



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t° H 36° C L 27° C

VIJAYAWADA

t° H 37° C L 28° C

TIRUPATHI

t° H 37° C L 27° C



PM to Lay Foundation Stone for Amaravati Revival on May 2

- PM to inaugurate Amaravati works worth ₹49,040 crore
- CM says Polavaram project will finish by 2027
- CM slams previous govt’s 3-capitals decision

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Amaravati on May 2 to lay the foundation stone for developmental works worth ₹49,040 crore, announced Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during a teleconference with TDP MPs, MLAs, leaders, and booth-level workers. He urged TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP cadres to attend the landmark event in large numbers. In addition to Amaravati, PM Modi will also launch and lay foundations for projects worth ₹57,962 crore across the state, covering sectors like DRDO, DPIIT, NHAI, and Railways. Chandrababu emphasized that the people gave a decisive mandate for rebuilding Andhra Pradesh and within ten months, the NDA has initiated multiple development and welfare programs through central-state coordination. Highlighting future plans, the CM said the Polavaram project would be completed by 2027, and major infrastructure projects like Bhogapuram airport, TCS’s Visakhapatnam expansion, and LG’s ₹5,000 crore investment in Sri City are key to state development. He reaffirmed the NDA’s commitment to “Swarnandhra Vision-2047” for inclusive progress. The Chief Minister criticized the previous regime for stalling Amaravati’s development under the pretext of three capitals. He vowed to build “Our Amaravati” with World Bank and ADB support, promising a capital every citizen can be proud of. He also assured that new welfare schemes like Annadata and Thalliki Vandanam would launch next month and reiterated that party workers will be recognized through ongoing nominated post appointments.



7 Devotees Died in Simhachalam Wall Collapse During Chananotsavam

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

Tragedy struck the historic Simhachalam temple in Visakhapatnam in the early hours of Wednesday, as a wall collapsed during the Chananotsavam festival, killing seven devotees and injuring ten others. The incident occurred around 2:30 AM near the Rs. 300 ticket counter close to Appanna Sannidhi, when a newly built cement wall crumbled under the force of heavy rains and strong winds. The wall, reportedly constructed under the Prasadam scheme just days prior, fell on pilgrims waiting in a queue line, resulting in the deaths of three women and four others. Several devotees

were trapped under the debris before rescue teams from the NDRF and SDRF arrived. At least 17 ambulances were deployed to rush the injured to King George Hospital (KGH), where they are undergoing treatment. Authorities fear the toll may rise. Following the incident, top officials, including State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Revenue Minister Angani Satya Prasad, District Collector A. Mallikarjuna, and Police Commissioner A. Ravi Shankar reached the site to monitor rescue operations. Minister Angani expressed deep condolences and confirmed that the government was extending complete support to the victims’ families and ensuring the injured receive the

best medical care. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who reviewed the situation from Undavalli, announced the formation of a three-member inquiry committee comprising Municipal Administration Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar, Eagle Infra CEO Ravi Krishna, and Irrigation Department Chief Engineer Venkateswara Rao. The committee has been directed to submit a preliminary report within 72 hours. The CM emphasized that strict action would be taken against those found responsible for any lapses. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also expressed deep condolences and termed the incident “unfortunate.”

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- Wall collapsed near ₹300 ticket counter during early morning
- Seven devotees died, ten others seriously injured
- CM orders probe; Jagan criticizes govt over negligence

YS Jagan Blames Poor-quality Construction, Negligence for Tragedy

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy visited the grieving families in Simhachalam and launched a scathing attack on the ruling government. Terming the tragedy a “result of sheer negligence,” Jagan alleged that the wall was constructed without even floating tenders and was made of sub-standard fly ash bricks rather than concrete. He noted that the wall was completed just two days before the collapse, questioning why pilgrims were allowed to queue beside it despite forecasted rains. Calling the Rs. 25 lakh compensation inadequate, Jagan claimed it was announced hurriedly to downplay the government’s failure. He demanded a significant increase in

Rift Widens Between Bolisetty Srinivas and Valavala Babji in Tadepalligudem

- Jana Sena MLA Bolisetty Srinivas claims threat to life amid coalition rift
- TDP leader Valavala Babji accused of dominating officials in Gudem
- Dispute erupted over arrangements for alliance coordination meeting
- Pre-election rivalry over Tadepalligudem seat fuels ongoing tensions
- Bolisetty alleges officials ignoring him, following Babji’s directives

TPN Kishore BK | Tadepalligudem

Internal rifts within the ruling coalition came to light once again in Tadepalligudem, where tensions are escalating between Jana Sena MLA Bolisetty Srinivas and TDP leader Valavala Babji. Although the coalition government appears stable at the top, its grassroots cadres are increasingly at odds, raising concerns over unity and coordination on the ground. The friction intensified over arrangements for a joint coordination committee meeting of the TDP and Jana Sena in Tadepalligudem. Jana Sena leaders were reportedly not informed when TDP leaders, including former MP Thota Seetharamalakshmi and constituency in-charge Valavala Babji, inspected the meeting venue. The inspection was carried out hastily under the leadership of the TDP Zone-2 Coordinator after it was learned that Jana Sena’s Nadendla Manohar had previously visited the site. This triggered visible discontent, with both sides claiming credit for organizing the event. Jana Sena members alleged that they were sidelined despite being key partners in the coalition. Observers noted



that the two alliance partners were behaving more like political rivals than collaborators, with some likening their conduct to two distant banks of the Yamuna river. The animosity has roots dating back to the pre-election phase when both Bolisetty Srinivas and Valavala Babji vied for the Tadepalligudem seat. Bolisetty asserted that Jana Sena would be the first to announce the candidate, while Babji claimed TDP

My Life is in Danger, Says MLA Bolisetty Srinivas



Tadepalligudem MLA and Jana Sena leader Bolisetty Srinivas sparked controversy on Wednesday by stating that his life is under threat from individuals within his own ranks. Addressing the media in Tadepalligudem, he claimed that certain leaders, despite being part of the NDA coalition, are hoping for his death so they can grab the MLA seat. “I didn’t win this seat by someone’s grace. Three parties gave me a mandate, and people elected me,” he said. Bolisetty alleged that some officials in the constituency are only listening to opposition leaders within the alliance and ignoring his instructions. He made it clear that he won’t tolerate harassment of officials and vowed to protect them. He criticized the behaviour of certain allied leaders, warning them to treat elected representatives with dignity. “I didn’t wear bangles. I am here because people trusted me. I won’t back down,” he asserted. He further said he didn’t trouble any TDP worker but expected cooperation from allied party leaders. He also reaffirmed his commitment to develop the constituency and serve the public who voted him to power.

Political Journey

Bolisetty Srinivas began his political career with the Congress party in 1981 as Youth Congress President. He served as a Municipal Councillor and Floor Leader in 1999. In 2014, he joined the TDP and became Municipal Chairman. Later, he joined Jana Sena in 2019 and lost his first election. In 2024, he contested as an NDA candidate and defeated YSRCP’s Kottu Satyanarayana by 62,492 votes, becoming an MLA for the first time.

would regain the seat after 20 years. Eventually, the ticket was allotted to Jana Sena, causing unease in the TDP camp. Sources say Babji and

his supporters did not fully back the campaign, leading to lingering tension post-elections.

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Rift Widens Between...

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The issue came to a head on Wednesday when MLA Bolisetty Srinivas held a press conference expressing serious concerns for his safety. He alleged that he was being sidelined and that officials were ignoring his directives in favor of TDP leader Babji. Moments later, Valavala Babji retorted, asserting that he would become the MLA of Tadepalligudem regardless of opposition. Bolisetty also accused officials of corruption and irregularities, warning that he would not tolerate being undermined. Despite these warnings, Babji reportedly continues to exercise influence over local administration, exacerbating the conflict. Party insiders claim Babji is maintaining a tight grip on the constituency's power structure, even as the sitting MLA feels increasingly marginalized. As tensions grow, political observers are closely watching how this power struggle within the alliance will unfold.

7 Devotees Died in...

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He assured the affected families of full support and emphasized the need for enhanced safety measures during public events. In a swift move, the coalition government announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 25 lakh for the families of each deceased person and Rs. 3 lakh for each injured devotee. The government said it stands firmly with the victims and will ensure such incidents are not repeated.

YS Jagan Blames Poor-quality Construction, Negligence for Tragedy

the compensation and strict accountability from officials. He assured that if his party returned to power, it would fully support the victims' families and ensure safety standards at all religious events. Jagan also cited a series of past tragedies under the Chandrababu-led administration, including the Vaikuntha Ekadashi stampede in Tirupati, the Godavari Pushkaram disaster, and mismanagement in temple affairs. He urged the government to stop engaging in cover-ups and instead focus on implementing foolproof safety mechanisms to protect devotees.

PM Modi's Three-State Tour: ₹1.15 Lakh Crore Inauguration Projects in Two Days

- **Modi to visit Maharashtra, Kerala, AP on May 1–2**
- **Amaravati to see ₹49,040 crore foundation works**
- **₹57,962 crore central projects to be launched in AP**

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a two-day tour of Maharashtra, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh on May 1 and 2, unveiling and laying foundation stones for projects worth over ₹1.15 lakh crore across the three states.

In Mumbai, Modi will inaugurate the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) and



participate in the Global Media Dialogue, which includes ministers from 25 countries. In Kerala, he will dedicate the Vizhinjam International Deep Water Multipurpose Port—the nation's first full-fledged container transshipment port—to the country.

The Prime Minister's visit to Andhra Pradesh on May 2 is particularly significant. In Amaravati, he will lay the foundation stone for capital development works worth ₹49,040 crore, including the construction of the High Court, Secretariat, Assem-

bly buildings, and residential complexes for judges, MLAs, ministers, and AIS officers.

Additionally, Modi will launch and lay foundations for projects worth ₹57,962 crore related to DRDO, DPIIT, NHAI, and Railways. Highlights include:

- **₹1,500 crore missile testing range at Nagayalanka**
- **Unity Mall in Visakhapatnam**
- **₹293 crore railway project from Guntakal West to Mallappa Gate**
- **National highway projects worth ₹3,176 crore (foundation) and ₹3,680 crore (inauguration)**
- **₹254 crore Khajipet–Vijayawada third railway line**
- **Bugganapalli and KEF Panyam lines under Guntur–Guntakal doubling**

The dual-visit underscores Modi's thrust on infrastructure, connectivity, and capital revival, especially with Amaravati's development back in focus after years of neglect.

Simhachalam Tragedy: Ministers Visit Victims' Families, Assure Full Support

- **Seven devotees died in Simhachalam temple wall collapse**
- **Ministers, MLAs visited victims' families and assured help**
- **CM Naidu, Dy CM Pawan monitoring situation**

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

In the wake of the devastating wall collapse at the Simhachalam temple that claimed seven lives, Andhra Pradesh ministers Nandendla Manohar and Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita visited the grieving families. They were accompanied by MLAs Panchakarla Ramesh Babu and Lokam Naga Madhavi, who extended condolences and assured the families of full government support. Minister Nandendla Manohar expressed deep sorrow over the tragic incident and noted that the loss of two Jana Sena Party activists among the deceased was a painful blow to the party and their fami-



lies. Calling the incident deeply unfortunate, especially at a revered temple, he said a detailed investigation is already underway to determine the cause of the wall collapse. He added that the injured victims are being provided the best possible medical care and that the govern-

ment is taking all steps to aid their recovery. The minister affirmed that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan have been reviewing the situation closely since the morning and are committed to delivering all forms of assistance. He reiterated Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's personal commitment to support the affected families and assured that the government will stand firmly by them in this time of loss.

421 Govt Jobs for Sportspersons Under Mega DSC - Minister Ramprasad

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh Transport, Youth and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy announced that 421 government school posts will be filled under the sports quota in the upcoming Mega DSC, marking a major step in sports-driven development. The selection will be merit-based through the senior sports category, without a written exam. These posts span departments including Government, Zilla Parishad, Municipal, Tribal Welfare, Residential, Model Schools, and Gurukuls. The policy includes 33.33% women's reservation and follows the local-non-local guidelines. Applications will be accepted from May 2 to May 31 via sports.ap.gov.in and sportsdsc.apcfs.in. Minister Ramprasad expressed gratitude to CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh for their vision, stating that the 2024–2029 AP Sports Policy has laid a strong foundation for youth empowerment through sports.

AP Govt Signs MoU with UNICEF to Boost Youth Skill Development

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNICEF to implement focused skill development and youth empowerment initiatives across the state. The agreement was formalized between the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and UNICEF's YOUAH platform at a program held at Undavalli, in the presence of Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh. As part of this partnership, three transformative programs—Youth for Social Impact (YFSI), Youth Hub, and Passport to Earning (P2E)—will be introduced, targeting students and unemployed youth. These programs are expected to contribute meaningfully to the realization of the "Golden Andhra" vision by nurturing entrepreneurial spirit, technological innovation, and self-reliance among the younger generation. Under the Youth for Social Impact initiative, around 2 lakh students from polytechnic, degree, and engineering streams will be trained in entrepreneurship, innovation, and problem-solving, using UNICEF's internationally recognized Global Framework. This effort aims to equip students with the tools re-



quired to address real-world challenges and generate employment opportunities. The Youth Hub component will provide youth with access to jobs, skills training, and volunteering opportunities through a multilingual digital platform, which will be integrated with the Andhra Pradesh Skills Portal. This centralized platform will streamline access to career development resources and encourage active youth participation in community-building efforts. The Passport to Earning (P2E) program will offer free digital and professional skills training to young

individuals aged between 15 and 29. The training, aligned with international standards, is designed to enhance global employability and ensure the youth are job-ready for both local and international markets. Minister Nara Lokesh, addressing the gathering, stated that this collaboration with UNICEF marks a major milestone in the state's commitment to empowering its youth. He added that these programs would foster innovation, inclusion, and sustainability while shaping Andhra's youth into future-ready leaders and entrepreneurs.

CID Issues Notices to IPS Officers in Actress Jethwani Case



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a significant development in the Mumbai actress Jethwani case, the CID has issued fresh notices to senior IPS officers Kanti Rana Tata and Vishal Gunni, asking them to appear for questioning on May 5. The decision follows recent statements by former Intelligence Chief PSR Anjaneyulu, which reportedly contradict earlier testimonies provided by the two officers. According to CID sources, Vishal Gunni previously stated he acted under PSR Anjaneyulu's instructions and was tasked with apprehending the actress from Mumbai. However, Anjaneyulu, in his

recent deposition, denied giving such orders or even discussing the issue with Kanti Rana. He maintained that his interaction with Gunni was limited to intelligence matters. This discrepancy has prompted the CID to re-summon both officers to clarify the contradictions. Both officers had already faced questioning earlier in the case. With conflicting narratives emerging, CID officials are keen to re-examine the timeline and instructions regarding the controversial arrest operation. The case continues to attract attention due to the involvement of high-ranking police officials and the sensitive nature of the allegations.

Handloom Cooperative Elections Must Be Held Swiftly - Minister Savitha

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Handlooms and Textiles Minister S. Savitha has instructed officials to take immediate steps to conduct elections for handloom cooperative societies across Andhra Pradesh. She emphasized that these elections are vital for strengthening grassroots handloom institutions and ensuring the welfare of weavers.

On Wednesday, Special Chief Secretary R.P. Sisodia met the Minister at the State Secretariat in Amaravati and held discussions on sectoral development. Minister Savitha highlighted Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision to provide 365 days of employment and a life of dignity for every weaver. She called for leveraging central government schemes and

resources to enhance the sector's growth. The Minister also directed reforms in APCO, including measures to boost sales through extensive handloom bazaars. She instructed officials to expedite supply of cloth—like blankets, towels, and uniforms—to social welfare and tribal welfare hostels before the academic year begins. She further emphasized fulfilling cloth

orders from government hospitals through APCO. Minister Savitha also proposed organizing handloom expos both statewide and in major Indian cities. She stressed the need to establish handloom clusters within the state and strengthen cooperative societies. She reiterated that enabling weavers to live with pride remains a priority for the state government.



Simhachalam Incident Unfortunate: Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy Expresses Shock



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

State Endowment Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy expressed deep sorrow over the tragic incident at Simhachalam temple, where seven devotees lost their lives and one was injured due to the collapse of a wall following heavy rains and strong winds early Wednesday morning. Addressing the media in Nellore, he termed the incident unfortunate and painful. The minister detailed how water flowing from the hills eroded the soil beneath a newly built wall, leading to its collapse just as the real darshan of Lord Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy began at 2 AM. He stated that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu responded immediately, dispatching Ministers Ananani Satya Prasad and Anitha to the site to oversee relief efforts. CM Chandrababu also ordered a three-member inquiry committee to investigate the cause of the collapse and ensure accountability. He announced ₹25 lakhs ex-gratia to each deceased's family and ₹3 lakhs for the injured, with full medical expenses to be borne by the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his condolences and announced ₹2 lakhs and ₹50,000 respectively. The minister said darshan and rituals are continuing smoothly, with devotees expressing satisfaction over the arrangements. He also revealed that the deceased include software engineers and pilgrims from Visakhapatnam and East Godavari. Further, he assured that affected families will receive support, including job opportunities in temples under the Endowment Department.

Accident at Simhachalam Chandanotsavam Due to Govt's Negligence: YV Subba Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Vizag

YCP MP YV Subba Reddy has expressed strong concerns over the tragic accident at the Simhachalam temple during the Chandanotsavam, attributing it to the state government's negligence in ensuring proper safety arrangements. He stated that if the government had taken appropriate preventive measures, the accident could have been avoided. Speaking to the media, Subba Reddy emphasized that the collapsed wall, which resulted in the loss of seven lives and left one person injured, was built only ten days ago. He criticized the government for failing to plan and execute arrangements in a timely manner. He further stated that had proper planning been carried out three months ago, this tragic incident would not have occurred. The YCP MP also called on the government to take immediate steps to ensure that such incidents do not recur. He stressed that the state government must focus on preventive measures and ensure safety protocols are followed for events like the Chandanotsavam in the future. Subba Reddy urged the state government to be more responsible in handling major public events and to take accountability for its lack of preparedness. The call for more stringent safety measures comes as the authorities work to provide relief to the victims' families and prevent further mishaps. The tragic incident at Simhachalam continues to draw criticism, with political leaders calling for a thorough investigation and stronger safety standards during religious and cultural events.



BCY Party President Ramachandra Yadav Expresses Sorrow Over Simhachalam Incident

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

BCY Party President Ramachandra Yadav has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic Simhachalam incident, where seven devotees lost their lives and one was injured after a wall collapsed due to heavy rain. He raised concerns about the state government's failure to take necessary precautions despite knowing that the crowd at Simhachalam would increase due to the Chandanotsavam.



Yadav criticized the government for not taking strict action to prevent such incidents, despite the awareness of the growing number of devotees. He pointed out that the primary cause of the accident was the malpractice of contractors involved in the construction work. According to him, the collapse of the wall could have been avoided if the work had been properly executed and monitored. The BCY Party President demanded that strict action be taken

against those responsible for the poor construction and malpractice that led to the tragedy. He further emphasized that the injured victims should be provided with better medical treatment and support to ensure their recovery. Yadav's remarks come as the state government and authorities continue to handle the aftermath of the incident, with relief efforts underway and an inquiry committee set up to investigate the cause of the collapse.

Former Minister Gudivada Amarnath Condemns Simhachalam Incident as Tragic and Irresponsible

TPN Correspondent | Vizag

Former Minister Gudivada Amarnath has strongly condemned the recent Simhachalam incident, where seven devotees died and one was injured after a wall collapsed during the Chandanotsavam. He expressed that such incidents are rare and that it is unusual for rain to fall on this day, adding to the tragedy. Amarnath criticized the negligence of the authorities for using iron supports on a green wall, which he called irresponsible and dangerous. He labeled the incident as a shameful act of negligence that cost the lives of seven people, stressing that the government's failure to ensure quality and make proper arrangements for the devotees led to a heartbreaking tragedy.



sible and dangerous. He labeled the incident as a shameful act of negligence that cost the lives of seven people, stressing that the government's failure to ensure quality and make proper arrangements for the devotees led to a heartbreaking tragedy.

The former minister pointed out that the lack of preparedness and attention to safety measures put families in a devastating situation. He called on the government to take full responsibility for the incident and take appropriate measures to prevent such occurrences in the future. As the inquiry into the incident continues, Amarnath's statements highlight the growing concerns over safety standards and the well-being of devotees during religious events.

YS Sharmila Slams BJP, Seeks Action Over Congress Office Attack

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

APCC President YS Sharmila Reddy launched a sharp attack on the BJP and questioned the silence of other political parties in the state after an alleged attack on the Congress office. Speaking at a press conference in Vijayawada, Sharmila accused BJP leaders of misusing power and claimed that regardless of whether YCP or the alliance is in power, the actual control lies with the BJP. She alleged that Prime Minister Modi has done injustice to Andhra Pradesh over the last eleven years, but none of the TDP, Janasena, or YCP leaders dared to question it. "If I expose Modi's frauds, will you attack me with eggs and tomatoes?" she asked, expressing concern over the safety of Congress leaders following the attack on the party office.



Sharmila questioned the law and order situation, stating that if an attack can happen on the APCC president, the condition of ordinary Congress workers is unimaginable. She demanded to know whether the police would respond if outsiders stormed the Congress office without cooperation. Calling for accountability, Sharmila demanded that attempt to murder cases be filed against those involved in the attack. She said the coalition government must answer for the incident, and asked Chandrababu Naidu whether this was the state of women's safety under his rule. Sharmila urged the police and the government to take immediate and strict action to ensure such incidents are not repeated.

Congress Leader Tulasi Reddy Slams Pawan Kalyan Over Patriotism Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Former MP and Congress leader Dr. Narreddy Tulasi Reddy strongly condemned Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's recent comments on patriotism, calling them "foolish" and "ridiculous." Speaking in Vempalle, he said Congress doesn't need lessons in nationalism from a party like Jana Sena or its leader, who questioned the Congress leadership's commitment to India. Tulasi Reddy reminded that the Congress government under Nehru, Shastri, and Indira Gandhi had successfully

led India through three wars with Pakistan—long before the BJP, Jana Sena, or even Pawan Kalyan's political career began. He said leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives for India's unity, integrity, and sovereignty. Taking aim at the BJP and Pawan, Tulasi Reddy said that real patriotism is reflected in action, not in rhetoric. He pointed out that no terrorist has been caught even after eight days of the Pahalgam attack, and questioned why PM Modi skipped the



all-party meeting on April 23. He urged Pawan Kalyan to ask tough questions to Modi instead of targeting Congress baselessly.

Former Minister Kottu Satyanarayana Slams Govt Over Temple Mismanagement



TPN Correspondent | Tadepalligudem

Former Endowments Minister Kottu Satyanarayana launched a scathing attack on the coalition government, holding it squarely responsible for the tragic incident at Simhachalam where seven devotees lost their lives. Addressing a press conference in Tadepalligudem, Satyanarayana accused the government of neglecting sacred rituals and exploiting temples for political mileage. He said the government has shown no commitment to maintaining temple sanctity, and alleged that thousands of crores are being looted under the guise of Amaravati's construction, quoting an inflated estimate of ₹18,600 per square foot. Satyanarayana further alleged that valuable temple lands in Visakhapatnam are being handed over at a throwaway price of 99 paise per acre, yet the media remains silent. The former minister emphasized that during Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure, temples like Srisailem and Kanaka Durga in Vijayawada saw significant development. He claimed all such efforts were sidelined once the new coalition came to power. He accused Chandrababu Naidu of deliberately working to diminish the sanctity and development of Hindu temples. Satyanarayana also criticized the government's control over temple administration despite not funding temple development, asserting that offerings from devotees are the only support sustaining temple operations. He condemned the current practice of appointing employees based on favoritism, ignoring tradition and qualifications. Holding the coalition government fully accountable for the Simhachalam tragedy, he demanded justice for the victims and strict adherence to temple protocols to prevent further disasters.

Jagan Betrayed Amaravati Farmers, Alliance Revives Capital: Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar

Amaravati reborn after five years without a capital

PM Modi to attend Capital Reconstruction Assembly on May 2

Gottipati slams Jagan for deceiving Amaravati farmers

TPN Correspondent | Tadepalli
Power Minister Gottipati Ravikumar strongly criticized former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy for betraying the Amaravati farmers who had given land for capital construction without demanding even a rupee in return. He said Andhra Pradesh was left without a capital for five years due to Jagan's deception.

In a review meeting held at the Minister's Camp Office in Tadepalli, Gottipati discussed preparations for the May 2nd Amaravati Capital Reconstruction Assembly with Associate Ministers Anagani Satya Prasad, Dola Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy, Kolusu Partha Saradhi, Bapatla MP Krishna Prasad, and seven MLAs from the Bapatla region.

Minister Gottipati said that despite receiving votes from Amaravati farmers, Jagan shattered their hopes by abandoning the capital project and misleading the public with the three capitals proposal. As a result, Andhra Pradesh became a state without a capital, he stated. He emphasized that the alliance government, under CM Chandrababu

Naidu's leadership, is reviving Amaravati to fulfill the aspirations of the people and honor the farmers' sacrifice. He called on lakhs of citizens across the state to attend the May 2nd assembly where Prime Minister Modi will be the chief guest. The minister directed local MLAs to ensure large-scale participation from

Bapatla region and make proper arrangements for transport, drinking water, buttermilk, and breakfast in view of the summer heat. He instructed officials to ensure that attendees face no inconvenience and that all departments work in coordination. Several NDA leaders were present at the planning meeting.



CM Chandrababu Committed to Workers' Welfare - MP Kesineni Chinni



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is dedicated to the welfare of the working class, farmers, and laborers who are key contributors to the state's and nation's development, said Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) in his May Day message on Wednesday. He emphasized that the new industrial policy introduced by the NDA government will revive the production and service sectors, bringing prosperity back into workers' lives. MP Kesineni said that true social progress is achievable only when workers thrive. He lauded the government's initiatives such as the free sand policy, which he stated had brought relief to laborers, and praised CM Chandrababu's vision of turning every family into an entrepreneurial unit to drive economic growth. He highlighted the P4 policy introduced by the Chief Minister to eliminate poverty, describing it as a transformative initiative supporting poor and working families. "Industries are the backbone of the state's growth, but misrule over the last five years had hampered progress. Since the NDA coalition came to power ten months ago, the state has seen a revival in industrial development," Kesineni said. He concluded by reaffirming the Telugu Desam Party's unwavering support for the working class and expressed confidence that the government's ongoing efforts would continue to uplift the lives of laborers and the underprivileged.

Amaravati Celebration Reflects People's Aspirations: Former Minister Jawahar, MLA Venigandla

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada
Former Minister Kothapalli Samuel Jawahar and Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu asserted that Amaravati belongs to all the people of Andhra Pradesh and emphasized that the coalition government is committed to inclusive development of the capital.

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Amaravati on May 2nd to resume capital construction works, the leaders held a meeting with TDP leaders from Gudivada constituency. They announced large-scale arrangements including 170 buses and mandal-wise transport to ensure enthusiastic public participation.



Youth are expected to lead bike rallies from across the region. Jawahar hailed the event as the end of the Amaravati eclipse, calling it a new beginning. He criticized the previous YSRCP government and former Gudivada MLA for insulting Amaravati by calling it a graveyard, and said CM

Chandrababu Naidu's vision will now transform Amaravati into a thriving economic hub. He said the capital construction is progressing with a clear road map and that the coalition aims to make all sections of society a part of Amaravati's development journey.

MLA Ramu echoed similar views, stating that PM Modi's participation has reinvigorated public confidence. He said the previous regime destroyed Chandrababu's capital plans, but the coalition government restored dignity to Amaravati as a symbol of the people's hopes. The leaders added that arrangements were made in coordination with departments to ensure safe return of participants amidst summer heat. Gudivada TDP coordinator Nukalamma Yadav, constituency president Dintyala Rambabu, and other senior party leaders also attended the meeting.

Traffic Diversions Announced Ahead of Prime Minister's Visit to Amaravati

TPN Correspondent | Krishna Dist

In preparation for the Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to Ganavaram Airport, police departments across Andhra Pradesh have announced comprehensive traffic diversion plans to ensure security and smooth vehicular movement. The diversions are specifically for heavy and medium transport vehicles and will remain in force on the day of the PM's arrival. From Kakinada District, vehicles travelling from Visakhapatnam to Chennai will be diverted via Kattipudi - Kakinada - Amalapuram - Narasapuram - Losara Bridge - Machilipatnam - Repalle - Bapatla - Trovagunta - Ongole.



Similarly, vehicles from Chennai to Visakhapatnam will follow the reverse route through Ongole and Kattipudi. Prakasam and Guntur district SPs have designated routes through Bapatla, Avanigadda, and Puligadda for vehicles traveling northwards. From East Godavari, vehicles bound to Hyderabad from Visakhapatnam are to take the Gaman Bridge - Jangareddygudem - Khammam route. Eluru District police have issued three alternative routes including Bhimadole - Chintalputi - Khammam and Eluru Bypass via Aswaraopet. Gannavaram SDPO

has issued diversions via Nuzvid and Ibrahimpatnam for north-bound vehicles. The NTR District Commissioner of Police has mapped out detailed routes from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam. These include diversions through Nandigama, Sattupalli, G. Konduru, and Bhimavaram. The public is advised to strictly adhere to these changes to avoid congestion. District police authorities have requested transport operators and the general public to cooperate fully and plan travel accordingly on the day of the Prime Minister's visit.

'Life of Karmayogi' Memoir Sparks Dialogue on Ethical Governance at ANU

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

A thought-provoking discussion on the book "Life of Karmayogi - Memoir of a Civil Servant", authored by Shri M. Gopala Krishna, I.A.S. (Retd.), was held on Wednesday at the Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU) auditorium. The event was organized by ANU in association with Takshasila IAS Academy and the Institute of Public Policy, drawing senior civil servants, academic leaders, and civil service aspirants to reflect on values in public service. The session began with an introduction to the author, whose principled leadership and people-centric administrative approach earned him wide respect. Delivering the keynote address, Shri M.T. Krishna Babu, I.A.S., Special Chief Secretary for Health, Medical & Family Welfare, described the memoir as an honest and insightful narrative blending professional experiences with personal reflection. He said it serves as a powerful guide



for both serving officers and aspirants. Shri Gopala Krishna shared personal anecdotes from his long career, highlighting the challenges of field postings and the complexity of policy implementation. He explained how the philosophy of Karmayoga - performing duty with dedication and detachment - shaped his administrative journey, resonating deeply with students in the audience. Presiding over the session, Shri V.N. Vishnu, I.A.S. (Retd.), former Principal Secretary and Chief Patron

of Takshasila IAS Academy, praised the memoir's authenticity and timely relevance. Rector of ANU, Prof. K. Ratna Shiela Mani, urged for such works to be included in public policy curriculum to inspire students with real-life lessons in governance. Prof. M. Suresh Kumar, Principal of the University College of Arts, Commerce & Law, and Shri B.S.N. Durga Prasad, MD of Takshasila IAS Academy, also lauded the book for its sincerity and its potential to shape the values of future policymakers.

BJYM Protests Congress Office Over Sharmila's Remarks on PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Tensions flared on Wednesday as Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) workers, led by state president Mitta Vamsi, staged a siege at the state Congress office to protest against Y. S. Sharmila's controversial comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The protest, which took place at the Andhra Ratna Bhavan, quickly escalated into a confrontation between Congress

leaders and BJYM workers. Despite police intervention, the situation remained volatile as the two groups exchanged heated words. BJYM workers, enraged by Sharmila's remarks, raised slogans against her and the Congress party. The protest turned chaotic when BJYM workers threw eggs at the Congress office, intensifying the clash. As tensions continued to rise, the

police took several BJYM leaders into custody to restore order. Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) chief was seen arguing with the police at the Andhra Ratna Bhavan gate, demanding action against the BJP workers involved in the attack. The standoff highlighted the growing political animosity between the BJP and Congress in the state.

Gudivada Traffic SI Prasad Retires After 40 Years of Service

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada
Sri Gudivada Vana Prasad Rao, widely known as Traffic SI Prasad, bid farewell to his esteemed career as a Sub Inspector at Gudivada Traffic Police Station in Krishna District On Wednesday. With a distinguished service record spanning over 40 years and 4 months, he was honored by his colleagues and staff during a retirement ceremony at the station. Prasad Garu served as an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) and Sub Inspector (SI) for two terms at Gudivada Traffic Police Station. His dedication to discipline, his charismatic

personality, and his service quality earned him the respect of his peers and superiors. He successfully navigated the challenges of his tenure, including managing traffic issues caused by the construction of a railway flyover in Gudivada. His timely decision to implement one-way traffic in the town and at railway gates, along with introducing zebra crossings, helped ensure the safety of motorists. In addition to his traffic management skills, SI Prasad was instrumental in organizing road safety awareness seminars and welfare programs for auto drivers. His

leadership earned him admiration from the people of Gudivada, who fondly referred to him as "Traffic SI Prasad." The retirement ceremony was attended by Traffic ASIs Ratna Raju, Shankara Rao, Bhagyavathi, Writer Veeraswamy, and Head Constables Ramachandra Rao, Srinivas, Ramakrishna, and Mohan Rao, along with Traffic Constables and Home Guards. They honored him with shawls, flower garlands, and gifts, concluding the ceremony with a heartfelt vote of thanks from Head Constable Ramachandra Rao.

Tadepalligudem Celebrates International Dance Day With Vibrant Performances

Celebrating Art and Commitment: International Dance Day at Tadepalligudem

MLA Bolisetty Srinivas announces the long-awaited Town Hall construction

Artists, performers, and residents gather to honor cultural heritage

TPN Correspondent | Tadepalligudem

Tadepalligudem came alive with rhythm and energy on April 29, 2025, as the town celebrated International Dance Day with grand performances and cultural festivities. Organized by Sri Dance Academy, led by renowned dance mentors Alla Srinu and P.T. Venkanna, the event took place at the Maganti Kalyana Mandapam and was graced by local MLA Sri Bolisetty Srinivas Garu.

The chief guest, MLA Bolisetty Srinivas Garu, added tremendous value to the occasion by announcing the long-awaited construction of a Town Hall for Tadepalligudem. This promise of a dedicated cultural space for the town resonated deeply with the local community, especially artists who have long advocated for such infrastructure. The announcement was met



with immense joy, and veteran stage artist Kunireddy Srinivas Garu expressed his gratitude, thanking the MLA for his unwavering support for the arts. He hailed this development as a historic milestone for the town's cultural infrastructure. The event showcased a diverse array of dance performances by young talents from Sri Dance Academy, featuring classical,

folk, and contemporary styles. The performances moved the audience, which included parents, artists, cultural leaders, and residents, with their passion and excellence. The program concluded with heartfelt acknowledgments to the organizers and performers, particularly Sri Alla Srinu and P.T. Venkanna, for their dedica-



tion to nurturing artistic talent in the region. The evening closed with a renewed sense of cultural pride and excitement for the future, fueled by the promise of a new cultural space for Tadepalligudem.

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Lays Foundation Stones for Key Infrastructure Projects in Addanki

TPN Correspondent | Addanki

State Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar announced that the government has provided over 70,000 agricultural electricity connections across Andhra Pradesh and plans to extend an additional 50,000 connections. Speaking during his visit to Addanki, he highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen rural infrastructure. The Minister also laid the foundation stone for two new substations, costing around Rs. 11 crore, which will enhance electricity supply for both agricultural and domestic needs in the region.

Further emphasizing progress, Gottipati stated that 1,700 outdated electricity poles had been



replaced in Addanki, with another 500 poles scheduled for installation soon. He criticized the previous administration for neglecting meaningful reforms

in the electricity sector and for mishandling the Polavaram project. He also expressed concerns about the former Chief Minister's three-capitals plan,

which he claimed undermined the development of Amaravati. In addition, Minister Gottipati laid the foundation stone for a permanent fire station at Shingarakonda. This station, which will replace the temporary setup in the agricultural market yard, is part of broader efforts to improve safety infrastructure in the constituency. Looking ahead, the Minister urged residents to attend the Amaravati Reconstruction Meeting on May 2, 2025, calling it a crucial event for the future of the region. He reassured the public that transportation, food, and water provisions would be made available for attendees.

Cement Factories in Rayalaseema Accused of Exploiting Locals: RSRS President Writes to PM Modi



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Rayalaseema Rashtra Samithi (RSRS) President Dr. Kuncham Venkatasubbareddy has raised serious concerns regarding the exploitation of locals by cement factory owners in the Rayalaseema region. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr. Venkatasubbareddy highlighted the ongoing irregularities in cement industries, claiming that the companies are causing environmental damage and neglecting the welfare of local residents.

In his letter, Dr. Venkatasubbareddy named several cement factories, including Zuwari, Bharathi, Dalmia, and Ultratech, among others, accusing them of profiting at the expense of the people of Rayalaseema. He pointed out the pollution caused by these factories, specifically dust and chemical pollution, which has severely affected agriculture and public health. The cement factories,

according to Dr. Venkatasubbareddy, have failed to fulfill their promises of providing jobs and compensation to affected communities. The RSRS President also criticized the factories for their disregard of local welfare and demanded that action be taken against the irregularities. He expressed full support for Jammalamadugu MLA Adinarayana Reddy, who has been actively fighting against the exploitation caused by the cement industries. Dr. Venkatasubbareddy emphasized the need for a fair resolution, including local job opportunities and better health measures for the affected population. He called for the immediate implementation of measures to curb pollution and ensure that local youth are given priority in factory jobs. He also demanded that cement prices be regulated to benefit the local community and that farmers suffering from the dust pollution be compensated.

Permissions Granted for 23 Industries through Single Window Scheme in Eluru



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Eluru District Collector K. Vetriselvi has directed officials to expedite the establishment of industries sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). During the District Industrial and Export Promotion Committee meeting on Wednesday, held at the Gautami Conference Hall, Collector Vetriselvi emphasized the need for swift action in setting up employment units for both urban and rural unemployed youth. The Collector stressed the importance of creating food processing units, including daal mills, cashew nut industries, and tamarind processing facilities, particularly within the ITDA area. She called for at least 30 self-help groups to be engaged in this initiative to promote local industrial growth. Additionally, Vetriselvi highlighted the allocation of Rs. 1.25 crore to 14 industries as part of the Industrial Development Policy. The Collector also confirmed that 23 out of 33 industrial applicants had been granted permission through the single-window scheme, while the remaining 10 applications are pending approval from various regulatory bodies, including the Fire Services and Pollution Control Board. A special inspection drive led by the Deputy Inspector of Factories assessed 51 industries in the district, with 47 found operational. The Collector encouraged further efforts to expand the horticulture and agriculture sectors, especially within the Polavaram constituency. The meeting also saw discussions on simplifying procedures for industrialists seeking land for new ventures, with pamphlets to be distributed explaining the processes involved. Several officials from various departments, including ITDA, Pollution Control Board, and Agriculture, were present to ensure coordinated efforts in promoting industrial growth.

KK Chowdhury Visits Srikalahasti Temple as Part of Mukkanti Seva

TPN Correspondent | SriKalahasti

Andhra Pradesh State Khadi and Village Industries Corporation Chairman, KK Chowdhury, visited the renowned Sri Kalahasti Swara Swamy temple on the occasion of Mukkanti Seva. He was warmly welcomed by local TDP leaders, including Tirupati TDP Parliament Yesti Cell President Subbaiah, Telugu Desam Party ITDP State Secretary Balaji Reddy, and Constituency President Khadhar. The visit was marked by arrangements made for a smooth darshan of the deity. After completing his darshan, Chowdhury was offered tirtha prasad at Sri Mrityanjaya Lingam. The ceremony continued with blessings from the temple's Vedic scholars, who chanted sacred mantras for his well-being.

TDP leaders actively participated in the event, supporting Chowdhury during his visit and reinforcing their connection with the community. The event concluded with a sense of spiritual fulfillment and gratitude, as Chowdhury received blessings for his continued service to the state.



Five Killed in Speeding Car Crash in Nellore

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

In a tragic incident on Wednesday, five people lost their lives when a speeding car crashed into a house on the roadside near a petrol pump in Pothireddy Palem, Kovur mandal, Nellore district. The victims were four medical students from Narayana Medical College in Nellore, identified as Yagnesh, Jeevan, Abhishek, and Naresh, who died on the spot. The fifth victim, Venkata Ramanaiah, a local resident, was inside the house at the time and also died due to the impact.

The car reportedly lost control due to excessive speed and crashed into the house, causing extensive damage. One of the medical students is currently hospitalized in critical condition. Authorities suspect that speeding was the primary cause of the accident. The police are conducting a post-mortem examination of the deceased, and an investigation into the incident is ongoing. The authorities are focusing on gathering more details from the scene and examining the car's condition. The families of the victims are in deep shock, while the injured student remains under intensive care. Local authorities have pledged support to the families, and the community has been left reeling from the tragedy.



Minister Vasamsetty Subhash Celebrates May Day Early in Ramachandrapuram

TPN Correspondent | Ramachandrapuram

State Labor Minister Vasamsetty Subhash celebrated May Day a day earlier in Ramachandrapuram, honoring the workers' contributions and showing solidarity with them. Since he had commitments in Amaravati on May Day, the Minister chose to mark the occasion in his constituency, emphasizing his support for workers. Dressed in a khaki workers' uniform and red neckerchief, Minister Subhash drove an auto in an auto rally alongside the workers, demonstrating his sincerity towards their cause. The rally, which began at Vella Bridge, concluded with a meeting at Lalita Nagar. In his speech, Minister Subhash praised the workers' essential role in the country's economic development, stressing that their sweat and hard work are invaluable. He also highlighted the government's efforts to secure workers' futures through insurance initiatives like the Eshram card and Chandranna Bima, which offers up to Rs. 10 lakh in accident insurance. Subhash expressed his dedication to workers' welfare, promising to pay half of the insurance premium for any auto worker unable to afford it. He thanked CM Chandrababu Naidu for allocating Rs. 1.28 lakh crore for MSME development in the 2025-26 budget, aimed at benefiting workers and the unemployed. During the event, new clothes were distributed to the auto workers, and several were honored for their dedication. Minister Subhash later shared a meal with the workers, symbolizing his solidarity as an "ordinary worker," not just a minister. The celebration was attended by leaders from various sectors, including Vasamsetty Satyam, Konaseema District Assistant Labor Commissioner Nagalakshmi, and leaders from auto unions, who also conveyed their support for the workers.

From Samastipur to Stardom: The Rise of Vaibhav Suryavanshi



At just 14, Vaibhav Suryavanshi has done what seasoned professionals only dream of—he's become the youngest centurion in IPL and men's T20 history. Hailing from Tajpur village in Bihar's Samastipur district, Vaibhav's journey is not just about talent, but unshakable self-belief and relentless hard work.

When he scored a blistering 101 off 38 balls against Gujarat Titans, helping Rajasthan Royals chase down 210, the cricketing world stood still. It wasn't just his strokes or power that shocked everyone—it was his calm, composed demeanor. No nerves, no over-excitement. Just laser focus.

Vaibhav idolizes Brian Lara, and it shows in his high backlift and attacking mindset. The very first ball he faced in the IPL was launched for six—a clear sign of things to come. And while his talent is undeniable, it's the support system behind him that truly completes the story. His father traveled 90 km daily to Patna for his training; his mother sacrificed sleep to prepare meals; and his brother took up a job so their father could focus solely on Vaibhav's cricket.

When Rajasthan Royals paid ₹1.1 crore for him at 13, many questioned

the move. But his performances have already vindicated the faith shown by the franchise. With mentors like Rahul Dravid by his side, Vaibhav's early success is being carefully guided. But now comes the tougher part—sustaining success. History is filled with teenage prodigies who couldn't live up to the hype. Vaibhav will need discipline, humility, and the right people around him to avoid becoming just another name on that list.

For now, though, Indian cricket has a new star. And if nurtured right, Vaibhav Suryavanshi could be one of the brightest yet.



Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act: A Legacy of Repression

In the long and violent history of Sri Lanka, the notion of "terror" has often been used as a justification for harsh state action. While non-state actors have certainly committed grave acts of violence, the Sri Lankan state has consistently failed to reckon with its own role in perpetuating terror—particularly against minority communities. Instead of self-reflection, the state has relied on sweeping laws to suppress dissent, often blurring the line between legitimate security concerns and political repression.

The most infamous of these laws is the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), introduced in 1979 under President J.R. Jayawardene. Ostensibly designed to counter insurgent threats, the PTA has been widely criticised for enabling systemic human rights abuses. Its roots are telling: the law was inspired by repressive legal frameworks from apartheid-era South Africa and colonial British laws used against Irish rebels. It replaced the 1978 "Proscribing of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and Other Similar Organizations Law", and marked the beginning of a long era of unchecked state power.

The PTA gave authorities sweeping powers to arrest individuals without a warrant, detain suspects for long periods without trial, and conduct searches and seizures with little oversight. It was a law built for control, not justice. Over the decades, it has disproportionately targeted Tamils, Muslims, activists, and journalists, creating a culture of fear and impunity. Numerous reports by international human rights organisations have documented torture, forced confessions, and indefinite detentions under the PTA.

Even in post-war Sri Lanka, after the defeat of the LTTE in 2009, the PTA has remained in use, often against peaceful protestors and critics of the government. Promises to reform or repeal the act have largely been symbolic, and attempts at replacing it have frequently retained many of its draconian features.

The enduring presence of the PTA underscores a deeper issue in Sri Lanka's governance—a reluctance to distinguish between genuine security threats and dissenting voices. As long as such laws remain in force, the cycle of state-sponsored violence and suppression is unlikely to end.

There Is A 'Third' Player In The India-Pakistan Conflict China's Shadow in the India-Pakistan Conflict

The recent terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam has triggered a decisive moment for India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, vowing a strong response, has already taken bold diplomatic steps—most notably, suspending the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). This 1960 agreement, which withstood even wartime tensions, is now paused, drawing a sharp response from Pakistan, which called it an "act of war." Islamabad has even threatened to suspend the Simla Pact, a move that could reopen the door to internationalising the Kashmir issue.

While India weighs a measured but forceful military response, a new dimension has emerged: China. As highlighted by Najam Sethi in a recent interview, this is no longer just a bilateral issue. China's deep investment in Pakistan through the \$62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), part of its Belt and Road Initiative, has made Beijing a strategic stakeholder. China has backed Pakistan publicly, both politically and diplomatically, and is now even allowed to deploy private security to protect its interests in Balochistan—where unrest and separatist attacks have severely disrupted the

CPEC's progress.

Pakistan, in turn, has signaled that it will respond in kind to any Indian action, perhaps by escalating conflict in Kashmir or targeting alleged Indian-sponsored groups in Afghanistan. With Pakistan's economy in distress and its reliance on Chinese backing growing, its response strategy appears increasingly aggressive and unpredictable.

Internally, Pakistan faces pressure too. Protests in Sindh against the army-backed canal project—linked to the IWT suspension. This move could deprive Pakistan of crucial hydrological data, worsening internal rivalries and unrest.

As both nations brace for the next move, India is expected to rely not only on its military capability but also on its diplomatic clout to manage global perception. With China now a visible third player, the dynamics of the India-Pakistan conflict have evolved into a far more complex geopolitical standoff—one where every move could have regional consequences.

Income Tax Bill 2025 and the Quiet Normalisation of Surveillance

Surveillance State Rising: The Hidden Costs of Tech-Enabled Tax Policing



When George Orwell envisioned Big Brother, he likely didn't imagine Instagram stories and WhatsApp groups becoming tools of state surveillance. Yet today, digital platforms are being co-opted for just that. With over ₹250 crore in concealed assets already unearthed, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently revealed that encrypted chats, social media activity, mobile data, and even Google Maps are now being used in tax enforcement. Technology, once a symbol of empowerment, is quietly evolving into a tool of state control.

At the heart of this transformation lies the Income Tax Bill 2025, which, if passed, would empower income tax officials to access digital communications—emails, financial accounts, social media—without prior notice. While positioned as a move against financial fraud, the Bill represents a deeper, more troubling shift in the relationship between state and citizen.

This isn't just about regulation. It's about power. The proposed law normalises surveillance under the guise of efficiency and the common good, all while sidestepping any meaningful discussion on individual privacy. In a country where agencies like the Income Tax Department and the Enforce-

ment Directorate are frequently accused of political bias, granting them unchecked digital access is fraught with risk.

Perhaps most concerning is the public's apathy. There is little discourse, little resistance. Citizens seem to have internalised a dangerous narrative: "If you've done nothing wrong, you have nothing to hide." This thinking not only erodes the presumption of innocence but reframes rights as conditional—granted only to those deemed harmless by the state.

In doing so, it also reduces citizens to passive data subjects rather than active digital participants with rights and agency. The rhetoric of the "common good" has become a convenient justification for sweeping changes, just as it was during demonetisation, the revocation of Article 370, and Aadhaar's rollout.

Digital sovereignty cannot be built on surveillance. It must be founded on public trust, transparency, and respect for autonomy. The real strength of a nation lies not in the data it controls, but in the freedom and dignity it affords its people. Without privacy, there is no autonomy—only obedience disguised as order.





Caste Census Sparks BJP-Congress Showdown

- **Rahul Gandhi demands caste census**
- **BJP highlights Congress past inaction**
- **First caste census since independence**
- **Debate over 50% quota cap**
- **Parties fight for political credit**

With the country preparing to undertake the first-ever nationwide caste census in independent India, a fresh political battle has erupted between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress over who deserves credit for the historic decision.

The Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi, claims that the government’s move is a result of its sustained pressure and consistent advocacy for a caste-based headcount. Congress leaders argue that Rahul Gandhi has long demanded such a census to ensure fair representation and resource allocation for OBCs, Dalits, and Adivasis.

On the other hand, the BJP has countered this narrative by pointing to the Congress’s own record in government, alleging that it never showed genuine intent to carry out such an exercise when it had the opportunity. BJP leaders highlighted the previous UPA regime’s reluctance to implement a full-fledged caste census, despite discussions and demands during its tenure.

The political significance of the caste census is immense, with both parties hoping to strengthen their appeal among backward and marginalised communities. The data from the census could potentially be used to revise reservation quotas, which are currently capped at 50% as per Supreme Court guidelines. This has renewed the demand to breach the ceiling to provide greater representation to disadvantaged groups.

Analysts believe that this issue will be a key electoral plank in upcoming state and national elections. The BJP is likely to project the move as a step towards data-driven policymaking, while the Congress is expected to present it as a victory for its ideological push for social justice.

Sources indicate that both parties are now working to control the narrative around the census, aware that the implications go beyond just statistics — they could reshape the contours of Indian politics.

With the census now on the cards, the debate is expected to intensify further as parties compete to claim the legacy of this politically charged and socially significant initiative.

Pakistan Airspace Ban Costs Indian Airlines

Indian airlines are likely to face additional weekly expenses of Rs 77 crore for international flights operated from north Indian cities as the airspace curbs result in increased fuel consumption and longer flight durations. An analysis of the number of overseas flights and back-of-the-envelope calculations based on increased flight time as well as approximate expenses by PTI showed that the additional monthly operational costs could be over Rs 306 crore. Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan due to the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan on Thursday said it will bar Indian airlines from using its airspace. Alternative flight path is resulting in additional flying time of up to 1.5 hours for international flights from Delhi and north Indian cities. A senior airline industry official, who has extensive experience in the commercial side, told PTI that the additional time for a



16-hour flight to North America will be around 1.5 hours. For 1.5 additional hours, the cost will be around Rs 29 lakh, including landing and parking charges on account of a technical halt in an airport enroute, the official said. Similarly, the additional flight time for a 9-hour flight to Europe will be about 1.5 hours, and the extra cost will be around Rs 22.5 lakh.

In the case of Middle East flights, the additional time will be around 45 minutes, and the resultant cost will be about Rs 5 lakh, the official said. Indian carriers are scheduled to operate more than 6,000 flights one way to various international destinations in April, data from aviation analytics firm Cirium showed. Over 800 weekly flights are operated by Indian airlines to and from north Indian cities

to overseas destinations, including North America, the UK, Europe and the Middle East. Out of the total monthly flights, nearly 1,900 are operated with narrow-body planes to the Middle East. For Europe and North America, nearly 1,200 flights are operated with wide-body aircraft. The total additional monthly expenses will be about Rs 307 crore and Rs 77 crore on a weekly basis.

17 Women Lawmakers Billionaires, 28% Criminally Charged



A new report by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) reveals that 17 women MPs and MLAs across India have declared assets over Rs 100 crore, while 28% face criminal cases. The report analyzed affidavits of 512 out of 513 current women

legislators.

Among the 17 billionaire lawmakers, six are Lok Sabha MPs, three from Rajya Sabha, and eight are MLAs from various states and Union Territories. The data shows that 143 women

legislators have declared criminal charges against themselves, including 24 Lok Sabha MPs, 10 Rajya Sabha MPs, and 109 MLAs.

Of these, 78 women legislators (15%) face serious criminal charges such as attempt to murder and murder. These include 14 from the Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha, and 57 MLAs.

Some states show especially high percentages of women lawmakers with criminal backgrounds. In Telangana, 67% of women MPs/MLAs face criminal cases; in Andhra Pradesh, 58%; in Punjab and Kerala, 50%; and in Bihar, 43%.

Party-wise, the BJP, with 217 women lawmakers, has 23% with criminal cases and 11% with serious charges. The Congress has 83 women legislators, with 34% facing criminal cases and 20% serious ones. The TDP has 65% of its 20 women legis-

lators with criminal cases and 45% with serious ones. AAP’s 13 women legislators show 69% with criminal cases and 31% with serious charges.

Financially, the total declared assets of 512 women legislators amount to Rs 10,417 crore, with an average of Rs 20.34 crore each. Andhra Pradesh leads with the wealthiest women legislators averaging Rs 74.22 crore, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Rs 71.44 crore) and Haryana (Rs 63.72 crore). The least wealthy are from Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur.

In education, 71% are graduates or higher. Most women MPs and MLAs (64%) are aged 41–60, with an average age of 49 years.

The 18th Lok Sabha has 74 women MPs (13.6%), slightly lower than the 78 (14.4%) in the 17th. BJP leads with 31 women MPs. Kerala is the only large state without a woman MP.

Rajnath to Attend Moscow Victory Day

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the 80th anniversary celebrations of Victory Day in Moscow next month, official sources confirmed.

The Indian government has informed the Russian side about Rajnath Singh’s participation in the event, which will include a military parade at Moscow’s Red Square on May 9. The celebrations mark the Soviet Union’s victory over Nazi Germany in World War II and hold great symbolic significance for Russia.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stated that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be attending the event. “India will not be represented at the highest level,” Peskov said during a briefing, referring to the absence of Prime Minister Modi.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had extended formal invitations to both PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping to attend the grand parade. While Modi has opted out, India’s participation at the ministerial level reflects continued diplomatic engagement between New Delhi and Moscow.

In a significant gesture, Russia has also declared a temporary ceasefire in its ongoing conflict with Ukraine from May 8 to May 10 to observe the Victory Day commemorations. The truce is expected to allow the Russian population to mark the his-



toric event without interruption.

Russian state-run media quoted President Putin recalling the historical moment from World War II: “On the banks of the Volga, our troops halted and crushed the enemy. A decisive blow was delivered to the Nazi war machine, marking a turning point in the war and opening the road westward — to Berlin and to the Great Victory, whose 80th anniversary we will solemnly celebrate on May 9.”

The Victory Day celebration, with its military parade, is one of the most important annual events in Russia, showcasing its armed forces and paying tribute to veterans of the Second World War. Rajnath Singh’s presence underscores India’s acknowledgement of the shared historical struggle against fascism and the importance of maintaining strong ties with Russia amid shifting global dynamics.

AAP Ex-Ministers Booked in Rs 2,000-Cr Scam

- **Sisodia, Jain booked in scam**
- **Rs 2,000 crore cost irregularities**
- **Classrooms built at inflated costs**
- **Contracts linked to AAP members**
- **CVC report cites major violations**

The Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has registered a case against former Delhi ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendra Jain in connection with an alleged Rs 2,000 crore scam related to classroom construction projects in Delhi government schools.

A senior official confirmed that the case involves irregularities in the construction of over 12,700 classrooms during the tenure of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led government. The FIR has been filed under the Prevention of Corruption Act and sections of the Indian Penal Code, based on complaints by BJP leaders Harish Khurana, Kapil Mishra, and Neelkanth Bakshi.

The complaint alleges that classrooms were constructed at an inflated cost of Rs 24.86 lakh per unit, whereas similar structures are typically built for around Rs 5 lakh in Delhi. “The project was awarded to 34 contractors, many allegedly



linked to AAP,” said Joint Commissioner of Police and ACB Chief Madhur Verma.

Following the complaint, the ACB conducted a preliminary investigation that revealed multiple violations, prompting a formal request for legal action. This proposal has now been approved by the competent authority.

Initial findings show that the 2015-16 finance committee’s cost and timeline limits were widely breached. Project delays and cost overruns ranged from 17% to 90%, with Rs 205.45 crore spent on upgraded construction specifications. These specifications were introduced without fresh tenders, allegedly violating Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines.

Vietnam Marks 50 Years Since War's End With a Message of Peace and Reconciliation



TPN Correspondent | Vietnam

On April 30, 2025, Vietnam commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the reunification of the country with a grand military parade in Ho Chi Minh City. The event, filled with symbolism and pageantry, drew thousands of spectators who camped overnight to secure spots along the parade route, many with faces painted in the colors of the Vietnamese flag.

Floats featuring national emblems, portraits of revolutionary leaders like Ho Chi Minh, and a tank symbolizing the war's end set the tone. The parade was also notable for the participation of troops from China, Laos, and Cambodia, underscoring regional solidarity. Aircraft flew overhead as the procession passed by Independence Palace, where the historic moment of reunification occurred in 1975.

Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary To Lam described the war's end as a "glorious landmark," and acknowledged international allies including the former Soviet Union and China. However, his speech also emphasized the importance of reconciliation and a peaceful future—marking a shift from past commemorations that focused primarily on military triumph.

"The war is long over," said 69-year-old veteran Pham Ngoc Son, who once drove supply trucks along the Ho Chi Minh trail. "Now it's time for peace and friendship."

This softer tone aligns with Vietnam's growing global presence and its 30-year diplomatic relationship with the United States. In 2023, Vietnam elevated U.S. ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership, placing Washington on

par with China and Russia in terms of diplomatic standing.

Still, challenges remain. U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policies have threatened Vietnam's export-driven economy. Recent cuts to USAID funding also jeopardize joint efforts to address war legacies, such as unexploded ordnance and Agent Orange contamination.

Analysts note that while Vietnam balances ties with both the U.S. and China, America's shifting policies under Trump raise questions about its long-term role in the Indo-Pacific.

The day's events—joined by 13,000 participants—reflected Vietnam's desire to honor the past while focusing on a stable, peaceful, and prosperous future in a rapidly changing global landscape.

Bangladesh High Court Grants Bail to Spiritual Leader Chinmoy Krishna Das



TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

Spiritual leader and minority rights advocate Chinmoy Krishna Das was granted bail by the Bangladesh High Court in a seditious case after spending six months in custody. His arrest on November 25, 2024, at Dhaka airport was linked to charges of allegedly insulting the national flag of Bangladesh—a move that triggered widespread controversy and unrest.

Das, formerly associated with ISKCON as the divisional organising secretary in Chattogram and currently the President of Pundarik Dham, has long been a vocal proponent of religious freedom and minority rights. He also served as spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatani Jagran Jote, a platform representing Hindu voices in Bangladesh. His application for bail was initially denied by a lower court, prompting an appeal to the High Court, where Justices Md Atoar Rahman and Md Ali Reza ruled in his favour.

His arrest provoked strong reactions both domestically and internationally. Protests erupted in various parts of Bangladesh, particularly outside the Chattogram Court Building on November 27, just two days after his detention. These demonstrations escalated into violent clashes between his followers and law enforcement personnel, tragically resulting in the death of a lawyer and intensifying tensions between India and Bangladesh.

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had earlier expressed "deep concern" over the handling of the case. In a statement issued in January 2025, the MEA criticised the denial of bail and highlighted the broader context of ongoing attacks against Hindu and other minority communities in Bangladesh. It noted that while peaceful religious leaders like Das faced legal persecution, those responsible for violent acts such as arson, looting, and desecration of temples have largely escaped accountability.

Chinmoy Krishna Das, born in May 1985 in Karianagar village, Satkania Upazila, began his spiritual journey early. A gifted child orator, he took diksha and joined ISKCON as a brahmachari at the age of 12. Despite being removed from all positions in ISKCON Bangladesh, his influence among Hindu communities remains significant.

His release may ease some diplomatic friction, but the larger issues of minority rights and religious freedom in Bangladesh remain unresolved.

UAE Leads Global Dialogue on Innovative Aid Solutions at DIHAD 2025

TPN Correspondent | Abu Dhabi

The UAE Aid Agency convened a high-level roundtable with its strategic partners during the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference and Exhibition (DIHAD 2025), focusing on advancing sustainable and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing humanitarian, developmental, and philanthropic challenges.

The session brought together leading international aid organisations, government entities, and development stakeholders to enhance global coordination and improve the efficiency of humanitarian response systems. Participants emphasized the urgent need for more effective collaboration among aid actors to ensure timely and impactful delivery of assistance to vulnerable communities worldwide.

Central to the discussions was the drive to streamline operational frameworks and strengthen partnerships with global institutions. The goal is to build a unified approach



that prioritises community-specific needs and shared humanitarian values while addressing evolving global threats.

The roundtable also focused on aligning international aid strategies with broader development goals. Delegates called for scaling up efforts in key sectors such as education, healthcare, clean water access, infrastructure, food security, and poverty reduction. These areas, they noted, are crucial to building resilience in

fragile communities and supporting long-term development. In addition, the session addressed the increasing urgency of mitigating global health risks and responding to climate change. Attendees explored how aid agencies can adopt more sustainable, climate-sensitive models of assistance that are adaptable to the growing frequency of natural disasters and pandemics.

The importance of innovation and technology in humanitarian aid was another major theme. Participants highlighted the role of digital tools, data-driven decision-making, and agile funding mechanisms in transforming traditional aid models to meet 21st-century challenges more effectively.

The UAE Aid Agency reaffirmed its commitment to fostering inclusive and strategic cooperation with its partners, underscoring the UAE's role as a global leader in humanitarian diplomacy. The session concluded with a shared vision to move beyond reactive aid and toward proactive, development-driven humanitarianism that prioritises dignity, sustainability, and long-term impact.

Tariff talks with India going great, think will have deal: Trump

President Donald Trump on Tuesday expressed confidence that the United States is on the verge of finalising a trade agreement with India, describing the ongoing negotiations as "going great." Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Michigan for a rally marking his administration's 100-day milestone, Trump stated, "India's coming along great. I think we'll have a deal with India."



straightforward.

This optimism was echoed earlier in the day by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who highlighted significant progress in bilateral trade discussions. Speaking at a White House press conference, Bessent remarked that negotiations with India were among the most promising of the U.S.'s current international trade efforts.

"We are very close on India," Bessent said. "In fact, India is, in a funny way, easier to negotiate with than many other countries because they have very high and very visible tariffs." He explained that confronting clearly defined tariffs, as opposed to navigating non-tariff barriers, made discussions with India more

Bessent emphasized that unlike the more opaque barriers imposed by other nations, India's transparent tariff structure allowed for more direct negotiations. "Non-tariff barriers can be much more insidious and harder to detect. India, with posted and clear tariffs, is easier to engage with," he said.

When asked about timelines for trade announcements with key Asian partners, Bessent noted that significant strides had been made with India, Japan, and South Korea. "Vice President Vance was in India last week. He and Prime Minister Modi made very good progress," he revealed, suggesting that a formal trade announcement could be expected soon.

Chinese Astronauts Return After Six Months Aboard Tiangong Space Station

TPN Correspondent | China

Three Chinese astronauts safely returned to Earth on April 30, 2025, after completing a six-month mission aboard the Tiangong space station, marking another milestone in China's ambitious space program. The landing took place in Dongfeng, Inner Mongolia, near the Gobi Desert, following a one-day delay caused by high winds and poor visibility—a common occurrence during the spring sandstorm season in the region.

Astronauts Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong, and Wang Haoze had been launched into orbit in October 2024 aboard the Shenzhou 19 spacecraft. During their stay on Tiangong—meaning "Heavenly Palace"—they conducted numerous scientific experiments, improved station systems, and supported ongoing research in space life sciences, microgravity physics, and new technologies. A standout mo-



ment from their mission included a record-setting nine-hour spacewalk by Cai and Song, the longest ever undertaken.

Their return followed a formal handover of command to the newly arrived crew, transported by Shenzhou 20, which also delivered scientific equipment and supplies for the continued operation of the station.

Tiangong represents a major leap

for China's presence in space. Constructed independently after being excluded from the International Space Station due to U.S. national security concerns, Tiangong has become the centerpiece of China's extraterrestrial ambitions. The country's space program, led by the People's Liberation Army, has rapidly evolved in recent years. It has successfully deployed missions to the Moon—including a rover on the far side—and to Mars.

Markets End Flat Amid Global Uncertainty; Profit Booking Dominates, Nifty Faces Resistance at 24,400



Domestic stock market indices ended flat on Wednesday. They fluctuated in a range-bound manner since the beginning. The reasons for this are mixed signals from global markets and investors' inclination to take profits. Nifty has a strong resistance above 24400. Investors are continuing to sell in the face of uncertainty. On the other hand, there is still no clarity on the India-Pakistan border tension. With this, Nifty lost one point and Sensex lost 46 points. If any positive signals are received, there is a possibility of a rebound.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,288 in the previous session, started at 80,370 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 79,879. It reached an intraday high of 80,525. Finally, it closed at 80,242, losing 46 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,342, touched a low of 24,198 and a high of 24,396. It closed at 24,334, down one point. The Nifty Bank fell

304 points to settle at 55,087.

In the Nifty50, 24 companies gained while 26 lost. HDFC Life, Maruti, SBI Life, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma were the top gainers. Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Trent, Tata Motors, and SBI were the top losers. Micro and smallcap indices were mixed today. India Vicks rose 4.90% to 18.22. PSU Bank, Media, Finance indices gained, while Consumer, Telecom, IT, Metal and Private Bank indices lost moderately. Auto, Pharma, Healthcare and Realty indices did not perform well.

Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favour of sellers. Out of a total of 2927 shares traded, 613 gained. A total of 2228 lost. 24 shares reached their 52-week high



and 30 shares reached their 52-week low. 37 touched the upper circuit and 81 touched the lower circuit.

Bandhan Bank's net profit increased significantly in the fourth quarter. It reached Rs. 317 crore from Rs. 54.60 crore. Paras Defence's net profit increased by 97% from Rs. 10 crore to Rs. 19.7 crore. The rupee strengthened by 76 paise to settle at 84.49 against the dollar. Sonata Software shares rose for the third consecutive day. Ajanta Pharma's net profit rose 11.2% to Rs 225 crore from Rs 202 crore. Defense stocks, which surged yesterday, faced selling pressure today. Nomura has maintained a buy rating on Oberoi Realty with a target price of Rs 2000. Sebi chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey has warned investors to be cautious about SME IPOs. Adani Power's net profit fell to Rs 2600 crore from Rs 2737 crore. Citi has maintained a buy rating on BPCL with a target price of Rs 390.

Brisk Gold Buying Marks Akshaya Tritiya Despite Record Prices

Industry Projects 35% Surge in Value



Despite soaring gold prices, India witnessed strong gold and silver buying on the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya on Wednesday, with the industry projecting a 35% increase in sales value compared to last year. The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) estimated that while gold sales by volume are expected to remain steady at 20 tonnes, the overall value of transactions would rise significantly due to higher prices.

Gold prices were trading between ₹99,500 and ₹99,900 per 10 grams across India, a sharp 37.6% increase from ₹72,300 on Akshaya Tritiya in 2024. Despite this steep rise, consumer turnout remained strong, particularly in South India, where footfalls were higher in the first half of the day. Increased activity was expected later in the day in Maharashtra and northern states as extreme weather conditions eased.

GJC Chairman Rajesh Rokede noted that many hesitant consumers are now buying as prices have stabilized slightly from their recent peak. "Affordability has been impacted, but the cultural and emotional significance of Akshaya Tritiya ensures people are buying according to their budgets," he said. Younger consum-

ers aged 25-40 are increasingly participating, buying jewellery, coins, and bars.

World Gold Council India CEO Sachin Jain echoed this sentiment, saying the buying spirit remains strong despite the price surge. PNG Jewellers CMD Saurabh Gadgil added that around 50% of purchases are financed through gold exchanges, helping consumers manage festive or wedding needs without stretching budgets. He predicted a marginal dip of 8-9% in volume, but a 20-25% increase in value.

Trends like studded jewellery and lab-grown diamonds also gained traction. GSI India MD Ramit Kapur observed increased interest in embellished ornaments, while Aukera CEO Lisa Mukhedkar noted a growing preference for lab-grown diamonds.

All India Jewellers and Goldsmith Federation President Pankaj Arora estimated total sales of ₹16,000 crore—₹12,000 crore in gold (12 tonnes) and ₹4,000 crore in silver (400 tonnes). Experts said India's gold demand remains resilient, with the country importing 700-800 tonnes annually.

SEBI Delays Adani Group's Settlement Pleas Amid Review of Regulatory Process

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has postponed the Adani group's settlement pleas, as well as those from its off-shore investors, while it reviews its internal processes, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter confirmed. The delay comes as the market regulator evaluates its settlement rules, a process that began after the appointment of SEBI's new chief in March.

According to the first source, the regulator is scrutinizing the lack of uniformity in its settlement procedures and the ambiguity surrounding the penalties it imposes. These concerns have led to a broader review of the settlement system, with the aim of improving transparency and consistency in how such matters are handled.

The review is expected to take about three months, after which the Adani group's settlement pleas will be addressed under the revised processes, as per the second source. SEBI's settlement framework allows market participants to resolve regulatory charges by paying a monetary fine or agreeing to specific regulatory directions, without formally admitting or denying any guilt.

This move by SEBI to hold off on processing the Adani group's settlement requests signals a shift in the regulatory landscape, as the market watchdog seeks to streamline its procedures for handling such complex matters. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, emphasized that details surrounding the ongoing investigations and settlement discussions remain confidential.

The Adani group, embroiled in a series of regulatory charges, had hoped to resolve the issues through SEBI's settlement process. However, the delay in finalizing these pleas highlights SEBI's evolving approach to regulatory enforcement in the Indian market. Investors and stakeholders will likely be closely monitoring the outcome of this review to understand how the new rules might impact future settlement requests and their implications for market participants.



Crisil Ratings Forecasts Decline in Banks' Return on Assets for FY26 Due to RBI Rate Cuts

Crisil Ratings has predicted a decline in Indian banks' return on assets (RoA) for the fiscal year 2026, citing the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent rate cuts as a key factor. The rating agency anticipates that the reduction in rates will compress net interest margins, with loan interest rates dropping faster than deposit rates.

According to Crisil, the RoA, a crucial profitability indicator, will decline by 0.10-0.20 percentage points, reaching 1.1-1.2% in FY26 from a peak of 1.3% in FY25. This decrease is attributed to a similar compression in net interest margins, which is expected to be the primary driver of the slip in RoA.

The agency explained that in a falling interest rate environment, interest rates on loans are expected to adjust more quickly than those on deposits. Of the total loan assets, 45% are linked to an external benchmark, primarily the repo rate, meaning these loans are repriced swiftly following rate cuts. In contrast, reductions in term deposit (TD) rates are slower to materialize, applying only to new deposits and renewals, which results in a delayed transmission of the RBI's rate cuts to banks'



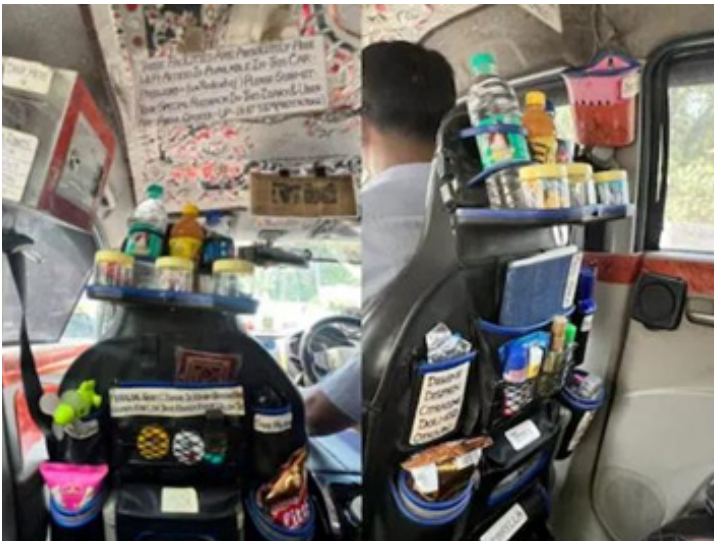
deposit rates.

Crisil also highlighted that credit costs have bottomed out, and increased competition for deposits will limit banks' ability to manage their costs effectively. The agency's forecast underscores the challenges banks may face in maintaining their profitability as the RBI continues its accommodative monetary policy.

As the financial landscape adjusts to these rate cuts, Crisil's outlook suggests that banks will need to adapt to a more competitive environment, with careful management of both loan and deposit rates to protect their margins.

Cab Transforms Into Mini 1BHK Home

A video capturing the interior of an unusually decorated cab has taken the internet by storm, impressing millions with its creativity and warmth. Shared by Akaanksha Shenoy on social media, the clip reveals a cab that offers much more than a regular ride — it’s a mobile haven filled with essentials and thoughtful amenities, earning it the nickname “1BHK on Wheels.”



The cab, now widely circulated on platforms like X (formerly Twitter), features an impressive setup that turns a simple ride into a comfortable and homely experience. From the moment one steps inside, it’s evident this isn’t an ordinary vehicle. The interiors are decked out with items typically found in a small home: a pantry with snacks and cold drinks, a box of water bottles, medicines, tissue papers, hairbands, and even shoe polish — all neatly organised and easily accessible.

But that’s not all. The cab also offers free WiFi, making it convenient for passengers to stay connected during their ride. The overall presentation is warm and welcoming, reflecting the driver’s attention to detail and customer comfort.

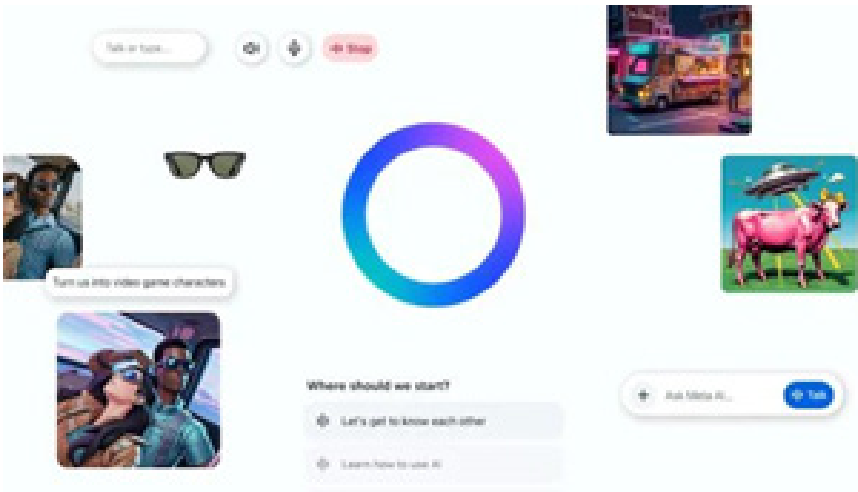
The video has not only gone viral but also sparked admiration from social media users

across the country. Many praised the cabbie’s dedication and innovative approach to customer service. Comments poured in, calling the cab a “life-saver on wheels” and appreciating the driver’s effort to go above and beyond the usual standards.

This initiative is a fresh take on everyday travel, turning a routine cab ride into something memorable and even comforting. In a world where hustle and rush dominate daily life, such thoughtful gestures remind us of the power of small innovations and personal touch. The “1BHK on Wheels” is a testament to how creativity can redefine even the most ordinary experiences.

Meta AI App Debuts Beyond WhatsApp

Meta has officially launched a stand-alone AI assistant app, expanding its presence beyond WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram. The new Meta AI app is now available on mobile devices and the web, offering a ChatGPT- or Gemini-like experience powered by the advanced Llama 4 model. This move marks Meta’s bold entry into the mainstream AI assistant space, aiming to provide a more personal and seamless experience to users.



Until now, Meta AI was limited to select platforms like WhatsApp. With the standalone app, the company now has full control over the user experience. The AI assistant supports both text and voice commands, making it accessible and interactive for daily tasks. Users can generate and edit images, get contextual answers, and even enjoy real-time conversation features.

Meta AI comes with several voice options, similar to Apple’s Siri or Google’s Gemini Live, and introduces a full-duplex mode—allowing natural conversations without requiring repeated wake words. However, this feature is currently experimental and doesn’t access past memory or personal data unless permitted.

In addition, the app includes safety features like

toggle switches to prevent unintended voice responses. These functionalities are currently live in select countries, including the US, Canada, and Australia.

Meta is also integrating its AI with Ray-Ban smart glasses in limited regions, allowing users to access Meta AI through wearable devices. On the web, Meta is testing a new AI document editor capable of generating content and analyzing imported files, further enhancing productivity.

The app draws from Meta’s broader ecosystem, using optional access to platforms like Facebook and Instagram to personalize results based on user interests—such as travel, dining, and more. A new Discover Feed aims to make AI interactions feel more social and connected.

Asus ExpertBook P1: Capable, Affordable, Slightly Flawed



The Asus ExpertBook P1 marks a shift in strategy for Asus, breaking away from the traditional B2B-only model. It is now being sold directly to businesses and individual consumers through an exclusive Flipkart partnership. This new approach aims to offer affordable and reliable business laptops without the usual procurement barriers.

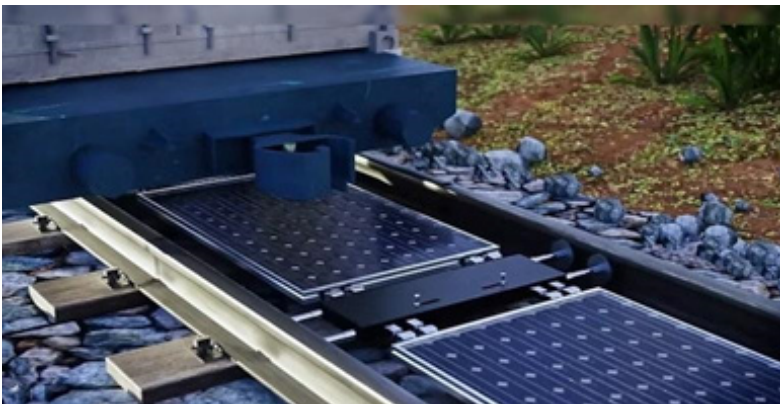
Starting at ₹39,990, the ExpertBook P1 is designed to appeal to startups, small businesses, and professionals seeking performance without overspending. The review unit, priced at ₹72,990, is a higher-end variant offering more powerful specs.

At first glance, the 14-inch Full HD display is sharp and reasonably bright, suitable for work and casual media use. Its matte finish helps reduce glare, enhancing usability in varied lighting conditions. The laptop is powered by Intel’s Core i7 (13th Gen) CPU in the top variant, coupled with 16GB RAM and a 512GB SSD, ensuring smooth multitasking and quick boot times. However, the battery life is average, typically lasting around 5 to 6 hours on moderate usage. That might not be ideal for mobile professionals who rely on all-day battery power. The design is also basic, with a utilitarian aesthetic that prioritizes function over flair. It lacks a premium feel, especially at the higher price point.

One area where the ExpertBook P1 excels is security, offering features like a TPM chip, fingerprint scanner, and webcam privacy shutter, making it a reliable pick for business users concerned about data protection.

Swiss Trains Go Green With Solar Tracks

Switzerland has taken a major leap toward sustainable rail transport with the launch of an innovative pilot project that installs solar panels directly between railway tracks. Developed by Swiss start-up Sun-Ways, the project aims to generate clean energy without disrupting rail operations. It’s currently being trialed on a 100-metre stretch in Buttes, a village in western Switzerland, with 48 solar panels placed between the rails. The concept was born in 2020 when Sun-Ways founder Joseph Scuderi envisioned using the unused space between tracks while waiting for a train. After initial pushback from the Federal Office of Transport (FOT) due to safety concerns, the startup revised its approach. With support from industry experts, the project received approval and was rolled out on a track section operated by transN.



Unlike traditional rooftop solar panels, these are installed in such a way that they can be easily removed for maintenance. Partnering with Swiss railway maintenance firm Scheuchzer, Sun-Ways claims that up to 1,000 square metres of panels can be installed or removed in just a

few hours—ensuring no disruption to train schedules or safety routines. The Rs 6.04 crore (585,000 Swiss francs) pilot aims to explore three possible uses of the electricity generated. Sun-Ways believes the third option offers the maximum efficiency. If scaled across Switzerland’s 5,320 km rail network, the technology could potentially generate 1 billion kilowatt-hours of solar energy annually—enough to power around 300,000 households. Government officials and environmental advocates have welcomed the trial. “It is good that rail and public transport companies are innovating, including in renewable energy production,” said Florence Pictet, spokesperson for FOT. If successful, the project could become a model for green transportation infrastructure worldwide, combining energy efficiency with rail innovation.

Maha Kumbh’s Monalisa Wows Again

Monalisa, the young girl who captured the internet’s heart during the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, is once again in the limelight. Known for her natural charm and radiant appearance while selling rudraksha garlands, Monalisa—real name Moni Bhonsale—became an instant viral sensation. Now, she has stunned the internet yet again, this time with a breathtaking bridal makeover that has left fans mesmerized. Hailing from Khargone district in Madhya Pradesh, 16-year-old Monalisa has seen her popularity soar since her initial viral moment. Her expressive eyes and captivating smile first caught the public’s eye at the religious gathering, and now her latest transformation is earning her even more praise online.



Makeup artist Mohsina Ansari recently posted a video of Monalisa on Instagram, showcasing her dressed in a vibrant red bridal lehenga. Complementing her attire was a set of heavy gold jew-

elry adorned with green emerald stones, enhancing the traditional bridal look. The video was captioned, “Mahakumbh ki ‘MONALISA,” celebrating her transformation and viral fame. Her makeup featured a glamorous touch—shimmery eyeshadow, sharp winged eyeliner, thick lashes, defined brows, rosy cheeks, and a subtle nude lip color. Her hairstyle was a neatly styled middle-parted bun with delicate face-framing strands that highlighted her youthful glow and elegance. Social media users flooded the comment section with admiration. “God!!! She looks so pretty,” wrote one user, while another added, “Ye bohot pyaari lag rahi hai.” The overwhelming reactions have only added to Monalisa’s growing popularity.

Bengaluru Bike Crash Shocks Netizens

A shocking road accident on Bengaluru’s Sarjapur Road has gone viral on social media, leaving netizens stunned. Caught on a car’s dashcam, the footage highlights the dangers of rash and wrong-side driving. Two bikers, riding without helmets and overtaking recklessly, had a miraculous escape after crashing and falling inches away from a moving bus.



The incident occurred on a busy Monday, with normal traffic flowing along the commercial stretch. The video begins with scooters and cars navigating the road beside roadside shops. Suddenly, two bikers, one rider and a pillion, speed past vehicles carelessly, weaving through traffic. Attempting to overtake a white car, they dangerously veer left to pass a bus ahead. In doing so, they fail to notice a parked auto-rickshaw and van.

In a split second, the bike crashes into the parked van, causing both men to be thrown off. The impact sends them flying onto the main road, just inches away from the bus’s front wheels. Fortunately, the bus halts a few meters ahead at a signal, narrowly avoiding a fatal run-over.

Onlookers rushed to the scene and helped move the injured bikers to a nearby hospital. Despite the reckless driving, both riders survived with minor injuries—a stroke of sheer luck considering the intensity of the crash.

The video has since gone viral, sparking a wave of reactions. Many users expressed shock, while others demanded strict action against the biker for endangering lives. Comments flooded in, urging authorities to penalize such drivers who not only risk their own safety but also pose threats to others on the road.

This incident serves as a grim reminder: wrong-side driving and reckless overtaking can have deadly consequences. Netizens are calling for stricter enforcement of traffic rules to prevent similar near-tragedies in the future.



Chahal Scripts History With Hat-trick vs CSK at Chepauk

Yuzvendra Chahal delivered one of the most memorable spells in IPL history as the Punjab Kings spinner picked up the first hat-trick of the 2025 season — and became the first ever to claim a hat-trick against Chennai Super Kings. His sensational 4-wicket over at Chepauk helped restrict CSK in the final moments of their innings on Wednesday. Introduced for his final spell in the 19th over after going for 23

runs in his initial two overs, Chahal struck gold. Although he was hit for a six off the first delivery by MS Dhoni, he made a stunning comeback by dismissing the CSK legend on the very next ball. He then removed Deepak Hooda, Anshul Kamboj, and Noor Ahmad in quick succession, sealing a hat-trick and wrapping up with figures of 4/32. This was Chahal's second IPL hat-trick and marked the first hat-

trick taken at the MA Chidambaram Stadium (Chepauk) since 2008, when Laxmipathy Balaji achieved the feat for CSK. Notably, Chahal is also the first bowler to ever take a hat-trick against CSK in IPL history. With this historic performance, Chahal not only helped PBKS gain crucial momentum in the closing overs but also etched his name into the IPL record books once again.

Kohli's brother hits back at Manjrekar over strike rate remarks

A social media clash has erupted after former Indian cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar's remarks about Virat Kohli's performance in IPL 2025 drew sharp criticism from none other than Kohli's brother, Vikas Kohli. Taking to the platform Threads, Vikas took a fiery dig at Manjrekar, questioning his own strike rate during his playing days. "Sanjay Manjrekar. Career ODI strike rate: 64.31. Easy to talk about 200 plus strike rates," Vikas posted, indirectly defending Virat, who is currently the highest run-scorer in IPL 2025.

This reaction came after Manjrekar commented that the much-hyped battle between Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah could no longer be seen as a 'best vs best' clash. He further stirred controversy by omitting Kohli from his list of top 10 batters in the ongoing tournament—despite Kohli's commanding form.

The RCB veteran has continued to impress in tough batting conditions, most recently scoring his sixth half-century of the season against Delhi Capitals, helping his side maintain their unbeaten record away from home.

Reflecting on the victory, Kohli said, "It was a top win, especially looking at the surface. The wicket played out differently and partnerships were key." Kohli emphasized that he constantly adjusts his strategy based on



match situations and conditions. "I try and make sure my singles and doubles don't stop so that the game doesn't get stagnant," he added.

Kohli also heaped praise on teammates Krunal Pandya, who scored his first IPL fifty in nine years, and Tim David, who provided a blazing finish. "We have the extra power in Tim David, there's Jitesh as well. That firepower helps. And now Romario as well," Kohli noted.

He further credited the spinners Krunal and Suyash Sharma, along with pace duo Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, calling them "world-class" for maintaining control during crucial phases.

As the debate over strike rates and batting approaches continues in the IPL 2025, Kohli has let his bat do the talking—and now, his brother too.

Iyer Stars As PBKS Knock CSK Out Of Playoffs Race

Punjab Kings dealt a massive blow to Chennai Super Kings' campaign in IPL 2025 with a stunning 4-wicket victory at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Wednesday, officially knocking the five-time champions out of the playoffs race. Shreyas Iyer's composed 72 off 41 and Yuzvendra Chahal's game-changing hat-trick were the standout performances in a match that swung dramatically in PBKS's favour.

put under pressure by CSK's Sam Curran, who smashed a blistering 88 off 47 balls, striking 9 fours and 4 sixes. At 170/4 in 18 overs, CSK looked set for a 200-plus total. But Chahal turned the tide in the 19th over, dismissing MS Dhoni, Deepak Hooda, Anshul Kamboj and Noor Ahmad to claim a sensational hat-trick — the first of IPL 2025 and his second in IPL history — finishing with figures of 4/32. CSK were eventually bowled out for 190.

brisk start before Prabhsimran Singh (54 off 36) and Shreyas Iyer stitched a crucial partnership to anchor the chase. Iyer was particularly ruthless, especially during a 20-run over off Matheesha Pathirana in the 17th, which all but sealed the match. A cameo from Shashank Singh and steady finish from the lower middle-order ensured PBKS crossed the line in the final over.

With this defeat, CSK became the first team to be eliminat-

ed from the playoff contention this season — a stark contrast to their typical late-tournament resurgence. Their spinners, Ravindra Jadeja and Noor Ahmad, failed to make an impact again, a concern that haunted them through the season.

A delighted PBKS coach Ricky Ponting was seen all smiles as the team avenged their painful 2010 Dharamsala defeat to CSK, when Dhoni's heroics had ended Punjab's playoff hopes.



Boult on facing 14-year-old Vaibhav: "Not worried, but excited"

Mumbai Indians pacer Trent Boult addressed the media ahead of their high-stakes clash against Rajasthan Royals, sharing his views on the tournament's breakout sensation — 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi. The young prodigy stunned the cricketing world with a record-breaking 38-ball century against Gujarat Titans, becoming the youngest ever to score a ton in the IPL and overall men's T20 cricket. Boult, who has bowled to legends like Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers, acknowledged the youngster's brilliance but didn't sound alarmed. "I've bowled to some brilliant batsmen around the world... I'll be careful not to say I'm worried about a 14-year-old," he said with a grin.

Describing the challenge as "exciting," Boult lauded Suryavanshi's fearless approach. "The whole world saw that performance the other night. It's the beauty of this tournament — young talent stepping up and grabbing the opportunity with both hands." While the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur is known for its batting-friendly surface and quick outfield, Boult believes his experience on this ground can give MI an edge. "It's a high-scoring ground... I've been lucky enough to experience this pitch over the last three seasons, and hope-



fully, I can put that to good use." Mumbai Indians, once near the bottom of the IPL table, have surged back into contention with five consecutive wins. Boult attributed this turnaround to team unity and consistency. "We came close in a few early games. In T20, it's often about a couple of boundaries. We've tried to improve a little — even five to ten per cent — and it's showing now." He also credited the resurgence to key contributions across the squad. "Different guys have stood up at different times — that's crucial in T20 cricket.

It's not about one or two players. Everyone has the desire to contribute." Boult praised pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who returned to form with a four-wicket haul against Lucknow Super Giants. "He's a leader. Since his return, he's lifted the whole group and will continue to play a major role." As MI aim to keep their momentum going against a strong Rajasthan Royals side, Boult's calm confidence and deep experience could play a crucial role — even against the IPL's youngest sensation.

Dravid on Sanju Samson: "Recovering well, but side strain is tricky"

Rajasthan Royals head coach Rahul Dravid offered a cautious update on captain Sanju Samson's injury status, confirming that while the star wicketkeeper-batter is recovering well from a side strain, he remains unavailable for the franchise's upcoming IPL 2025 clash against Mumbai Indians. Sanju has already missed three con-

secutive games — against Lucknow Super Giants, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, and Gujarat Titans — and Dravid indicated that the team is taking no chances with his recovery. "Sanju is recovering well, but we just have to take it day-by-day. It's a side strain and sometimes these can be a bit tricky. We don't want to harm him in the long run," Dravid said during a media interaction with Star Sports.

The injury setback has forced RR to make key adjustments mid-season, but Dravid emphasized that Samson's well-being remains the top priority. "Every day we get reports on whether he's available or not. He is very well looked after, and we are monitoring it closely," he added. Samson had only recently returned from a finger injury suffered during the T20I series against England in February, which led to him playing as a specialist batter in the early stages of the IPL.

Despite the absence of their regular captain, Rajasthan Royals have maintained strong form, but his return could prove crucial as the tournament heads into its decisive phase.





Balakrishna Joins Cast of Jailer 2

Nandamuri Balakrishna is officially joining the cast of Jailer 2, marking a major highlight for the much-anticipated sequel. Directed by Nelson, the first Jailer was a blockbuster that revitalized Superstar Rajinikanth's career, bolstered by star-studded cameos from Mohanlal, Shivarajkumar, and Jackie Shroff.

Rumors about Balakrishna's cameo circulated even during the first film, but things didn't materialize.



Now, it's confirmed that he has given the nod, and Nelson has crafted a unique role for him. Shivarajkumar also confirmed his return for the sequel, increasing expectations. With music by Anirudh Ravichander and production by Sun Pictures, the film is currently in production. Fans are excited at the prospect of Balakrishna's entry into the Jailer universe, and if his cameo clicks, it could spark demand for a full-fledged Balakrishna-Nelson collaboration.

Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara Eyes September Release?

Megastar Chiranjeevi's highly anticipated socio-fantasy film Vishwambhara, directed by Vassishtha Mallidi, may finally have a new release date. Originally slated for January 9, 2025, the film was postponed, leaving fans eagerly awaiting updates.

While earlier buzz hinted at a July 24 release, fresh reports on social media now suggest that the makers are targeting September 25, 2025. However, an official confirmation is still awaited.



The film's first single received mixed reactions, falling short of the expected impact. All eyes are now on the makers' next move in their promotional strategy.

Vishwambhara features Trisha as the female lead and Kunal Kapoor as the antagonist. The cast also includes Aashika Ranganath, Ramya Pasupuleti, Esha Chawla, and Ashrita Vemuganti. Nanduri. MM Keeravaani is scoring the music, with UV Creations backing the grand project.

Ram Charan Takes Break for London Trip

After creating a nationwide buzz with the teaser of Peddi, Ram Charan has taken a short break from the film's shoot. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the teaser highlighted the mega star in a powerful new avatar, leaving fans eagerly awaiting more.



The team recently wrapped up a hectic shooting schedule in Hyderabad. With summer temperatures soaring, Charan has opted for a three-week pause and is reportedly heading to London with his

family. The reason? A special moment awaits—the unveiling of his wax statue at the iconic Madame Tussauds Museum.

The break also comes as a much-needed respite for the crew. Once they regroup in June, filming will resume without further interruptions. Peddi continues to be one of the most anticipated films on the horizon.

Sharwanand's 'Bhogi' Teased with Grit and Grandeur

Sharwanand is teaming up with director Sampath Nandi for his 38th film, titled Bhogi, produced by KK Radhamohan under the Sri Sathya Sai Arts banner. The title was unveiled through a concept video titled First Spark, where Sharwa listens to the film's narration, visualizing the intense story. The climax of the video sees him accepting the role by taking a symbolic sword from the director.

The teaser hints at a gritty period backdrop and highlights Sharwanand's striking physical transformation. The film's shoot officially begins today on an expansive 20-acre set in Hyderabad, setting the tone for a large-scale cinematic experience. With leading ladies An-



upama Parameswaran and Dimple Hayathi also part of the cast, Bhogi is shaping up to be a visually rich and intense project, generating strong early buzz.

Daksha Joins Varun Tej's Horror Comedy

Mega Prince Varun Tej has teamed up with director Merlapaka Gandhi for a horror comedy titled Korean Kanakaraju. The film's announcement video has already created a strong buzz, promising a fun-filled entertainer.

The shooting is currently underway, and the latest buzz is that Zombie Reddy actress Daksha Nagarkar has joined the project for a special song. Though the makers haven't made an official an-



nouncement, Daksha confirmed her involvement by sharing a picture from her vanity van on Instagram, which also unveiled the film's title.

Produced by UV Creations, the movie also features popular comedian Satya in a key role. With an exciting mix of humor and horror, Korean Kanakaraju is shaping up to be a crowd-pleaser. More details about the remaining cast and storyline are expected to be revealed soon.

Rashmika Begins Shoot for Thama

Rashmika Mandanna has kickstarted the next schedule of her upcoming film Thama in the scenic hills of Ooty. The actress shared a stunning photo from the location, offering fans a peek into the picturesque shoot.

Thama is directed by Munjya fame Aditya Sarpotdar and features an impressive ensemble cast including Ayushmann Khurrana, Paresh Rawal, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui. With

such a powerful lineup and a captivating backdrop, the film is already gaining strong buzz.

Though the plot is under wraps, expectations are high. Rashmika continues to stay busy, also gearing up for her next Telugu film The Girlfriend, directed by Rahul Ravindran. With exciting projects in multiple languages, she remains one of the most sought-after stars in Indian cinema today.