meech ChowkA major fire accident that occurred in the early hours of Sunday at Meech Chowk near Charminar has left Hyderabad in shock. The blaze, which broke out in a residential building, claimed the lives of 17 people and left several others injured.

Union Minister for Coal and Mines and BJP Telangana State President G. Kishan Reddy rushed to the accident site upon receiving the news. He personally inspected the scene, reviewed the situation with local officials, and obtained complete details of the tragedy. He directed authorities to ensure the best possible medical care for the injured and assured the affected families of full support.“We will stand by the families of the

deceased in every way,” he said after the inspection. The fire broke out in a congested multi-storeyed building in the densely populated Meech Chowk area. Responding swiftly, fire personnel deployed ten fire engines to the location. Despite their efforts, the fire spread rapidly due to the narrow passages and limited access, complicating rescue operations.Rescue teams acted with great courage, successfully evacuating 14 people

from the building and shifting them to nearby hospitals. Officials stated that four among the injured are in critical condition and are receiving intensive treatment. The cause of the fire is yet to be officially confirmed, and a detailed investigation is expected. Meanwhile, Union Minister Kishan Reddy’s swift response and assurance of assistance have brought some solace to the grieving families and the community.

## Two Arrested for Planning Blasts in Hyderabad

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Hyderabad police, in coordination with Andhra Pradesh authorities, arrested two men suspected of planning blasts in the city following a crucial tip-off. The operation led to the seizure of explosive materials from their possession. The first suspect, 29-year-old Siraj Ur Rehman from Vizianagaram, was appre-

hended during a search of his residence, where police recovered substances such as ammonia, sulphur, and aluminium powder—key ingredients used to manufacture explosives. “During interrogation, Rehman revealed information that helped detain the second suspect, 28-year-old Syed Sameer from Hyderabad,” police officials said in

a statement on Sunday, May 18. Both suspects remain in police custody and will be produced before the court shortly. Authorities have urged the public to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activities, assuring that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure public safety in Hyderabad.

# Rs. 3.60 Lakh Worth Foreign Liquor Seized, Three Arrested



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Hyderabad Special Task Force (STF) seized 52 expensive foreign liquor bottles worth Rs. 3.60 lakh while they were being transported in an Innova car. The operation, led by STF team leader Anji Reddy, took place in Adarsh Nagar, near Birla Temple. The arrested suspects, Kumar Agrawal and Rohit Kumar, were caught during the liquor transportation. However, another accused, Surenia Chandradeepu, remains absconding. All arrested individuals were taken to Nampally police station, where a case was registered against them. This seizure exposes how some individuals arrange costly liquor from Delhi and Goa to organize lavish parties, offering expensive bottles to their friends. Excise Enforcement Director Shanwas Qasim congratulated the STF team for their successful operation in confiscating non-duty paid foreign liquor and cracking down on illegal activities.

# Retired IAS Officer Duped of ₹3.37 Crore in Cyber Scam

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
A 72-year-old retired IAS officer from Somajiguda has fallen victim to a sophisticated cyber fraud, losing a staggering ₹3.37 crore to scammers who operated through a fake stock trading application. The fraudsters tricked the victim using a counterfeit platform named ‘Dhani Securities’, falsely promising high returns via artificial intelligence-driven investment strategies. The victim, who once held key positions in the united Andhra Pradesh government, was first contacted by the scammers who convinced him to install an APK file through a link sent to his phone. The file installed a fake app that closely resembled a legitimate stock trading interface. One of the accused, identifying himself as Arjun Ramesh Mehta, posed as the Chief Investment Officer of the fictitious company and persuaded the victim to invest in mutual funds, IPOs, and options trading, claiming guaranteed profits of up to 90%. According to officials at the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB), the criminals maintained contact through WhatsApp, regularly sending stock market updates and trading advice to build trust. Between March and May, the retired officer made multiple transfers ranging from ₹28,568 to ₹50 lakh, eventually amounting to ₹3.37 crore. The fraud came to light when the victim attempted to withdraw the so-called profits, which the fake platform displayed as ₹22 crore. The scammers demanded an additional ₹33.5 lakh to release the amount. Growing suspicious, the victim refused and approached the TGCSB to report the fraud. A case has been filed under Sections 318(4), 319(2), and 338 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) related to cheating and forgery, along with Section 66-D of the IT Act concerning cyber deception. Authorities are currently analyzing the bank transactions linked to the fraud and are tracking the accused.

## Another Fire Incident in Hyderabad

- Fire breaks out in a three-storey building
- Blaze near staircase traps 53 residents
- Firefighters rescue all, including 20 children

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
A major fire accident was narrowly averted in Mailardevpally on the outskirts of Hyderabad as 53 residents, including 20 children, were rescued from a three-storey building that caught fire on Saturday. The fire reportedly broke out near the main staircase, blocking the exit path and trapping all the residents on the upper floors. As flames and smoke spread rapidly, panic gripped the building. Many residents rushed to the terrace, shouting for help. Upon receiving the alert, fire personnel rushed to the scene with three fire engines and launched a swift rescue operation. Firefighters used ladders to reach those stranded on the terrace and helped others escape through the stairway from the second floor. Thanks to the quick response of the fire department, all 53 people were rescued safely, and a potential tragedy was averted. No casualties were reported. Officials are currently investigating the cause of the fire. The incident has raised concerns over fire safety measures in residential buildings, especially those with poor emergency preparedness.



# 306 Caught for Drunk Driving in Cyberabad



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
In a major enforcement drive over the weekend, the Cyberabad police arrested 306 individuals for drunk driving under Section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The operation, aimed at curbing road accidents due to intoxicated driving, revealed that the majority of violators were two-wheeler riders. Not a single woman was among those arrested. Out of the 306 vehicles involved, 246 were two-wheelers, 9 were three-wheelers, 50 were four-wheelers, and one was a heavy vehicle. The age analysis of the offenders showed that 114 were between 21–30 years, 113 were in the 31–40 age group, 53 belonged to the 41–50 group, 20 were aged between 51–60, and two were above 60 years.

Miyapur traffic police topped the list with the highest number of arrests at 51, followed by RC Puram with 34, and Balanagar with 26. Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) levels recorded among the offenders showed that 274 had levels between 35–200 mg/100 ml, 26 were in the range of 201–300 mg/100 ml, and six had extremely high BAC readings between 301–500 mg/100 ml. As per Indian law, the permissible BAC limit is 30 mg/dL. Any driver found with a reading above this is considered in violation of the law. The arrested individuals will be produced before the court, and the Cyberabad police have warned that such drives will continue in the coming weeks to ensure public safety on the roads.



# Nizam-Era Land Records to Be Updated in Telangana

- Re-survey in five pilot villages to begin next week
- 413 villages across the state still lack proper land records

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a major step towards resolving long-pending land record issues, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced that the Telangana government will soon begin updating maps dating back to the Nizam era. The initiative, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Indiramma government, is aimed at bringing relief to 413 villages that have never undergone formal

land surveys. Speaking to the media on Saturday, Minister Ponguleti criticized the previous TRS administration for failing to address this issue during its decade-long rule. "For generations, these villages have lived without clear land records. This government is determined to provide salvation for these neglected areas," he stated. As part of the plan, a pilot project will be launched

in five villages next week to test the new approach. The selected villages are: Salar Nagar, Gandid mandal, Mahabubnagar district, Kommanapalli (Kothadi), Bheerpur mandal, Jagtial district, Mulugumada, Errupalem mandal, Khammam district, Nuguru, Venkatapuram mandal, Mulugu district and Shahid Nagar, Vattapalli mandal, Sangareddy district. The re-survey will utilize modern technologies,

including aerial drone mapping and ground truthing methods, to generate geo-referenced maps, update cadastral records, and formally register land rights. These efforts are expected to increase transparency, resolve disputes, and offer much-needed clarity in land ownership, especially benefiting farmers and rural landowners. Minister Ponguleti further informed that the state has partnered with

several experienced agencies, including RV Associates, Marvel Geo Spatial, IIC Technologies, Neo Geo, and Drogo Drone, to carry out the surveys. If successful, the initiative will be extended to the remaining 408 villages lacking proper survey data. "Our government is committed to permanently resolving land issues through modern methods and transparent practices," he added.



## Free Sewing Machine Training Launched in Mulugu

₹26.25 lakh sanctioned for training 175 women  
Initiative marks first-of-its-kind women's skill camp



TPN Correspondent | Mulugu

For the first time in Telangana, a free sewing machine training program for women has been launched in Jaggannapet village, Mulugu district, under the auspices of the Women Development and Child Welfare Department in partnership with the NGO Data Pro Organization. The program is aimed at empowering women by equipping them with skills for self-employment and financial independence. The inaugural ceremony took place on Sunday, chaired by District Welfare Officer Smt. Kuchana Sirisha, and attended by Hon'ble Minister for Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Women Development & Child Welfare, Smt. Dr. Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), along with District Collector Sri Divakara TS, IAS. The training program was officially launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. In her welcome address, DWO Smt. Sirisha outlined the department's ongoing efforts to promote financial literacy among women and explained that this initiative was being conducted with a budget allocation of ₹26,25,000, providing ₹15,000 worth of training to each of the 175 wom-

en. The training program will run for 30 days, aiming to provide women the tools they need to become small entrepreneurs. District Collector Divakara TS, IAS, in his remarks, emphasized that women are no longer restricted by past societal barriers and are actively contributing to their families and the economy. He praised the state government's numerous schemes aimed at women's development, many of which are being implemented in Mulugu for the first time due to the Minister's special initiatives. Delivering the keynote address, Minister Seethakka stated, "The aim of the public government is to make women self-employed and economically self-reliant." She lauded CM Sri Revanth Reddy's vision, highlighting that financial literacy is key to national development. She said the public government seeks to transform women into millionaires by backing self-employment and group enterprise initiatives. Citing the example of the Maha Lakshmi free bus scheme and the procurement of buses under women's groups for TSRTC rentals, the Minister affirmed that the state has taken concrete steps to enable wom-

en to step beyond domestic confines and take up leadership in economic activities. She announced that the Telangana government plans to make one crore women millionaires, and this sewing machine training program is one such effort to nurture rural women into small-scale business owners. She advised the trainees to stay committed and consistent, stating that "These first steps will take you forward to build a great business empire — but you need patience, perseverance, and family support." The event was attended by a host of dignitaries and officials including District Library Chairman Banoth Ravichander, MPDO Ramakrishna, Women Empowerment Center Coordinator Ramadevi, District Child Protection Officer J. Omkar, Sakhi Center Admin Lavanya, Child Line Coordinator Naresh, and several public representatives, Data Pro staff, and women trainees from the village. The program reflects a major push by the Telangana government toward grassroots women empowerment and financial inclusion, setting a benchmark for similar initiatives across the state.

## Are you trying to make Telangana number one like this?



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BRS MLA Harish Rao sharply criticized the Congress government for its focus on increasing excise revenue through liquor sales instead of public welfare. Speaking in Hyderabad, he said that the current government's reliance on raising liquor prices and expanding beer sales is no real sign of progress. Harish Rao recalled that Congress leaders, who previously criticized the BRS over alcohol policies, have already increased beer prices by 15% after coming to power and are preparing to raise liquor prices further. "Is this the 'Telangana Rising' promised?" he questioned. He accused the government of breaking pre-election promises, with public welfare sidelined.

The BRS leader reminded the public of the 'Abhayahastam' manifesto, which promised a review and amendment of the excise policy and the complete abolition of belt shops. "Is increasing prices and allowing new microbreweries what you call reform?" he asked. Expressing outrage, Harish Rao called it shameful that the state's financial deficits are now being compensated by alcohol revenue. He warned that Telangana risks becoming a "Telangana of drunkards," with plans for over 100 microbreweries being set up across rural and urban areas—roughly one every 30 kilometers. This, he said, threatens the future of youth and reflects a deeply flawed administration.

## Collector Inspects Pushkar Arrangements via Joy Ride



TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar

District Collector Rahul Sharma on Sunday conducted an aerial inspection of the ongoing arrangements for the Saraswati Pushkaras in Kaleshwaram through a Joy Ride helicopter. Accom-

panied by Karimnagar Commissioner of Police Ghaus Alam and Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Praful Desai, the Collector reviewed various facilities being provided to the devotees. As thousands of pilgrims are expected to attend the holy event, officials are focusing on ensuring seamless arrangements across the region. During the inspection, the Collector reviewed the condition and readiness of the Pushkara ghats, road infrastructure, sanitation measures, water purification, tent city facilities, stalls, and overall security protocols in place. Addressing the media after the inspection, Collector Rahul Sharma said that the Joy Ride helicopter service has been specially arranged for devotees to witness the scenic beauty of Triveni Sangam, Kaleshwara Devasthanam, and the lush forests surrounding Kaleshwaram from an aerial perspective. "This initiative adds a unique spiritual and visual experience for the pilgrims visiting the holy confluence," he stated. Officials said that all essential arrangements are being made in coordination with various departments to ensure a smooth and safe experience for devotees throughout the Pushkaras.

## Minivan Overtakes in Adilabad; 30 Injured, 4 Critical



TPN Correspondent | Adilabad

A minivan carrying a marriage party overturned near Neradigonda (G) village in Sirikonda mandal late Saturday night, injuring 30 people including the groom. The accident occurred around 11:30 pm due to suspected brake failure while negotiating a curve. Twenty-nine injured with minor wounds were admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Adilabad. Four persons — Ravudu, Manthu, Kumra Eshwar, and Ganga Prasad — are in critical condition. The group was returning to Neradigonda (G) after a pre-wedding ritual for a marriage scheduled on May 22 between a groom from Neradigonda (G) and a bride from Busimetta village in Jainoor mandal, Kumram Bheem Asifabad district. Police also suspect overspeeding by the driver as a contributing factor in the mishap.





# 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 De-

cember 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.

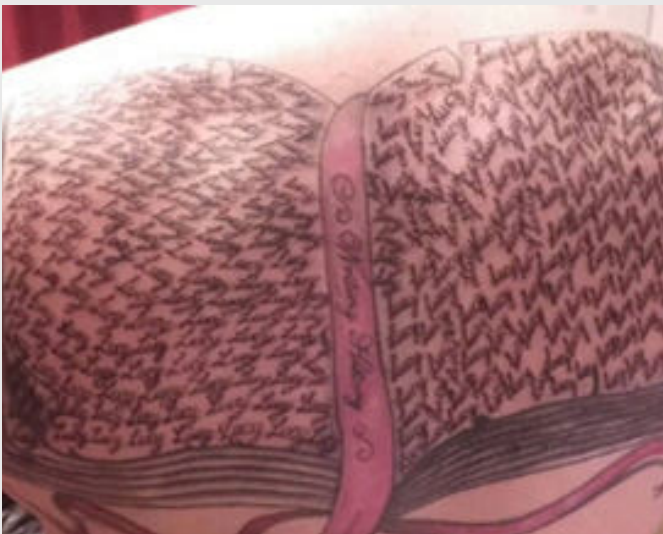
Unwilling to let go of the unique honor, Evans was determined to regain his spot in the record books. With no space left on his back, he opted to have 400 additional tattoos—200 on each thigh—to bring his total count to 667. The tattoo session took five and a half hours, and he proudly declared, “I couldn’t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

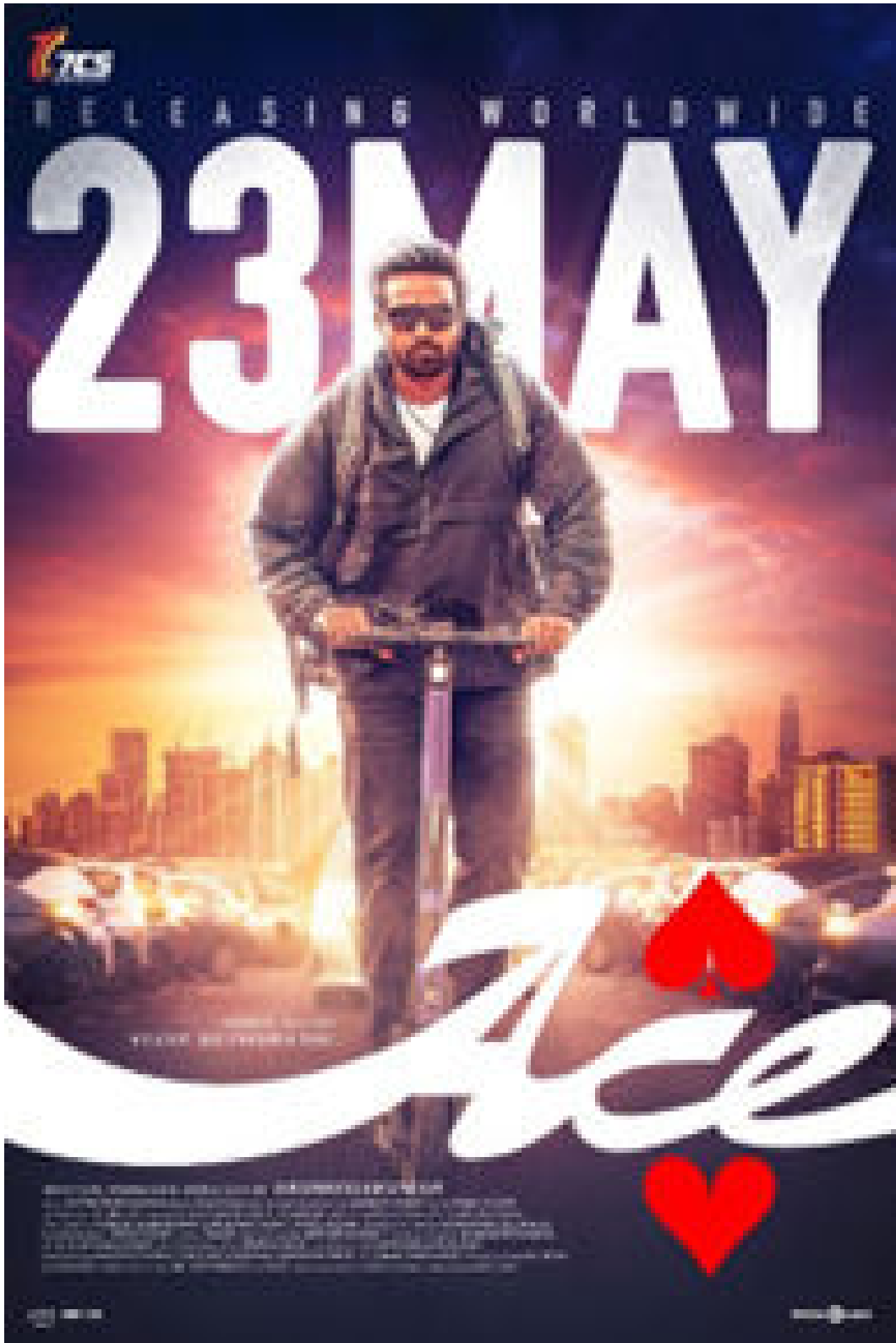
However, Harpreet Brar turned the game on its head. Coming in as a substitute for Iyer, the left-arm spinner delivered a match-defining spell of 3/22 in four overs. He removed both Suryavanshi and Jaiswal, halting RR's momentum and pushing the required rate above 12.

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.