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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

# ARE IAS, IPS OFFICIALS COME TO A CONCLUSION...?

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

It seems so. They have come to a conclusion. After witnessing so many bad experiences, political huntings, and harassments, at last they have come to a conclusion. 30% of these civil servants are doing wrong things for political favor without caring about the rules, targeting only money and career. 70% of them are getting a bad name because of these 30% officials. The question is whether all have come to a conclusion or only the 70% have come to the conclusion. What is that conclusion?

“We have to follow the rules. We have to say loudly about the rules to the leaders, not caring about their pressures and pleasures. At any cost, we have to work bound to the constitution. We should not sign any papers until and unless we feel they are according to the rules. We should not care about the postings and the transfers, wherever we go, we have to work, that’s all.”

This is the conclusion for which they have gathered privately. Earlier IPS officials had a meeting and IAS officials have met recently. Mr. Vasudeva Reddy, Beverages Ex-MD, is facing a liquor scam case. Venkata Reddy, Ex-MD of APMDC, is facing mining irregularity-related cases. PS Girisha, IAS, faced action against malpractices in voter registration in Tirupati MP Constituency. Mr. Dhanunjaya Reddy, IAS, was jailed for a liquor scam now. Earlier, we have witnessed Sri Lakshmi, Raja Gopal, and others facing trials in different cases for approving files under Dr. YSR Regime. Presently, it is the time for the officials who have followed Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy’s instructions blindly. As far as

IPS officials are concerned, Mr. Seeta Ramanjaneyulu, Kranthi Rana Tata, Vishal Gunni, N. Sanjay, Sunil Kumar, and others are facing cases and trials. These cases are also related to politically motivated procedures instructed by YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Moreover, contempt of court cases was faced by many IAS and IPS officials, including the then DGP Gautam Sawang, who faced heat from AP High Court. You take any case, there was political pressure and these officials violated the rules for the pleasure of rulers. Few to earn unlimited money, few to get good postings, career, and few to get political career after retirement; like this, officials are not doing civil service, doing only political services. Now, the status of files going on in AP and the warning given by YS Ja-

ganmohan Reddy that he will see the officials who are acting against him when he returns to power again. So, if the party in power changes, the fate of these 30% officials will change. Five years to left and another five years to right and the circle goes on. But the 70% officials are kept in the dark without any light and career, doing their work calmly. The serious thing is that the public has got the opinion that all the civil service officials are one and the same and they don’t want to respect them. At last, grasping the facts, at least a section of officials has come to a conclusion to not follow any hasty instructions of the Government Heads. Otherwise, they have smelt that they have to face heat from the law today or tomorrow.

## AP Cabinet Clears ₹30,000 Cr Investment, 35,000 Jobs

- AP Cabinet approves ₹30,000 crore investment across 11 companies
- 35,000 new jobs to be created under AP Leather Footwear Policy 4.0
- Land allocations cleared for industrial, power, and education projects

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a significant move aimed at boosting industrial growth and employment, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu approved investments worth ₹30,000 crore through 11 companies cleared by the Investment Promotion Board. The cabinet meeting, held on Tuesday, also confirmed that these investments would result in the creation of approximately 35,000 new jobs across the state. One of the major decisions taken was the approval of the Andhra Pradesh Leather Footwear Policy 4.0. The Cabinet also gave the green signal for the allocation of 615 acres in Muthukur to APIIC for establishing an industrial park. In the energy sector, the Cabinet

approved land allocation to Adani Power for a 500 MW project in Tadimarri and a 1000 MW pumped storage power project in Kondapuram. Land for these projects will be provided at ₹5 lakh per acre. The Cabinet also sanctioned the appointment of 2,260 additional Special Education Teachers, a move aimed at strengthening inclusive education in the state. In a major cultural and educational shift, the Cabinet approved the relocation of Potti Sriramulu Telugu University from Hyderabad to Andhra Pradesh. Further approvals included allowing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University to set up study centers for student coaching and the establishment of a legal university by the Bar Council of India in Amaravati.

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## Shift In AP Ration Policy

- MDU Vehicles Scrapped, Home Delivery for Elderly
- Ration goods to be supplied only through ration shops from June 1
- Home delivery to continue only for elderly above 65 and the disabled
- ₹1,860 crore wasted on MDUs, says Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced a significant overhaul of the ration distribution system, ending the Mobile Dispensing Units (MDUs) policy introduced by the previous YSRCP government. Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, addressing the media after a state cabinet meeting, said that from June 1, ration supplies will be distributed exclusively through fair price shops. Highlighting the inefficiencies of the MDU system, Manohar alleged that the previous government had dismantled a functional network of 29,000 ration shops and instead wasted ₹1,860 crore on just 9,260 mobile vehicles, which were unable to cater to the state’s needs. “This model led to wide-

spread inconvenience, and an IVRS survey revealed that nearly 30% of beneficiaries were not receiving ration,” he stated. Manohar added that many criminal cases have been registered against MDU operators, accusing them of creating channels for illegal rice diversion and smuggling. He questioned the logic behind using only 9,000 vehicles for a state with 29,000 shops and said the government was misled by fabricated reports. Minister Parthasarathy, who accompanied Manohar, emphasized that the new decision aims to restore transparency and accountability. From now on, ration will be available at shops from the 1st to the 15th of every month, making the distribution process more predictable and manageable. However, the government has retained home delivery exclu-

sively for senior citizens above 65 years of age and persons with disabilities, acknowledging their mobility challenges. In a relief to those involved in the earlier MDU operations, the government has decided to transfer the 9,260 MDU vehicles to their existing beneficiaries free of cost, as per the cabinet’s resolution. With this move, the AP government expects not only to save substantial public funds but also restore direct access to ration supplies and bring back accountability to the system that was allegedly lost under the MDU-based model.

## Police Must Be as Vigilant as Soldiers: Pawan Kalyan

- Rohingya migration creating local unemployment, threat to security
- Coastal surveillance must be intensified

TPN Correspondent | Gannavaram

Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday sounded a strong warning about the deteriorating internal security and rising unemployment due to illegal migration, particularly of Rohingyas. Addressing the national media at Gannavaram Airport, he urged the state police to adopt vigilance levels on par with soldiers protecting India’s borders. Citing the terrorist attacks in Coimbatore and Hyderabad as stark reminders of past horrors, Pawan Kalyan expressed concern that the southern states are once again becoming potential targets for extremist activities. He revealed that traces of terrorism were recently detected in a joint operation by the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh police. “I have written to the DGP and administrative officials to remain on high alert. If the police keep an eye on suspicious activities, especially among migrants, we can prevent major future incidents,” he said. He stressed the need for round-the-clock surveillance along the state’s coastline. “Unverified entries have occurred before, such as those arriving via boats in Kakinada. The movement of unfamiliar individuals on the coast must be closely monitored,” he added.

### Focus on Rohingya Migration

Pawan Kalyan alleged that Rohingya mi-

grants, originally from Myanmar but entering Andhra Pradesh via West Bengal, have increasingly occupied jobs and small businesses meant for local youth, particularly in the goldsmith trade. “Between 2017 and 2018, many arrived from Kolkata. Now, they’re receiving ration cards, Aadhaar, and even voter IDs to settle here permanently. Who is helping them? Someone in the system is clearly supporting this,” he questioned. He pointed out that while employment to locals was one of the core demands behind the formation of Telangana, the influx of migrants is undermining that objective in both Telugu states. “This is not just about security; it’s about fairness and employment. Our youth are losing jobs due to this silent encroachment,” he warned.

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## Yoga Day Mega Event in Vizag on June 21

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand has announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the grand 11th International Yoga Day celebrations scheduled to be held at Ramakrishna Beach in Visakhapatnam on June 21, where a crowd of 5 lakh people is expected to take part. Simultaneously, the Andhra Pradesh government is targeting the participation of at least 2 crore people across the state, including at the village level.

In a video conference held on Monday with department secretaries and district collectors, CS Vijayanand emphasized the importance of public involvement and instructed officials to spread awareness on the benefits of yoga for physical and mental well-being. He stated that circular orders and government instructions will be issued on Tuesday to guide the planning and execution of Yoga Day activities. Special Chief Secretary of the Medical and Health Department and State-Level Monitoring Nodal Officer, M.T. Krishnababu, presented a detailed plan for the celebrations. He explained that a state-wide campaign named “YogaAndhra” will be conducted from May 21 to June 21 to promote daily yoga practice among the public.

### The campaign will be carried out in three key phases:

- **Phase 1 (May 21–27): Training of trainers**
- **Phase 2 (May 28–June 3): Master trainer sessions at the mandal level**
- **Phase 3 (June 4–16): Yoga training at village and ward levels**

A curtain raiser event is planned for May 21 in all districts, with at least 10,000 participants in each district, including public representatives, yoga instructors, PETs, and yoga practitioners. Further, Krishnababu suggested holding a special meeting with social media influencers on May 27 to boost online engagement and public awareness. Additionally, CS Vijayanand directed officials to make special arrangements to observe Yoga Day in 100 prominent tourist and spiritual locations across the state.

Top officials including Principal Secretary of General Administration Mukesh Kumar Meena, PR & RD Principal Secretary Shashi Bhushan Kumar, Secretary of I&I Department Dr. N. Yuvraj, Law Secretary Pratibha Devi, and I&PR Director Himanshu Shukla also participated in the meeting. The state machinery is gearing up to ensure that this year's Yoga Day becomes a historic and far-reaching health movement in Andhra Pradesh.

## AP Cabinet Clears ₹30,000...

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The Cabinet also discussed improvements in the Public Distribution System, including the provision of ration and essential commodities through designated shops. After the meeting, CM Chandrababu Naidu addressed the ministers on current political issues, particularly the liquor scam investigation. He emphasized the need for transparent conduct and urged ministers to refrain from making unnecessary statements. He also encouraged them to ensure the successful conduct of the upcoming International Yoga Day celebrations being held under the Prime Minister's auspices.

# Surprise Inspections to Begin any time after June 12

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has made a key announcement that has sent a clear message to government officials across departments. He stated that surprise inspections will begin anytime after June 12, aimed at directly assessing the quality and satisfaction levels of public services being delivered under the coalition government.

Chandrababu reviewed citizen feedback on services such as ration distribution, Deepam gas supply, APSRTC facilities, and Panchayat cleanliness efforts, during a meeting with Chief Secretary K. S. Jawahar Reddy and CMO secretaries. Stressing the importance of tangible improvements, he declared that there must be “complete satisfaction in the delivery of services” as the coalition government nears its one-year milestone.

The CM acknowledged that while some departments have shown progress, services in critical areas like APSRTC remain unsatisfactory. He noted that passenger feedback pointed to poor drinking water availability and unhygienic toilet maintenance at bus stands, with 44% expressing dissatisfaction with water facilities and 55% with toilets. He directed officials to take corrective steps immediately. In a major decision regarding the Deepam 2 scheme, the Chief Minister said that the subsidy for three



LPG cylinders will be credited to beneficiaries in advance, allowing them to use the amount at their convenience.

Chandrababu also highlighted the need for transparency in gas delivery. While 62% of respondents said they were not being asked for extra money during delivery, concerns persist in several areas. The CM urged better enforcement to eliminate such malpractices. On ration distribution, 74% confirmed they received their rations this month, and 76% approved the quality. West Godavari district topped the list in citizen satisfaction.

In terms of Panchayat services, 60% said household garbage was being collected, with visible improvements in rural areas. Looking ahead, the CM announced that wet waste management respon-

sibilities would be handed over to Dwakra women, with composting initiatives also set to begin.

Stressing the importance of data analytics in governance, the CM said every department must track field-level performance and regularly analyze public feedback. “Where dissatisfaction is found, officials must investigate and make changes accordingly,” he said. He directed senior officials to adopt a more proactive and analytical approach to service delivery.

While the review focused on improvements and reforms, the CM's announcement of unannounced inspections starting June 12 has created tension among officials. As people may now directly express their grievances during these surprise visits, accountability is set to take center stage in the functioning of every department.



## Alliance Secures Vizag Deputy Mayor Post

- **Janasena's Dalli Govind Reddy elected unopposed**
- **TDP already holds GVMC Mayor seat**

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

The ruling alliance has further strengthened its hold in urban Andhra Pradesh, clinching the post of Deputy Mayor in the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC). Janasena Corporator Dalli Govind Reddy, representing the 64th division of Visakhapatnam, was unanimously elected to the post.

His candidature was proposed by MLA Ganababu and seconded by MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju. With the YSRCP choosing to stay away from the contest, only Govind Reddy's nomination was filed. Consequently, the Joint Collector officially declared him elected unanimously.

This development follows the earlier victory of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which had already secured the GVMC Mayor seat. The Deputy Mayor post became vacant after the alliance successfully moved a no-confidence motion against YCP's previous Deputy Mayor, Jiyvani Sridhar. With YCP abstaining from the latest election, the alliance's dominance in the municipal corporation has become more pronounced.

This marks yet another setback for YSRCP in the state's key urban bodies, with the ruling alliance gradually consolidating its grip over GVMC governance.

## Ramanaidu meets Narayana, seeks funds for Palakollu works



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Water Resources Minister Nim-mala Ramanaidu met with Minister Narayana at the Secretariat in Amaravati, where they discussed development projects to be undertaken in the Palakollu constituency. Ramanaidu urged the release of pending funds from the Municipal Corporation for essential development works in Palakollu Municipality. Minister To Review GVMC Works In Vizag

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Dr. P. Narayana will visit Visakhapatnam today to hold a key review meeting on the civic issues and development works within Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) limits. The meeting is scheduled to take place at 10 AM at the VM-RDA office, with the participation of MLAs, public representatives, and key officials from the region.

The Vizag meeting is expected to focus on a comprehensive review of infrastructure development, public grievances, and civic improvements under the GVMC. Officials said that Minister Narayana will assess the progress of ongoing projects and also discuss immediate steps to address key issues in the city. The government is prioritizing urban development across major cities and towns, and these meetings are seen as crucial in coordinating efforts between departments and ensuring timely execution of projects.



## Police Commissioner Reviews CM Event Security at Punnamighat

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

NTR District City Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS on Monday thoroughly inspected the security arrangements ahead of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Punnamighat, Vijayawada, scheduled for May 21, marking the launch of the YogaAndhra campaign under the International Yoga Day celebrations.

The event, which will kickstart a month-long state campaign from June 21 to July 21, is set to be inaugurated by the Chief Minister himself. Anticipating the presence of VVIPs and a large public gathering, the Police Commissioner, along with key officials, visited the Bhavanipuram Police Station limits, covering the venue and its surrounding areas to ensure comprehensive security preparedness.

Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu gave detailed instructions to police officers and staff regarding crowd management, route diversions, vehicle parking, and inter-departmental coordination to ensure public convenience and avoid traffic bottlenecks. He emphasized zero tolerance for lapses in security arrangements and directed senior officials to monitor all developments closely.

“Strong security measures are being put in place to avoid any untoward incidents and maintain smooth vehicular flow around the venue. Officials from all departments have been directed to coordinate seamlessly,” said the Commissioner during his inspection.

## AP ICET 2025 Results Released: 95.86% Pass, Meka Manoj Tops

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh Integrated Common Entrance Test (AP ICET) 2025 results were released on Thursday. This exam, conducted for admissions to MBA and MCA courses, saw a total of 37,572 applicants, with 34,131 students appearing. Out of these, 32,719 students qualified, marking a pass percentage of 95.86%.

Andhra University Vice Chancellor Professor G.P. Rajasekhara officially released the results. The university conducted the exam across 94 centers statewide, including one center in Hyderabad, under the supervision of the Andhra Pradesh Council of Higher Education. Meka Manoj topped the exam with 197.91 marks, followed by D. Sandeep Reddy (179.51 marks) and S. Krishna Sai (178.51 marks). Valluri Sairam Satwik and Ravuri Madhurya secured the fourth and fifth ranks respectively. State Education Minister Nara Lokesh congratulated all the students and wished them a bright future. He also reminded students to check their results and download rank cards from the official AP ICET website: <https://cets.apsche.ap.gov.in/ICET/>.

The preliminary answer key was released on May 10, with objections accepted until May 12. After expert review, the final key was prepared, based on which the results were announced. The Higher Education Council will soon announce the schedule for the next admission process.

## Police Must...

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Pawan Kalyan called for a thorough investigation into how such individuals are being allowed to settle, urging the police and public to stay alert and question the system that enables such developments.

## Solution for Wild Elephant Problem

Turning to another serious issue affecting several districts, the Deputy CM said the state is taking measures to address the havoc caused by wild elephants (locally referred to as Madaputengulu) in forest-border areas like Chittoor, Parvathipuram Manyam, and Alluri Sitarama Raju districts. These animals have been damaging crops and even causing human casualties. To counter this, he revealed that an agreement has been signed with the Karnataka government to bring six trained Kunki elephants into Andhra Pradesh by May 21. “The Karnataka government has shown great cooperation. These elephants will help manage and push back the wild herds. I believe this step will provide major relief to affected farmers,” he concluded.



## Remand of Seven Accused in AP Liquor Scam Extended till June 3

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) special court in Vijayawada has extended the remand of seven accused involved in the high-profile Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case until June 3. The remand period of the accused expired today, and upon their production before the court by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), the court heard arguments from both the prosecution and defense.

The accused—Kasireddy Rajasekhara Reddy, Sajjala Sridhar Reddy, Chanakya, Paila Dilip, Balaji Govindappa, Krishna Mohan Reddy, and Dhanunjaya Reddy—appeared before the court this morning. During the hearing, the defense lawyers raised concerns that they were not being informed about the progress of the investigation. In response, the court directed the investigating officer to submit a written report detailing the investigation's progress to date. Additionally, the accused requested permission to speak with their family members. Considering this, the judge allowed them humane access to contact their families for 30 minutes.



# Write Down the Names... says YS Jagan

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YCP chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has issued a fiery warning to the ruling coalition government and certain officials, accusing them of running a “demonic regime” and declaring that no one who commits injustice will be spared. Speaking at a meeting with YCP local body public representatives, Jagan made bold and emotional remarks, saying, “Write down the names... We will definitely show the movie when the time comes.”

Jagan criticized the current political environment, saying that in Kali Yuga, politics demand fearlessness. “If you want to do politics today, you should not fear jails or cases. That’s how Chandrababu is doing politics now,” he said, alleging that democracy is being murdered openly—particularly in the conduct of local body by-elections. He accused the state government



and police of bias, claiming that YCP supporters are being arrested indiscriminately while TDP cadres are being spared. “Even where we have the majority like in Thiruvur, the elections are being stalled deliberately when we are winning,” he alleged. In a stern tone, Jagan added, “Write your names in any book. Beat people,

file cases... But our time will come. We will show a film to all those who committed injustice. Even if you’ve retired or fled the country, we will bring you back.”

He held Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu responsible for the current state of affairs, pointing to instances where women were kept in jail for months without proper care. Jagan also highlighted what he described as targeted judicial harassment, where if bail is granted in one case, another case is immediately filed. “This happened with Vallabhaneni Vamsi. The same was done to Dalit leader Nandigam Suresh who was jailed for over a month and then re-arrested,” he said.

Reiterating his support for YSRCP workers, Jagan assured that justice will eventually prevail. “Tomorrow, the YSRCP worker will be number one. I stand by every worker who has faced injustice. No one who committed wrongdoing will be spared,” he concluded.

## Vamsi, Nani Facing Karma: Kotamreddy

- Kotamreddy says Jagan encouraged insults against Bhuvaneshwari
- No sympathy if Jagan is arrested in liquor scam or other cases
- Alleges Sajjala supported attacks on Amaravati farmers

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

TDP MLA Kotamreddy has delivered a scathing critique of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders, stating that former ministers Vallabhaneni Vamsi and Kodali Nani are now facing the consequences of their actions. Kotamreddy asserted that it is unrealistic to expect sympathy if YSRCP Chief Jaganmohan Reddy is arrested in the ongoing liquor scam or other cases. He claimed that everything is unfolding according to “God’s script” and expressed no sympathy for Vamsi, Nani, or Jagan.

Kotamreddy said that Vamsi’s and Nani’s controversial comments were made under Jagan’s encouragement and that such a culture does not exist in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He reminded that despite jail time before 2014, Jagan came to power, suggesting that arrests would not automatically generate sympathy for the YSRCP.

Highlighting the deteriorating health of Vamsi and Nani, Kotamreddy said



that Vamsi’s harsh remarks about Nara Bhuvaneshwari have caused him to lose weight and suffer greatly. He added that Telugu people have no sympathy for leaders who misuse their power and speak irresponsibly in the assembly. Kotamreddy blamed such behavior for harming YSRCP’s image while indirectly benefiting the TDP.

Kotamreddy alleged that Jagan personally encourages leaders who speak aggressively about opponents and media. He cited examples of other YSRCP leaders like Jogi Ramesh who made harsh statements without facing condemnation from Jagan but instead received ministerial positions. According to Kotamreddy, this reflects the party’s broader culture.

He also made sensational claims that Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy sent party scripts encouraging leaders to speak rudely and even promote violence against Amaravati farmers affected by floods. Kotamreddy said Sajjala told him that showing sympathy to the farmers was “wrong” and that attacks on farmers would be appreciated by Jagan.

Kotamreddy concluded by reaffirming his loyalty to the TDP, praising party leaders Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh for their support. He emphasized that TDP members speak respectfully and are corrected if they cross limits, contrasting this with the YSRCP’s approach.



## We Will Stand by Surekha’s Family: MLA Ramu

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu visited the grieving family of late Dondapadu Sarpanch Choragudi Surekha, who tragically passed away in an electric shock accident. Expressing deep sorrow, the MLA stated that he would stand by Surekha’s family, both personally and on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party.

MLA Ramu reached Dondapadu village on Tuesday evening, accompanied by local TDP leaders. The atmosphere turned emotional as he consoled Surekha’s tearful family, embracing them and encouraging them to remain strong in this moment of loss. Calling the late Sarpanch his “sister”, MLA Ramu stated, “Surekha’s untimely death is heartbreaking. Her dedication to the development of the village will always be remembered. I promise to support her family not only as a public representative but also as a brother.”

He specially assured Surekha’s daughter that the party and he personally

would help her achieve a secure and successful future. “Don’t lose hope. Focus on your studies, and we will ensure you have all the support you need,” he said. Later, the family members and village elders narrated the details of the accident to the MLA at the location where the incident occurred. MLA Ramu described the demise of Sarpanch Surekha as a huge loss to the Telugu Desam Party, emphasizing her significant role in the village’s development. He reiterated the TDP’s commitment to supporting her family in all possible ways.

Those present during the visit included Mandal TDP President Vasey Murali, Government Area Hospital Development Committee Chairman Jones Dayanand, Dondapadu Vice Sarpanch Seenu, and several local TDP leaders and village elders such as Choragudi Sudhakar, Gutta Venkateswara Rao, Lingamaneni Siva Rao, Gadde Venkata Rao, Chodagudi Raja Rao, Valluri Abbulu, Uppalapati Papayya, and Mukummala Srinivasa Rao, along with many villagers.

## Tributes pour in on the death anniversary of Andhra’s first CM

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

On the occasion of the death anniversary of Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu, the first Chief Minister of Andhra State and a stalwart in the Indian freedom struggle, leaders across political lines paid heartfelt tributes to the legendary figure known as Andhra Kesari. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, in a post on X, hailed Prakasam Pantulu’s bravery and lifelong dedication to public service. “I pay tribute to the prominent freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sri Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu on his death anniversary. Born in a poor family, he emerged as a prominent figure in politics and became famous as ‘Andhra Kesari’, and is an inspiration to all of us. His courage in showing his heart to the British gun by participating in the anti-Simon Commission demonstration in Madras will never be forgotten. Sri Tang-

uturi Prakasam Pantulu’s sacrifice is exemplary. I pay tribute to him once again,” Chandrababu posted.

Meanwhile, YSR Congress Party chief and former CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy also remembered Prakasam Pantulu with reverence. In his message on X, Jagan said, “Freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Andhra State Andhrakesari Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulugaru. He is a great man who dedicated his life to public service. Today, tributes to Prakasam Pantulugaru on his death anniversary.”

Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu, widely respected for his fearless stance during the British rule, particularly his defiance during the Simon Commission protests in Madras, has remained a towering inspiration in Andhra’s political and social landscape. His legacy as a lawyer, legislator, freedom fighter, and chief minister continues to inspire generations of public leaders and citizens alike.

## TDP MLA Donates Five Months' Salary to Army

### Patriotic gesture by Bhuma Akhilapriya draws praise from all quarters

TPN Correspondent | Nandyal

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLA from Allagadda, Bhuma Akhilapriya, has won widespread appreciation after donating her five months’ salary to the Indian Army, in a powerful gesture of patriotism and solidarity with the nation’s soldiers.

As part of the initiative, a Tiranga rally was conducted in Allagadda under her leadership, drawing participation from people of various communities, transcending barriers of caste, religion, and political affiliation. The rally was marked by spirited chants and waving of the national flag.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Akhilapriya emotionally shared that it had been a long time since she had held the national flag in such a way, and expressed her deep respect for the sacrifices made by the armed forces. On this solemn occasion, she paid tribute to Telugu soldier Murali Naik, who was martyred during the war with Pakistan. Following the rally, a candlelight march was



held up to the Potti Sriramulu statue in Allagadda as a symbolic tribute to fallen heroes. Citizens joined in large numbers, lighting candles and offering silent prayers for the brave soldiers guarding the nation. Bhuma Akhilapriya’s decision to contribute her five months’ salary has been hailed by the public and party members alike, with many praising her for her compassionate and patriotic act.

## If Police Fail, I Will Take Action Myself: KA Paul

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Praja Shanti Party President KA Paul has raised serious concerns about the worsening law and order situation in Andhra Pradesh, urging Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to act swiftly to restore peace and safety across the state. In a recent video statement, KA Paul highlighted the case of James, a BTech student in Tirupati, who was allegedly kidnapped, brutally tortured, and left for dead.

Expressing deep frustration, KA Paul said that incidents of injustice, trafficking, and violence are increasing alarmingly in the state. He questioned the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, pointing out, “Chandrababu Garu... what is happening in Uttar Pradesh? What happened to your 50 years of experience?”

The party president made it clear that if the police fail to discharge their duties effectively, he will personally take necessary action to protect the people. He recalled past failures in law enforcement, mentioning the case of Pastor Praveen’s murder, which was widely dismissed as an accident due to police negligence, and an incident involving the expulsion of a Dalit in Pawan Kalyan’s constituency where no action was taken. KA Paul emphasized that such failures are leading to a daily rise in injustice and violence, including the recent “James affair.”



To raise awareness and demand justice, KA Paul called on citizens to participate in the Global Peace Assembly scheduled for May 24 in Secunderabad. Using the hashtag #JusticeForJames, he urged immediate government attention to the deteriorating security situation and stressed the need to ensure the safety of all residents in Andhra Pradesh.



# Thiruvur Nagar Panchayat Elections Postponed Again

YSRCP alleges TDP’s disruptive tactics

High Court orders police to ensure security and peaceful elections

**TPN Correspondent | NTR District**  
Thiruvur Nagar Panchayat elections have been postponed once again amid rising political tensions. Following the resignation of Municipal Chairperson G. Kasturibai, the Election Commission (EC) had initially scheduled the by-election for May 19, 2025. However, the elections were postponed on Monday due to a lack of quorum, with only seven out of 21 eligible voters present. The situation repeated itself on Tuesday when the Election Officer and RDO Madhuri decided to postpone the elections again, citing the same quorum issue, with just eight members

attending. Madhuri stated she would write a detailed letter to the EC explaining the developments of the past two days. The politics in Thiruvur, NTR district, is heating up, with the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) locked in a tense contest for the chairmanship—a position vacant for nearly a year. The Nagar Panchayat has 21 council members eligible to vote, requiring a minimum quorum of 11 for the election to proceed. Rumors abound that several YSRCP councilors have secretly joined forces with the TDP, with only four openly supporting the TDP so far. The TDP is



believed to have the backing of eight votes, including three TDP councilors, four new supporters, and MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao. However, three more votes are needed to secure the chairmanship. This has led YSRCP leaders to take steps to prevent further defections. The political rivalry has inten-

sified with allegations from both sides. MLA Kolikapudi has accused YSRCP leaders of kidnapping a woman councilor who supported the ruling party. In turn, the YSRCP has accused the TDP of attempting to win the election through illegal means. On Tuesday, YSRCP leaders approached the Election Commission seeking protection for their councilors amid fears of intimidation. YSRCP MLCs Lella Appiredy, Varudu Kalyani, Pandula Ravindranath, and former MLA Malladi Vishnu met the EC demanding security, including the assignment of gunmen to their councilors. The election was scheduled to

take place at 11 a.m., but YSRCP accused TDP leaders and local police of colluding to obstruct the election process. In response, the Andhra Pradesh High Court issued key orders to the state police, directing them to arrange security within half an hour. The court ordered protection for the councilors at the DCP level and instructed authorities to ensure peaceful conduct of the elections. The YSRCP had filed a house motion petition citing failure of police to follow EC directives. The court's swift intervention aims to prevent further disruption and maintain law and order during the highly sensitive by-election.

## Mini Mahanadu in Mylavaram

### MLA Krishna Prasad Passes 4 Key Resolutions

**TPN Correspondent | NTR District**  
The Telugu Desam Party's mini Mahanadu program was held with great enthusiasm at SVS Kalyanamantapam in Mylavaram on Tuesday under the leadership of local MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad. The event began with a spirited bike rally organized by Mylavaram Telugu Yuvatha president Lanka Litish, who, along with party workers, welcomed the MLA with garlands. As part of the program, MLA Vasantha garlanded the statue of NTR and lit the ceremonial lamp. Addressing a large gathering of party leaders, workers, and youth, he called the TDP the embodiment of Telugu self-respect and a party that thrives on discipline and commitment. "Among all political parties, the Telugu Desam Party is unique for the discipline and clarity of thought among its activists," he remarked. He urged all workers to continue spreading the vision of founder NTR. The highlight of the event was the announcement of four key



resolutions to address major issues in the Mylavaram constituency:  
1. Restoration of Budameru and Puli Vagu embankments: The resolution urged for urgent restoration of embankments damaged during the heavy rains in August–September last year. The MLA stressed the need for immediate financial sanction and repair to prevent future flooding and protect agriculture.  
2. Completion of Chintalapudi Lift Irrigation Scheme: MLA Krishna Prasad emphasized that while 65% of the project was completed during TDP's previous



term, it had since stalled. With costs now rising to ₹9,500 crore, the resolution demanded the remaining work be resumed to ensure irrigation to 4.8 lakh acres and drinking water for 21 lakh people.  
3. Establishment of an industrial corridor in G. Konduru mandal: A proposal was passed to convert 250 acres of unused land in Sunnampadu village into an industrial corridor. The MLA said this move would generate local employment and stimulate economic growth by utilizing the idle land meant for resettlement.  
4. Control of pollution from

NTTPS: Concerns were raised about ash pollution from Narla Tatarao Thermal Power Station affecting local villages in Ibrahimpatnam mandal. The resolution called for strict pollution control measures, covered transportation of ash, regular health camps, and inspections by environmental agencies. A large number of TDP leaders, activists, and supporters attended the Mini Mahanadu, reaffirming their commitment to the party's goals and the development of the Mylavaram region.

## Industrial Park Planned in Jaggayyapet, Nandigama

### DPR ready for new government college in Jaggayyapet

### Budget soon for Polampalli and Kanchala Vedadri lift schemes

### MP Chinni announces 2,000-acre industrial park plan

**TPN Correspondent | Jaggayyapet**  
As part of the Telugu Desam Party's constituency-level Mini Mahanadu program in Jaggayyapet, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) announced that a large industrial park would soon be developed on 2,000 acres of land in the Jaggayyapet and Nandigama regions. This park is aimed at boosting local employment and driving industrial development. The event was held at Shubhamastu Function Hall on Chilakallu Road, with MP Kesineni participating as the chief guest. He said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a government college in Jaggayyapet had already been prepared and assured that the budget would be sanctioned soon. He also confirmed that within two months, budget allocations will be made to resolve issues related to the Polampalli and Kanchala Vedadri lift irrigation schemes. At the beginning of the program, NTR District TDP President Nettem Raghuram, MP Kesineni Sivanath, MLA Sriram Rajagopal, and MLC Alapati Rajendra Prasad paid floral tributes to NTR's portrait.



The occasion also coincided with Nettem Raghuram's birthday, which was celebrated with cake cutting and felicitations from party leaders and members. MLA Sriram Rajagopal announced the new ward in-charges, ward presidents, general secretaries, and affiliated society leaders. MP Kesineni congratulated the new appointees and endorsed the resolutions passed for the development

of the constituency. Speaking to the gathering, MP Kesineni highlighted the preparation of a DPR under Clean Andhra Pradesh to implement the Swachhandra sanitation program in Jaggayyapet. He emphasized that sanitation, irrigation, and drinking water issues would be addressed comprehensively. He stressed the strategic advantage of Nandigama and Jaggayyapet being close to Am-

aravati, stating that a bridge between Vaikunthapuram and Amaravati across the Krishna River would further accelerate regional growth. "If the bridge is built, the entire belt will develop rapidly," he remarked. MP Kesineni also recalled the legacy of former CM NTR, stating that the TDP's foundation 43 years ago marked a new era in Andhra Pradesh's politics. He praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's P4 program, saying it was launched to eliminate poverty and uphold the party's commitment to the weak and poor under the slogan "Kudu, Gudu, Needa". He concluded by assuring party workers that their efforts would be recognized, and no injustice would be done to loyal leaders and activists. Key TDP leaders including Observer Donthu Chinna, Municipal Chairman Rangapuram Raghavendra, and senior leaders like Mullangi Ramakrishna Reddy, Katta Venkata Narasimha Rao, Vadlamudi Rambabu, Gajji Krishnamurthy, and many others participated in large numbers, energizing the party ranks in the constituency.

## Strict Action Against Scanning Centers Violating Law

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha has ordered strict action against scanning centers violating the Prohibition of Prenatal Sex Determination (PC-PNDT) Act. She directed coordination teams to intensify random inspections and conduct decoy operations at the field level to curb illegal practices. A district-level committee meeting was held on Tuesday at the Collectorate under the District Medical and Health Department to review the implementation of the PC-PNDT Act and the ART-Surrogacy Act. The meeting was attended by committee members including Second Additional District Judge cum Metropolitan Sessions Judge A. Satyanand. Collector Lakshmi Shah emphasized the strict enforcement of the Sex Determination Prohibition Act and stated that any complaints received should be promptly investigated and appropriate action taken. He underscored that fetal sex determination tests are a punishable offense under the law. To raise awareness, officials from Medical Health, Women and Child Welfare, Police, and other departments must work together in coordination. The committee reviewed existing scanning centers authorized to conduct medical tests and considered nine applications for new registrations, three renewal applications, and four cancellations. Additionally, two applications related to ART Level-1, two related to ART Level-2, and one for a surrogacy clinic were approved. Collector Lakshmi Shah instructed that all applications for new scanning centers, renewals, changes, and additions must be thoroughly examined before being reported to the committee. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. M. Suhasini, Vasavya Volunteer Representative G. Reshmi, IVF Specialist Dr. Padmaja, NHM DPMO Dr. Naveen, and others participated in the meeting.



## Mini Van Transport Union Demands Welfare Board, Subsidies

**TPN Correspondent | NTR District**  
The Andhra Pradesh Mini Van Motor Transport Union's State Conference was conducted on a grand scale at Sri Veeranjaneya Mini Truck Auto Workers Union CITU premises near the Ibrahimpatnam-Hyderabad Highway. The event saw active participation from transport workers and union leaders from various regions. Traffic Sub-Inspector Lakshmana Rao, who attended the event, urged drivers to strictly follow traffic rules for their own safety and for the wellbeing of their families. He emphasized, "Drive responsibly, wear uniforms, hold valid driving licenses, avoid overloading, and always remember that your family members are waiting for you at home." CID NTR District General Secretary N.C. Srinivas, addressing the gathering, appreciated the Union's initiative to organize the general meeting and voiced strong concerns about the issues plaguing the transport sector. He demanded that both the Central and State Governments establish a dedicated Welfare Board for the transport sector. He said heavy fines in the name of green tax, labour cess, and traffic rule violations were putting immense pressure on workers. He also pointed out that the steep rise in fuel prices is severely affecting those in the mini-van and transport industry. "Petrol and diesel prices are becoming unbearable. The sector is burdened, and nothing has been done to alleviate it," he stated. Srinivas called for subsidized loans, official identity cards, and vehicle purchase schemes to support the unemployed youth who are increasingly entering the transport sector to earn their livelihood. The meeting was presided over by Chirra Nagaraju, Vice President of Sri Veeranjaneya Mini Truck Auto Workers Union CITU. Other leaders who participated included CITU Ibrahimpatnam Mandal Secretary M. Mahesh, Union President Suresh Varma, and regional leaders Ramu Siva, Thiruvuru Prakash, Rajahmundry Venkateswara Rao, Penuganchipolu Ashok, and Nandigama Anjibabu.



# Jagan is using Sakshi to cook up a story blaming the TDP

Lokesh accuses Jagan of politicizing Tirupati student attack

Claims accused are followers of YSRCP leaders

**TPN Correspondent | Tirupati**  
Minister for Education, IT, and Human Resources Nara Lokesh lashed out at former CM Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, accusing him of twisting the Tirupati Dalit student attack for political mileage. Responding sharply to the incident, Lokesh alleged that the attackers involved in the abduction and assault of a student named James were direct followers of YSRCP leaders, but Jagan and his media outlet Sakshi are falsely blaming the TDP.

Lokesh revealed that based on James's complaint, a case was filed against several individu-

als including A-1 Yashwanth, A-2 Kiran, A-3 Jagga, A-4 Lal-it, A-5 Sai Goud, A-6 Vamsi, A-7 Rupesh, and others. He claimed that Jagadish alias Jagga, Lalit Gopal, Nani, and Sai Goud are known followers of former minister Peddi Reddy, while Rupesh Reddy and Sai Kiran Kumar Reddy had worked for Bhumana Abhinay Reddy, and Vamsi alias Chota Blade is a follower of MP Gurumurthy.

"Despite these facts, Jagan is using Sakshi to cook up a story blaming the TDP, trying to spin a personal fight between students as a political conspiracy," Lokesh said. "Jagan is a

man who will cut any grass for his political hunger," he added sharply.

He further alleged that Sakshi is publishing provocative and false stories to create unrest among Dalits. "They are trying to poison the minds of Dalit brothers against us," Lokesh said, while reiterating that several accused have already been arrested, and the police are pursuing others. "This coalition government will not spare anyone, no matter who they are," he affirmed.

In a scathing attack on Jagan's political history, Lokesh remarked, "Jagan's past is soaked in blood. He woke up

his own uncle with an axe, tried to frame Chandrababu with a knife, and paraded his own sister with slander in the witness box." He said even Jagan's family now sees through his lies, and the people of the state have learned the truth.

Lokesh reminded that Dalits like Dr. Sudhakar and driver Subrahmanyam were harassed or silenced during Jagan's rule, and said that the same violent behavior continues even in opposition. He appealed to the Dalit community to stay alert and united, recognizing the truth behind Jagan Reddy's ongoing conspiracies and media manipulation.



# AP inflation at 2.59%, below national average of 3.16%

Group of Ministers meeting held on market price monitoring

Daily report on essential commodity prices before each cabinet meeting

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**  
In a significant move to address inflation and ensure farmer welfare, a Group of Ministers (GOM) meeting was held on Tuesday at the AP Secretariat to review and monitor the market prices of essential commodities. The meeting was chaired by State Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Nandendla Manohar, and attended by Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, and senior officials.

The ministers noted that while the national average inflation stands at 3.16%, Andhra Pradesh has managed to keep it at a lower rate of 2.59%, reflecting effective administrative control. However, the ministers emphasized the need for special measures to control inflation further, particularly in essential commodities. The GOM decided to periodical-



ly review the prices of essential commodities such as rice, dal, cooking oil, tomatoes, and onions. Officials confirmed that prices of these goods remain stable. As part of a more robust monitoring system, the ministerial committee instructed officials to prepare and submit a daily price report one day before every cabinet meeting.

To streamline freight logistics and reduce unnecessary cost escalations, transport department

officials have been directed to inspect the Guntur Market Yard, Kakinada Port, and Krishnapatnam Port to identify bottlenecks in goods transportation. The state government also plans to leverage the "Agriwatch" system for improved observation and tracking of commodity prices across regions. In addition, the ministers instructed officials to study the policies implemented in other states regarding market fee reductions on paddy

and to submit a detailed report. The aim is to implement strategies that will enhance competitiveness and promote open market exports.

Ahead of the Kharif and Rabi seasons, the government is taking a proactive stance to support farmers. Agriculture department officials were tasked with preparing realistic crop estimates, ensuring that procurement projections from Rythu Seva Kendras match actual yields. Furthermore, farmers will be encouraged to grow fine grain varieties, and relevant support activities will be developed accordingly.

This series of decisions underscores the coalition government's commitment to farmers' welfare, market stability, and inflation control, ensuring a farmer-friendly policy environment as the state moves into the next agricultural cycle.

# No Harm in Hanging Corrupt Officials in Anakapalle

*Former minister lashes out at officials for bias, corruption*

**TPN Correspondent | Anakapalle**  
Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and former minister Dadi Veerabhadra Rao made scathing remarks against the Anakapalle district administration during the party's Mini Mahanadu meeting held in Anakapalle. In a sensational statement that stirred political circles, Dadi declared, "There is no harm in hanging the corrupt officials in Anakapalle district."

He alleged that several officials in the district are neck-deep in corruption and are displaying open bias towards the opposition party. Expressing frustration, he said that despite multiple visits by TDP leaders to the offices of district officials, their issues



were consistently ignored. "If this continues, how can TDP function in this district?" he questioned. Dadi Veerabhadra Rao also raised eyebrows by accusing district officials of favoring the son of former Chief Secretary Jawahar Reddy. He

claimed that the officials rushed to serve him during his visit to the Collector's office recently, suggesting a breakdown in neutrality and commitment to public service. He pointed out that officials who were facing serious allegations

during the YSRCP regime are still holding influential posts in the Anakapalle administration. While other districts have seen administrative reshuffles under the new TDP government, Anakapalle remains untouched, he said.

Issuing a stern warning, he said, "Do not bring a bad name to the Telugu Desam government and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Change your methods at least now." He urged officials to deliver public services impartially and help the new government earn public trust. Dadi's remarks have triggered widespread discussions in the district, especially over the functioning and accountability of the bureaucracy under the new regime.

# 130 Kg Ganja Seized in Anakapalle, One Arrested

**TPN Correspondent | Anakapalle**  
In a major breakthrough, the Anakapalle district police seized 130 kg of ganja worth ₹6.5 lakh and arrested one person in connection with the case. The operation was conducted under the leadership of Cheedikada Sub-Inspector B. Satish, based on intelligence inputs from K. Kotapadu Circle Inspector P. Paidupu Naidu. Acting swiftly on reliable information that ganja was being transported from G. Madu-



gula mandal of Alluri Seetharamaraju district, the Cheedikada police laid a trap near Khandivaram village. The accused,

Kashi Teja (26), a resident of Bayalupudi village, attempted to transport the contraband in his car during early hours, assuming the rain would reduce police vigilance. However, the police successfully intercepted the vehicle and discovered 130 kg of ganja hidden in the car's trunk. The vehicle was seized and Kashi Teja was taken into custody on the spot. Three other accomplices, believed to have been acting as pilots (scouts) for the smuggling operation, managed

to escape and are currently on the run. Speaking on the development, Circle Inspector Paidupu Naidu confirmed that the investigation is progressing, with police already identifying both forward and backward linkages in the smuggling network. He assured that the remaining accused will be nabbed soon.

The district police officials appreciated SI B. Satish and his team for their swift and efficient action in curbing illegal ganja transport in the region.

# Complex Brain Surgery Saves Woman's Life at Medcover

Dr. Dinesh Gangapatnam leads 5-hour operation to remove tumor from brainstem

**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**  
In a major medical breakthrough, doctors at Medcover Hospital in Nellore have successfully performed one of the most complex brain surgeries ever carried out in the region. The surgery, led by renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Gangapatnam Dinesh, saved the life of a 50-year-old woman named Lakshmi, who had slipped into a coma due to a tumor located in the brainstem — one of the most critical and sensitive areas of the brain.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Dinesh revealed that Lakshmi, a resident of Chembarthi village near Gudur, was initially brought to the hospital after she suddenly collapsed, with her arms and legs paralyzed. As her condition worsened, she went into a coma while being shifted between hospitals, including a brief stay in Chennai, but without improvement.

Eventually, the patient was admitted to Medcover Hospital, where thorough diagnostics revealed a tumor buried deep within the brainstem. "This is an extremely sensitive zone where even a small error during surgery could lead to permanent damage or fatality," Dr. Dinesh explained. Despite the risks, the medical team proceeded with a 5-hour-long surgery, managing to remove the tumor with utmost precision.

Post-surgery, the patient received intensive care, including regular physiotherapy and neurological monitoring. Dr. Dinesh proudly announced that Lakshmi not only regained consciousness but has now made a complete recovery and is back to performing her daily tasks independently.

Given the family's financial condition, the entire surgery and treatment were provided free of cost through the Arogya Sri health scheme. Lakshmi's husband, Penchalayya, emotionally thanked Dr. Dinesh and his team for their dedication and compassion. "When we lost hope and feared for her life, Dr. Dinesh gave us strength and brought my wife back to me, healthy," he said.

Also present at the press conference were Medcover Hospital Center Head Dr. Dheeraj Reddy, neuro department staff, and PRO Chandu Verma. Dr. Dinesh urged patients across the region to trust local advanced facilities like Medcover for critical neurological care.





# Kaleshwaram: A Holy Place Where Rivers & Beliefs Meet



Kaleshwaram, a small and holy town in the Jayashankar Bhupalapally district of Telangana, is hosting the Saraswati Pushkaralu, a special river festival that happens once every 12 years. This religious event takes place at the spot where two rivers-Godavari and Pranahita-meet. The town is located near the border of Telangana and Maharashtra. Kaleshwaram is most famous for its Kaleshwara Mukteshwara Swamy Temple, an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. What makes this temple unique is the presence of two Shiva Lingas placed on one base, which is a rare sight in India. This temple is also one of the three most important Shiva temples in the Telugu-speaking states, along with Srisailem and Draksharamam. These three temples together are called Trilinga Desham, meaning "land of three Lingas," and the area is considered very holy. To ensure a smooth and safe experience for visitors, the Telangana government has made extensive preparations for the festival. Telangana Endowments Minister Konda Surekha and IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu are leading the efforts. Jayashankar Bhupalapally district Collector Rahul Sharma and SP Kiran Khare are also working hard on the ground with their teams. A mobile app and a website have been launched to provide important information and services to pilgrims. Basic needs such as water, food, toilets, and transport are also being taken care of to help the visiting devotees.



**Sagar Vanaparthi**  
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## Ancient Temple with a Special Story

According to the Skanda Purana, a holy Hindu book, the Godavari River prayed to Lord Shiva, who appeared at this place as Mukteshwara Swamy. People who bathed in the river and saw the Lord were freed from sin and the cycle of birth and death. Seeing this, Yama, the god of death, became worried because no one was coming to his world. He also prayed to Shiva, who then asked him to install another Shiva Linga beside the first one. This new Linga was called Kaleshwara Linga. This is why the temple has two Lingas today, representing both salvation and the continuation of life. The temple is believed to be 850 years old, built during the rule of Kakatiya King Rudra Deva. The temple has four entrances, and each side has a statue of Nandi, the sacred bull of Lord Shiva. Inside, there are also shrines for Goddess Saraswati and the Sun God (Surya). It

is said that the water poured on the Lingas during rituals goes underground and finally reaches the Godavari River, which is about 1 kilometer away.

## Where Three Rivers Meet – A Place of Great Faith

Kaleshwaram is also known as Dakshina Triveni Sangam, which means the "southern meeting of three rivers"-Godavari, Pranahita, and a hidden river called Saraswati, believed to flow underground. This makes the place even more spiritual and powerful for religious rituals. Every year, thousands of people visit the temple, especially during Karthika Masam and Maha Shivaratri. Many devotees also come from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka. Kaleshwaram is about 270 kilometers from Hyderabad. Interestingly, Kaleshwaram lies on the same longitude as many other famous ancient Shiva temples in India, such as Kedarnath, Chidambaram, and Rameswaram. These temples were all built centuries ago, long before modern tools or satellite maps were available, which adds to the mystery and wonder of this alignment. As the Saraswati Pushkaralu festival continues, Kaleshwaram is ready to welcome lakhs of pilgrims from across the country. With its holy rivers, rare twin Shiva Lingas, and spiritual energy, this town is truly a must-visit for anyone seeking blessings, peace, and divine connection.

# Why India Needs a Grand Museum of Hindu Art

With the spotlight currently on Qatar for hosting ongoing Gaza peace talks, the country's cultural investments—like the stunning Museum of Islamic Art in Doha—are also drawing attention. Opened in 2008 and designed by the legendary architect I.M. Pei, the museum presents a rich and diverse collection of Islamic art spanning continents and centuries. But its scope is broader than it seems—many exhibits hail from pre-Islamic times or regions no longer under Muslim rule. This inclusive narrative is a deliberate counter to perceptions of Islamic iconoclasm, such as the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas by the Taliban in 2001.

The Doha museum's brilliance lies in positioning Islamic art not just as religious output but as the cultural expression of regions influenced by Islam. This reframing—presenting "art from the Islamic world" rather than strictly "Islamic art"—reclaims civilizational prestige through art, echoing Christian traditions that link religious belief to artistic excellence, especially in periods



like the Renaissance.

In comparison, other religions have yet to create institutions on this scale. While Jewish and Buddhist art museums exist, none offer the vast civilizational sweep that Doha's museum achieves. Surprisingly, no comparable project exists for Hindu art—despite Hinduism's profound and far-reaching influence on art, architecture, mathematics, and astronomy, especially across South and Southeast Asia.

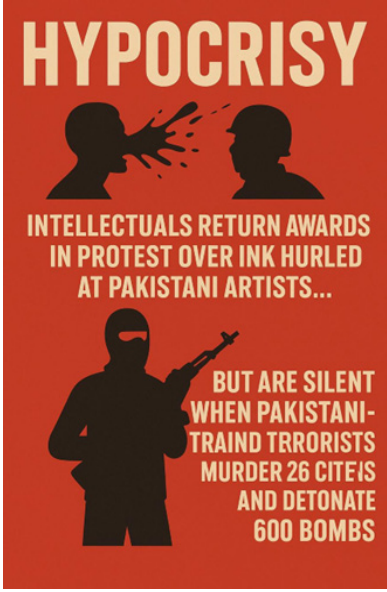
India is uniquely positioned to correct this omission. A grand Museum of Hindu Art could illuminate the expansive cul-

tural and aesthetic footprint of Hinduism—not only within Indian borders but across ancient trade routes and former Hindu-influenced kingdoms in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and even parts of the Middle East.

Such a museum would enrich both global understanding and self-perception among Hindus. It could reclaim narratives often limited to Buddhist and Islamic contributions to Indian art, offering a more comprehensive picture. More importantly, it could highlight the ongoing dialogue between Hinduism and other artistic traditions across centuries.

# The Indian Intellectual Syndrome

## Selective outrage, loud in Protest, Silent in Responsibility



In India, a section of the intellectual class has fallen into a predictable pattern—what one might call the Indian Intellectual Syndrome. This mindset treats government action with automatic suspicion, celebrates contrarianism as a virtue, and mistakes rhetorical superiority for civic duty. The result is a self-reinforcing loop of negativity, where criticism is the only currency and accountability applies to everyone except those doing the criticizing.

## The Pattern of Selective Outrage

### Pulwama., Pahalgam and Balakot: Questioning the State, Ignoring the Enemy

After the 2019 Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 Indian paramilitary personnel, many so-called intellectuals were quick to question the government's intelligence failure, diplomatic strategy, and even motives. But few, if any, issued direct, unequivocal condemnation of the Pakistan-backed Jaish-e-Mohammed that claimed responsibility. Instead, the narrative shifted to questioning the government's response: Was Balakot airstrike "staged"? Was it politically timed? Was it even effective? Little attention was paid by these intellectuals to the ideological and logistical machinery behind the attack. Instead, the dominant commentary questioned the state's intentions, deflecting public focus from the actual perpetrator. Contrast this with the global intellectual response to the 9/11 attacks in the U.S.—there was criticism, yes, but also a firm moral consensus against terrorism. In India, that moral clarity often goes missing.

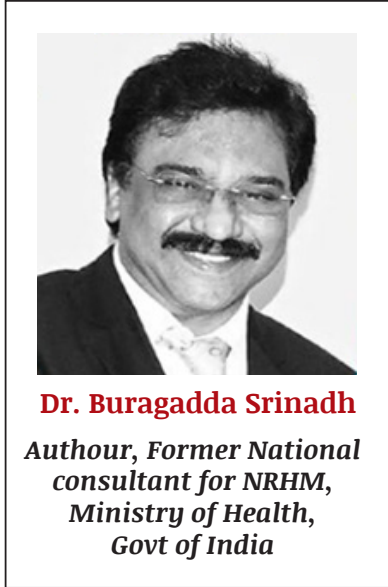
## Human Rights for Whom?

When convicted terrorist Afzal Guru was hanged for his role in the 2001 Parliament attacks, many Indian intellectuals didn't mourn the victims or examine the terror ecosystem. Instead, they protested Guru's hanging as "judicial murder." Seminars were held. Petitions were signed. Sympathies were extended—not to the families of the security personnel who died—but to the man convicted of planning the attack.

Even in the case of Yakub Memon, convicted for financing and planning the 1993 Mumbai blasts, candlelight vigils were organized and narratives of injustice were spun. Courts had upheld the convictions after lengthy due process. Yet the intellectual class chose symbolism over truth, sentiment over justice.

## No Responsibility to Educate or Reform society

### Abrogation of Article 370: Defending Structures,



**Dr. Buragadda Srinadh**  
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## Ignoring the Outcomes

When Article 370 was abrogated in Jammu & Kashmir, the global and local elite rushed to defend the "special status," but hardly acknowledged how that very status isolated Kashmiris from the rest of India and shielded terror sympathizers. The focus was not on the 30 years of violence, ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits, or Pakistan's role in radicalization—but on internet shutdowns and "loss of autonomy." Rather than engaging with the complexities of the decision—including its potential to restore equality among citizens—many chose to frame it solely as a "constitutional assault," overlooking the lived reality of those affected by decades of terrorism and displacement. These intellectuals rarely, if ever, focus on grassroots reform. They don't run deradicalization programs, create educational tools to combat hate, or work in conflict zones to build trust. They write—but only to negate. They debate—but only to dismantle. They critique every policy but propose no constructive alternative.

## Contrarianism as an Identity for these intellectuals

In today's intellectual climate, siding with the state is considered "unintellectual." Supporting national security measures is branded "majoritarian." Speaking against terrorists is seen as "jingoism." In fact, the quickest way to be accepted into elite intellectual circles is to oppose whatever the majority supports—regardless of merit. This is not intellectual honesty. It's intellectual posturing. A true intellectual can criticize power without losing sight of right and wrong. A true public thinker should guide society toward solutions—not just bask in academic cynicism.

## Intellectualism with out Responsibility

This trend reflects a deeper erosion of civic responsibility. While there is no shortage of opinion columns or televised

debates, there is minimal effort among many public intellectuals to offer alternatives, educate the masses, or build bridges between communities. Their engagement remains confined to elite circles, detached from the real-world implications of their narratives. What is missing is intellectual courage—the courage to speak out against terrorism without qualification, to support effective policies even if implemented by an opposing party, and to serve the public beyond mere rhetoric.

## Time for a Reckoning

### Final Reflections: Freedom of Speech vs. Abuse of Influence

At the heart of this phenomenon lies a fundamental contradiction: the very intellectuals who champion freedom of speech often misuse that freedom not to enlighten or uplift, but to destabilize and divide. When influential voices consistently defend the indefensible, amplify fringe narratives, and undermine national unity under the pretense of dissent, their impact is not just misguided—it becomes destructive.

Democracy protects dissent. But democracy also expects responsibility from those who influence public thought. When criticism becomes a tool for obstruction rather than reform, when human rights are used to shield terrorists but not their victims, and when free speech is reduced to habitual negativity, it ceases to be a pillar of liberty and becomes a weapon of ideological sabotage.

The role of public intellectuals is to challenge with conscience, speak with balance, and guide with vision. Today, far too many have traded that responsibility for theatrics, self-promotion, and polarizing postures. The result is a cultural atmosphere where skepticism is worshipped, but solutions are nowhere in sight.

In this light, the role many of these intellectuals now play is not constructive, but corrosive—weakening the social fabric, delegitimizing democratic institutions, and enabling narratives that embolden extremist ideologies. It is time to call this out, not to silence them, but to demand better from those who claim to speak for the nation's conscience.

## Intellectual voice and noise

- **Condemn the government, never the terrorists.**
- **Write pages of protest, but offer no solutions.**
- **Shout about human rights—only for the guilty.**
- **Misuse freedom of speech to weaken national unity.**
- **Avoid real reform. Embrace elite echo chambers.**
- **Is this intellectualism—or ideological sabotage?**
- **India needs thinkers, not habitual cynics.**
- **Builders, not destroyers.**
- **Voices of courage, not cowardice.**



# PM Modi Promotes India’s Health Model at World Health Assembly

Offers Sustainable Approach To Global South's Health Challenges



**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented India's health reforms as a model for global health at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva on Tuesday, emphasizing the country's inclusive and scalable health initiatives. Speaking via videoconferencing, Modi highlighted the importance of caring for vulnerable populations, stating that the health of the world depends on this principle. He further argued that India's approach to health is both replicable and sustainable, offering valuable lessons for the Global South, which faces significant health challenges.

In his address, the Prime Minister pointed to India's flagship health insurance program, Ayushman Bharat, as a standout example. Cov-

ering over 580 million people, this scheme offers free medical treatment, and Modi revealed that it has been recently expanded to include all citizens above the age of 70. "Inclusion is at the core of India's health reforms," he said, underlining that this year's theme of the Assembly, One World For Health, aligns closely with India's global health vision. Modi also reflected on his address at last year's World Health Assembly, where he introduced the concept of One Earth, One Health, emphasizing the interconnectedness of global health. He reiterated that the future of a healthy world depends on cooperation, inclusion, and an integrated vision.

Highlighting the role of technology in improving health outcomes, Modi discussed India's digital

health initiatives, which include platforms to track vaccinations for pregnant women and children, as well as a national digital health identity system. "Our free telemedicine service has enabled over 340 million consultations," he said, stressing the role of technology in bridging gaps in healthcare access.

India's health reforms have also led to a significant reduction in out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, while government health expenditure has increased considerably, according to Modi. He concluded by reiterating India's commitment to global cooperation in tackling future pandemics, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of a healthier world.

## Kannada Actress Ranya Rao Granted Bail in Gold Smuggling Case But Remains in Jail Under COFEPOSA



**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Kannada actress Ranya Rao, who was arrested in March for allegedly smuggling gold bars worth ₹14.56 crore, was granted bail on Tuesday by the Special Court for Economic Offences. However, the actor will continue to remain in Bengaluru Central Prison, as she has also been detained under the stringent Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA), 1974. This law allows preventive detention without bail for up to a year.

Ranya Rao, the stepdaughter of senior IPS officer Ramachandra Rao, was arrested after being caught with 14.2 kg of gold at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport on March 3 upon her arrival from Dubai. Officials grew suspicious due to her frequent travels — 27 trips to Dubai in the past year, including four within 15 days — and her methods of concealment, reportedly wearing some gold and hiding the rest in her clothes.

Along with co-accused Tarun Kondaru Raju, Rao was granted statutory bail after

the court observed that the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) failed to file a charge sheet within the stipulated time-frame. The court approved their release on a personal bond of ₹2 lakh each and two sureties, imposing strict conditions including a ban on international travel without court permission, mandatory court appearances, and a prohibition on tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses.

Despite bail, Rao will remain behind bars as COFEPOSA was invoked in April by the DRI, citing her lack of cooperation and concern that she may resume smuggling activities if released.

Investigators also recovered over ₹2 crore worth of gold jewellery and ₹2.67 crore in cash from Rao's residence during raids. In a leaked statement, Rao admitted to carrying 17 gold bars and disclosed travel details involving the Middle East and Western countries. Her stepfather, Ramachandra Rao, has publicly distanced himself from her activities, claiming he had not been in contact with her since her marriage and expressing shock over the allegations. He maintained that his career remains untainted and denied any involvement in her affairs.

## Bengaluru flooded but Congress celebrates: BJP slams anniversary event timing



**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**  
As torrential rains wreaked havoc in Bengaluru, flooding key areas and claiming three lives, the Karnataka Congress government faced sharp criticism from the BJP for going ahead with a grand celebration to mark its two years in power. The event, titled Samarpna Sankalpa Samavesha, was held in Hosapete on Tuesday, even as large parts of the state capital struggled with severe water-logging and infrastructure failures.

While Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar welcomed Congress national leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi at Jindal Vijayanagara Airport, several Bengaluru neighbourhoods such as Sai Layout, Manyata Tech Park, and Silk Board Junction were submerged due to continuous rainfall over the past 48 hours. Roads became unmotorable, emergency responses were delayed, and complaints over poor drainage infrastructure flooded social media.

Despite briefly visiting the BBMP War Room for updates, both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar were physically absent from the worst-hit areas. BJP leaders seized the opportunity to attack the Congress government, accusing it of being "tone-deaf" and "irresponsible."

State BJP President BY Vijayendra said, "Three people have lost their lives, and instead of managing the crisis, the Congress is busy celebrating. The government has shown complete disregard for the suffering of Bengalureans." He also criticized Home Minister G Parameshwara for blaming citizens for the flooding, calling the comment "arrogant and unacceptable."

Former Deputy Chief Minister Ashwath Narayan echoed the sentiment, calling the event "utterly insensitive." He accused the Congress government of failing to deliver on infrastructure and governance over the past two years, and labelled it a "government of scams and slogans."

Meanwhile, the Congress defended its decision to proceed with the event, pointing to its welfare-focused policies and asserting that senior officials were actively monitoring the situation. Party insiders claimed that necessary relief operations were being carried out on the ground and that the CM and DyCM were overseeing efforts remotely.

The situation has spotlighted the growing tension between governance and optics in Karnataka, with opposition leaders demanding more direct accountability from the ruling party during times of crisis.

## Indian Travelers Shun Turkey and Azerbaijan Amid Geopolitical Tensions, Visa Drop Hits 42%

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Amid recent geopolitical developments that have stirred national sentiment, Indian travelers are increasingly turning away from Turkey and Azerbaijan. According to data released by visa processing platform Atlys on Tuesday, visa applications to both countries have plunged by a sharp 42%, following public expressions of support for Pakistan by Ankara and Baku.

The response from Indian travelers was swift and pronounced. Within just 36 hours of the statements, Atlys reported a 60% surge in users abandoning their visa applications mid-process. "The reaction wasn't scattered; it was sharp and behavioral," said Mohak Nahta, Founder and CEO of Atlys. "People didn't need to be told to avoid certain destinations. They simply moved



on, guided by instinct, information, and access to alternatives. That's what modern travel looks like."

Nahta added that Atlys responded to the trend by pausing all marketing efforts for Turkey and Azerbaijan "in solidarity with national sentiment."



Travel data showed varying levels of decline based on geography. Metro cities like Delhi and Mumbai saw Turkey-bound applications fall by 53%, while tier-2 cities such as Indore and Jaipur showed a comparatively modest 20% decline. Group travelers—typically families and tour groups—seemed the most sensitive to political cues, with group visa requests drop-

ping by nearly 49%. In contrast, solo and couple applications showed a smaller dip of 27%. The data suggests that group travelers, who often plan well in advance, were more decisive in altering travel plans. Demographically, travelers aged 25 to 34 were the most responsive to the developments, making up over 70% of the application drop-offs for Turkey. Women travelers were notably more likely to change course altogether, with a 2.3 times higher likelihood of restarting visa applications for destinations in Southeast Asia, such as Vietnam and Thailand.

As Turkey and Azerbaijan lost appeal, alternate destinations like Vietnam, Indonesia, and Egypt witnessed a rise in visa applications, spiking by as much as 31%, reflecting a quick shift in travel interest shaped by current affairs.



# Trump’s Immigration Crackdown Sparks Fear and Labor Shortages

Crackdown On Undocumented Immigrants Hits Washington Restaurants

TPN Correspondent | Washington

President Donald Trump’s renewed crackdown on undocumented immigrants is sending shockwaves through Washington, D.C.’s restaurant industry, as surprise visits by immigration enforcement agents have prompted fear, staff departures, and concerns over long-term labor shortages.

Earlier this month, armed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents made an unannounced visit to Papatella, a popular pizzeria in Dupont Circle. Although no arrests were made, the agents demanded to inspect I-9 employment eligibility forms. Lacking a warrant or documentation, they were turned away. However, they later returned to another Papatella location with a formal “notice of inspection.”

“We’ve never experienced anything like this,” said Natasha Neely, vice president of Papatella. “These notices are usually sent via email. Showing up like that was clearly intended to intimidate.”

ICE reported arresting 189 undocumented individuals in the D.C. area from May 6 to May 9 after issuing 187 inspection notices. The agency described the operation as targeting “criminal alien offenders,” although businesses affected say the approach has caused broader disruption.

Restaurants, long reliant on immigrant labor, are feeling the impact. “Undocumented migrants are the backbone of our



industry,” said Shawn Townsend, president of the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington (RAMW). “From dishwashers to chefs, they are vital.”

Trump’s second-term focus on immigration enforcement echoes his first-term policies, with thousands already deported and legal challenges mounting over alleged violations of due process.

The fear among workers is palpable. One restaurant owner, who spoke anonymously, said that following ICE’s visit, many staff with uncertain work status simply stopped showing up. “They were told by advocates to lay low. We’re not

sure who will return,” he said.

A recent survey by employment law firm Littler Mendelson found that 58% of business executives fear Trump’s policies will worsen labor shortages, especially in hospitality and manufacturing.

Neely said Papatella is now educating its staff about their legal rights. “We’ve briefed our team on how to respond, but the sight of armed agents in federal uniforms is always unnerving,” she said. As enforcement intensifies, Washington’s restaurants brace for further disruption—both operational and emotional.

## "Want To End War But Not Sure If Russia Is Ready": Zelensky

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has reiterated his country’s willingness to pursue a full ceasefire to end the ongoing war with Russia, but expressed skepticism over Moscow’s commitment to peace. His remarks came after holding talks with U.S. President Donald Trump and other European leaders regarding potential ceasefire negotiations.

Speaking on Monday, Zelenskyy said Ukraine remains ready to accept a ceasefire without preconditions, a proposal initially introduced by Trump. However, he emphasized that Ukraine needs to see “concrete actions” from Russia before it can fully trust any peace initiative. “Too many lives have been lost. We really want to finish this war. But I’m not sure that Russia is ready, and we don’t trust them,” Zelenskyy stated.

According to Zelenskyy, Russia has indicated a willingness to outline its own “principles” for a ceasefire, including additional terms beyond just halting hostil-



ities. “From our dialogue with U.S. President Trump, it seems the Russian side wants to send a memo on how they see the principles of ending the war—not just a ceasefire, but more,” he noted.

Zelenskyy expressed appreciation for Trump’s initiative, calling the proposed unconditional ceasefire a positive step. “I was very happy when President Trump proposed a full ceasefire without any conditions or preconditions. We’ve been ready for this,” he said, reaffirming Ukraine’s position.

The Ukrainian leader also stressed that a ceasefire must be followed by additional steps, including a humanitarian exchange of prisoners and broader diplomatic engagement. “These are our principles: ceasefire first, and then other steps like prisoner exchanges,” Zelenskyy explained.

Zelenskyy has maintained consistent communication with international partners, including the United States and European Union members. He confirmed Ukraine’s openness to direct negotiations with Russia, contingent on a verifiable commitment from Moscow.

This diplomatic momentum comes amid Trump’s recent announcement that both Russia and Ukraine are expected to begin immediate negotiations, with the Vatican offering to facilitate peace efforts.

While hopes for a breakthrough remain cautious, Zelenskyy’s message was clear: Ukraine is ready for peace—if Russia truly is.

## UK Professor Nitasha Kaul Says India Revoked OCI Over ‘Anti-India Activities’

TPN Correspondent | London

British-Kashmiri academic Nitasha Kaul, a Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Westminster in London, has claimed that the Government of India has cancelled her Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) over alleged “anti-India activities.”

Taking to social media on Sunday, Kaul revealed that she received an official communication from Indian authorities accusing her of “malice and complete disregard for facts or history” in her writings and speeches. The academic said the cancellation follows her earlier public statements in February, when she was denied entry into India to attend a conference in Bengaluru.



“Know that arresting academics in India for speaking against hate is closely tied to removing access to country and family for academics outside India,” Kaul wrote on X (formerly Twitter). “The idea is to send a signal — don’t dare challenge us within and don’t dare analyse what’s

going on to convey to audiences outside,” she added.

According to India’s rules governing OCI holders, the government has the authority to revoke OCI status if it determines that the individual has shown “disaffection towards the Constitution of India as established by law.”

Kaul, who also serves as Director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy at Westminster, shared a portion of the cancellation document she received. The notice reportedly cites her “numerous inimical writings, speeches and journalistic activities at various international forums and on social media platforms,” which Indian authorities allege target “India and its institutions on the matters of India’s sovereignty.”

## Covid-19 Cases Surge Across Asia Amid Rise of JN.1 Variant: Key Affected Countries and Trends



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A fresh wave of Covid-19 is sweeping across parts of Asia, with several countries reporting sharp increases in infections, hospitalisations, and viral activity. The spike, driven by the emerging JN.1 variant and post-holiday gatherings, has prompted public health authorities to issue fresh advisories and call for booster vaccinations, particularly for vulnerable groups.

In Hong Kong, health officials have sounded the alarm over the “quite high” virus activity in the city. The percentage of respiratory samples testing positive for Covid-19 recently hit a 12-month high. In the week ending May 3, Hong Kong recorded 31 severe cases—its highest in a year—along with rising Covid-related medical consultations and sewage surveillance data pointing to active transmission.

Singapore has also experienced a notable jump in Covid-19 cases, with infections rising 28% to 14,200 in the week ending May 3. Daily hospitalisations surged by about 30%, marking the first time in nearly a year that Singapore’s health ministry has issued a detailed update. Authorities attributed the spike to waning immunity but clarified that current variants, including JN.1, do not appear to cause more severe illness than before.

In Thailand, the situation is more acute. Weekly Covid-19 cases doubled from 16,000 to over 33,000 in the week ending May 17. Bangkok alone recorded 6,290 cases, followed by Chon Buri, Rayong, and Nonthaburi. Most infections occurred in individuals aged 30 to 39. Health officials believe the spike is linked to gatherings during April’s Songkran festival and are urging high-risk individuals to get booster shots immediately.

China is also seeing an upward trend. Between March 31 and May 4, the national Covid-19 positivity rate among outpatient and emergency flu-like illnesses surged from 7.5% to 16.2%. Hospitalised case positivity also nearly doubled, signaling a possible early stage of a summer wave similar to last year’s.

In India, while the situation remains under control with only 257 active cases reported, health authorities are on alert and closely monitoring trends across Asia.

The JN.1 variant has not been flagged as more severe, but its rapid spread reinforces the need for vigilance, vaccinations, and readiness to manage potential outbreaks.

## 14,000 Babies In Gaza Could Die In Next 48 Hours, Warns UN

TPN Correspondent | Gaza

The United Nations has issued a dire warning, stating that up to 14,000 babies in Gaza could die within the next 48 hours unless critical humanitarian aid is allowed to enter the war-torn enclave. The warning comes as Israeli authorities continue to allow only a limited amount of aid to cross into Gaza, following over 11 weeks of a near-total blockade. International pressure, particularly from the United States, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom, has led to this slight shift in Israeli policy.

On Monday, only five trucks carrying aid, including baby food, entered Gaza—far from what is needed to address the overwhelming crisis. UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher described this as a “drop in the ocean” given the severity of the situation. He emphasized that aid had yet to reach the areas where it is most urgently needed, particularly for the countless families unable to feed their malnourished children.

Fletcher spoke to BBC’s Radio 4, warning that unless more aid is allowed in immediately, thousands of babies could die. “There are 14,000 babies that will die in the next 48 hours unless we can reach them,” he said. “We run all sorts of risks trying to get that baby food through to those mothers who cannot feed their children right now.” The UN’s statement followed a joint condemnation from the leaders of the UK, France, and Canada, who criticized Israel’s continued blockade and the rhetoric from members of Prime Minister Netanyahu’s government, who have threatened to displace large numbers of Palestinians. In their joint statement, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney warned of potential international action if the restrictions on humanitarian aid were not lifted.



# Markets Nosedive as Global Cues Weigh Heavy; Nifty Sheds 261 Points, Sensex Crashes 872

Domestic stock markets were volatile on Tuesday. Benchmark indices fell sharply as investors took profit booking amid negative signals from international markets, rising US debt borrowing costs, downgrading of US bonds and selling in auto, defense, finance, healthcare, media and FMCG sectors. Overall, investors lost Rs 4 lakh crore as Nifty fell 261 points and Sensex fell 872 points. The market outlook is negative in the short term.

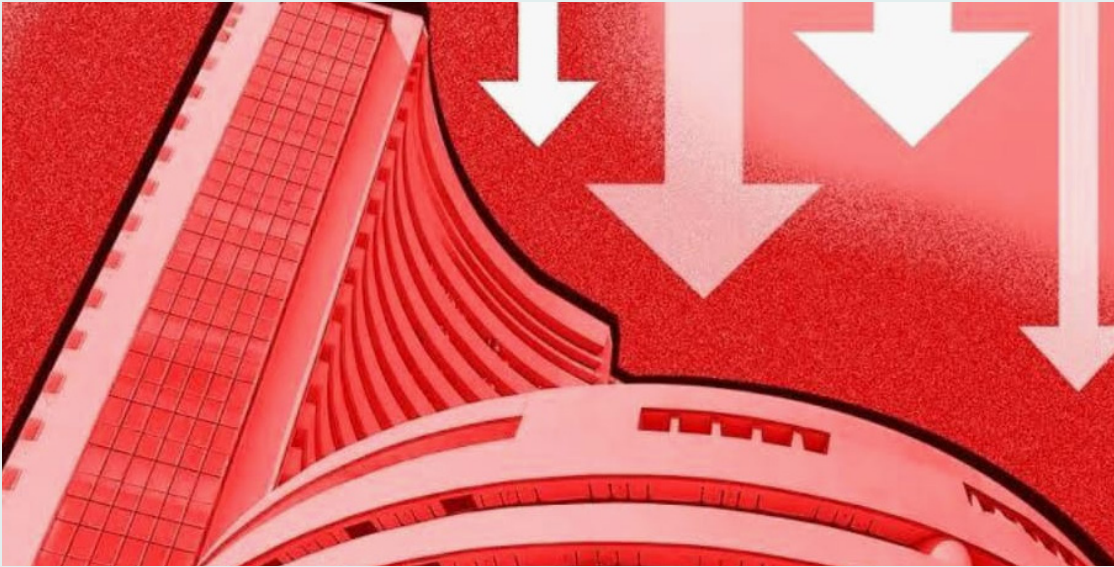


The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,059 in the previous session, opened at 82,116 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 81,153. It reached an intraday high of 82,250. It finally closed at 81,186, down 872 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,996, touched a low of 24,669 and a high of 25,010. It closed at 24,683, down 261 points. The Nifty Bank fell 543 points to settle at 54,877.

In the Nifty50, 7 companies gained while 43 lost. Coal India, Tata Steel, Hindalco, ONGC, Dr. Reddy's were the top gainers. Eternal, Hero Moto, Bajaj Auto, Maruti, Shriram Finance lost the most. Mid and smallcap indices were mixed today. Auto, finance, healthcare, media, FMCG, pharma, realty, private bank, PSU bank, consumer durables, oil, telecom, metal, IT indices rose.

Market breadth in NSE today turned in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2969 shares traded, 915 gained and 1974 lost. 49 shares reached the 52-week high and 18 shares reached the 52-week low. 117 shares reached the upper circuit and 55 shares reached the lower circuit.

20 lakh shares changed hands in GAIL. Max Healthcare's net profit grew by 21% to Rs. 376 crore, while net income grew by 29% to Rs. 2,326 crore. Hindalco's net profit grew by 10.5% to Rs 1561 crore and revenue grew by 13.4% to Rs 25,116 crore. Nazara Technologies acquired Britain's Curve Games for Rs 247 crore. Kirloskar Industries' net profit was Rs 46.8 crore, revenue was Rs 1747 crore and EB-ITA was Rs 205 crore. Zydus Life Sciences' net profit was Rs 1171 crore and revenue reached Rs 6528 crore. SEBI approved the IPOs of Gem Aromatics, Jason's Ind, Caliber Mining, Shree Lotus Developers, Euro Pratik and Credila Fin. Kiri Industries shares rose by 8% today. Nuama analysts estimated that cement prices have increased in many parts of the country due to demand. US debt costs have increased due to Donald Trump's tax bill and Moody's downgrade.



## 1. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRREDDY)

Dr. Reddy's continues to remain a solid performer in the pharmaceutical space. Despite some volatility, the stock is supported by strong fundamentals. The company has recently launched new generics in the U.S. market and maintains a healthy product pipeline. For FY25, revenue and profit have seen steady growth, with improving margins due to cost optimization. However, recent sessions showed mild weakness possibly due to profit booking and sector rotation. Long-term outlook remains positive, especially with a focus on U.S. generics, biosimilars, and emerging markets.



## 2. Tata Motors

Tata Motors remains one of the most actively tracked auto stocks. The company posted strong Q4FY25 results, driven by robust JLR performance, domestic commercial vehicle sales, and electric vehicle (EV) growth. The stock recently reached multi-year highs, backed by high investor confidence in its EV roadmap and improved operating efficiency. Margin improvement and debt reduction are further positives. Analysts remain bullish with multiple brokerages revising target prices upwards.



## 3. LIC of India

LIC has seen a steady performance after a volatile start post its IPO. The insurer reported healthy premium growth and an improved solvency ratio. In the recent quar-



ter, LIC posted better-than-expected net profit, aided by higher investment income and lower payouts. Despite competition in the life insurance sector, LIC remains a market leader by a wide margin. The stock remains attractively valued compared to private peers, though it tends to be impacted by broader PSU sentiment and government disinvestment speculation.

## 4. Coal India

Coal India continues to benefit from strong domestic demand and higher realization per tonne. The stock has seen a steady uptrend in recent months as coal demand for power generation rises. The company reported robust earnings with strong dividend payouts. Operational efficiency and government support for coal-based energy stability make it a strong defensive play. However, environmental and ESG-related concerns remain long-term overhangs.



## 5. Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

L&T remains a bellwether in the capital goods and infrastructure segment. The company posted strong order inflows, especially from domestic infrastructure, defense, and international energy projects. Revenue and profit growth in Q4FY25 remained in line with expectations, and its order book remains at record highs. L&T's continued focus on asset-light businesses and return ratios makes it a favorite among institutional investors. The stock remains a long-term wealth creator backed by India's infra and capex cycle.



# Regulatory Delays and Lack of Transparency Can Undermine FTA Progress: Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has warned that delays in regulatory approvals and lack of transparency in the clearance process can severely impact the timely conclusion of free trade agreements (FTAs) and diminish the value of global business transactions. Her remarks came while addressing the 16th Annual Day celebrations of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on May 20, 2025.



"In today's interconnected and fast-paced economy, delays in regulatory clearance can lead to uncertainty, disrupt commercial timelines, and potentially erode the intended value of transactions," said Ms. Sitharaman. She emphasized that such delays have repercussions not only within domestic markets but also at the international level, particularly during ongoing FTA negotiations with various nations.

The Finance Minister's statement is especially timely as Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is currently in the United States for discussions aimed at finalizing a long-anticipated free trade agreement between the two countries. Simultaneously, India is engaged in parallel FTA negotiations with the European Union and New Zealand, making regulatory clarity and efficiency more critical than ever.

Ms. Sitharaman underscored the need for streamlined, predictable, and transparent regulatory processes to ensure that India remains a credible and competitive trade partner on the global stage. She noted that unpredictable regulatory hurdles can deter investors and create an environment of hesitation and doubt, both of which are detrimental to trade and investment flows.

Her remarks were made in the broader context of enhancing the role of institutions like the Competition Commission of India in ensuring fair competition and fostering a conducive business environment. She called for stronger inter-agency coordination and a commitment to regulatory reforms to minimize friction in deal-making processes.

As India intensifies its global trade engagements, the message from the Finance Minister serves as a clear reminder that efficient regulatory mechanisms are essential not only for economic stability but also for securing India's place in the evolving international trade landscape.

# Supreme Court Rejects AGR Relief Pleas by Vodafone, Airtel, and Tata Teleservices

In a significant development for the Indian telecom sector, the Supreme Court on Monday, May 19, 2025, dismissed petitions filed by Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, and Tata Teleservices seeking relief in the payment of their adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues. The apex court categorically termed the petitions as "misconceived," effectively closing the door on any legal recourse regarding the financial liabilities stemming from the long-standing AGR case.



A Bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan delivered the verdict, rejecting the telcos' request to reconsider the components of their dues, specifically the interest on the principal amount, penalties, and interest on the penalty. The companies had argued for waivers or adjustments, citing financial stress and the disproportionate burden these components imposed.

The Supreme Court, however, reiterated its earlier rulings on the matter and emphasized the finality of its judgments. The Bench noted that any reconsideration of the dues at this stage would set a precedent that undermines judicial sanctity and accountability in the regulatory framework.

The AGR dispute has been a long-running issue in the telecom industry, dating back over a decade. The case centers around the definition of AGR, which includes not just core telecom revenues but also non-core income such as interest, dividend, and rent.

The Supreme Court had previously ruled in favor of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), ordering telecom operators to pay outstanding dues as per the expanded definition.

With this latest verdict, the financial burden on the telecom operators remains substantial, particularly for Vodafone Idea, which continues to struggle with mounting debt and losses. Bharti Airtel, while financially more stable, also faces significant payouts. The companies have already made partial payments, but large sums are still outstanding.

This ruling reaffirms the judiciary's stand on the AGR matter and signals limited judicial tolerance for re-litigation of settled issues. It also places the onus on the government and regulatory bodies to explore any policy-based solutions, should they choose to extend any form of relief to the sector moving forward.

# Rupee Weakens by 13 Paise to 85.55 Against U.S. Dollar Amid Subdued Market Sentiment

In early trade on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the Indian rupee declined by 13 paise to settle at 85.55 against the U.S. dollar. This depreciation comes in the wake of a muted performance in domestic equity markets and continued outflows of foreign funds, reflecting a broader sense of caution among investors.



Forex market analysts attribute the rupee's weakness to a combination of global and domestic factors. A key contributor has been the recent rise in the U.S. 10-year Treasury yield, which has sparked concerns over America's fiscal health and the direction of its monetary policy. The surge in bond yields has pushed up borrowing costs globally, although ironically, it has also led to a decline in the Dollar Index, which measures the strength of the U.S. dollar against a basket of major currencies.

Despite the fall in the Dollar Index, the rupee continues to face pressure due to a lack of strong domestic cues and an ongoing exodus of foreign capital. Equity markets in India opened on a subdued note, with investors awaiting fresh economic data and policy signals. This cautious approach is further compounded by global uncertainties and tightening financial conditions, which have increased the appeal of safe-haven assets.

Experts suggest that unless there is a significant

improvement in market sentiment or a reversal in capital flows, the rupee may remain under pressure in the short term. Additionally, geopolitical tensions and oil price fluctuations are also likely to influence the domestic currency's trajectory.

Market participants will closely monitor statements from the U.S. Federal Reserve and India's upcoming economic indicators for cues on future movement. For now, traders are bracing for continued volatility as macroeconomic headwinds persist.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has so far refrained from major intervention, but its stance could shift if the rupee experiences sharper declines. Meanwhile, importers may face increased costs, while exporters could see short-term gains due to the weaker currency.



# World Press Photo Suspends Credit for Iconic ‘Napalm Girl’ Image Amid Authorship Dispute

One of the most powerful and iconic images from the Vietnam War — the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of a terrified, naked nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phuc running from a napalm attack — is now at the center of a growing controversy.

World Press Photo, which honored the image as its 1973 “Photo of the Year,” has announced it is suspending attribution to long-credited photographer Nick Ut of the Associated Press (AP), following a fresh investigation into the image’s authorship.

The decision stems from new claims brought to light by The Stringer, a documentary that premiered at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival. The film suggests that Vietnamese freelance photographer Nguyen Thanh Nghe, not Mr. Ut, may have actually taken the photograph on June 8, 1972, near the village of Trang Bang.

According to the documentary, Nghe was among several photographers present when South Vietnamese planes mistakenly dropped napalm on a group of civilians. The film alleges Nghe captured the image and later sold it to AP, which credited staff photographer Nick Ut.

World Press Photo cited both the documentary and new visual analysis in its decision. “The level of doubt is too significant to maintain the existing attribution,” said Joumana El Zein Khoury, the foundation’s executive director.

Nick Ut, who won a Pulitzer in 1973 for the photo, strongly denies the claims. His attorney, Jim Hornstein, criticized the move, calling it “de-



plorable and unprofessional.”

The AP also weighed in, releasing a 96-page report that includes interviews, technical studies, and photo forensics. While the report found no definitive evidence to change the attribution, it acknowledged that gaps in information prevent a conclusive determination.

A third photographer, military photojournalist Huynh Cong Phuc, is also mentioned as a possible author.

The Pulitzer Prize Board stated it has no plans to revisit Ut’s award, emphasizing that authorship is determined by submitting news organizations — in this case, the AP.

For now, World Press Photo’s suspension of credit remains in effect unless further evidence emerges to clearly confirm or refute the original attribution.

# Viral Video Shows A Day in the Life of a Matcha Farmer in Japan, Wins Hearts Online

Matcha has become a global sensation, appearing in everything from lattes and smoothies to cakes and skin-care. But behind the vibrant green powder lies a meticulous and labor-intensive farming process that few have seen—until now.

A heartwarming reel shared by Instagram user Max (@matchabae) offers a rare glimpse into the daily life of a matcha farmer in Japan. The video has gone viral, garnering widespread appreciation for its simplicity, authenticity, and the effort it showcases behind the matcha we so often enjoy.

The video begins at 6:30 am, as Max starts his day. After slipping on his footwear, he heads into the kitchen with his laptop and prepares breakfast around 7 am. His morning meal is wholesome and modest, featuring a bowl of yoghurt with cereal, banana, and a few additional ingredients—a nourishing start before a long day on the farm.

By 8 am, Max is on the move. He loads his truck with large black mats—special coverings used to shade the tea plants. This shading process is crucial in matcha farming, as it increases chlorophyll production and enhances the flavor of the leaves.

Once at the farm, the reel shows Max and fellow workers carefully rolling out the coverings



over rows of lush green tea plants. The process is surprisingly detailed. Battling strong winds that keep lifting the mats, Max remarks, “The wind has been so insane. They keep getting pulled up.” He demonstrates how the coverings must be tied “three times around the branches” to hold them securely in place.

The serene visuals of the farm, combined with Max’s calm narration and dedication, have captivated viewers worldwide. The reel offers a touching reminder of the craftsmanship and care that go into producing even the simplest ingredients in our daily lives.

Social media users have flooded the comments with praise, expressing newfound respect for matcha farmers and gratitude for this intimate look at their world. The video is a quiet tribute to slow living, hard work, and nature’s rhythm—one that continues to resonate with thousands.

# Is AI Overhyped? New Study Shows Little Impact on Jobs and Wages

Despite the global hype surrounding artificial intelligence (AI), a new study suggests its real-world impact on jobs and wages may be far more modest than expected. As fears grow over AI replacing human workers and reshaping entire industries, early research now paints a different picture.

A working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research in Denmark has found that AI’s effect on the labour market is minimal so far. The study analyzed data from 25,000 workers across 7,000 workplaces—primarily in occupations considered highly vulnerable to AI disruption, such as accountants, customer service representatives, financial advisors, HR professionals, software de-



velopers, and teachers.

The researchers, economists Anders Humlum and Emilie Vester-

gaard, reported that AI usage led to only a three percent reduction in work hours, with productivity gains translating into just a three to seven

percent increase in pay. “AI chatbots have had no significant impact on earnings or recorded hours in any occupation,” they wrote.

This evidence runs counter to the dominant narrative of AI driving massive workplace transformation or triggering job losses on a wide scale. “While adoption has been rapid, with firms heavily invested in unlocking technological potential, the economic impacts remain small,” the paper notes.

The authors argue that while companies may be eager to embrace AI for cost-cutting and efficiency, the actual benefits in terms of productivity and wage growth have been underwhelming. “Modest productiv-

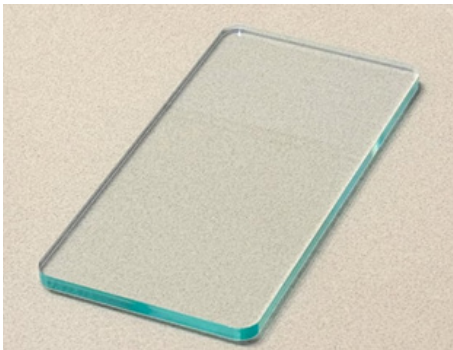
ity gains, combined with weak wage pass-through, help explain the limited labor market effects,” they added.

The findings challenge corporate strategies currently underway. For instance, cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike recently laid off five percent of its staff, citing AI integration as the reason. Similarly, Duolingo announced it would phase out contractors in favor of AI tools, echoing a shift it made in 2012 when it transitioned fully to mobile.

As businesses bet big on AI, this study serves as a sobering reminder that the technology’s economic impact—at least for now—might not be as revolutionary as many expected.

# No Apps, No Notifications: US Startup’s ‘Fake’ Phone Goes Viral as a Cure for Screen Addiction

In an age where digital overload is increasingly linked to anxiety and reduced attention spans, a US-based startup has taken an unconventional approach to tackle phone addiction — by creating a phone that doesn’t actually do anything.



Enter the Methaphone, a minimalist, screenless device designed to replicate the shape, weight, and feel of a smartphone, but with zero functionality. Priced at just \$20, this “fake” phone features a smooth, transparent acrylic surface, allowing users to mimic the scrolling motion so familiar in daily life—without accessing any content or notifications.

The Methaphone gained widespread attention after a TikTok video went viral, showing a woman scrolling on what appeared to be a futuristic transparent phone. Speculation erupted online, with some users calling it a new “Nokia glass phone.” It was later revealed that the object was actually a Methaphone — a psychological tool aimed at helping people break their compulsive phone habits.

Made from durable clear acrylic, the Methaphone is shaped like a modern smartphone and offers a tactile experience that mirrors

the feel of real devices. It’s designed for people who often reach for their phones out of habit or boredom, rather than necessity.

“When the urge strikes to pick up your phone and scroll aimlessly, the Methaphone offers a similar physical sensation without the distraction,” the company said in a statement. “It’s a way to become conscious of your screen time without going cold turkey.”

The idea is based on the principle of substitution therapy—redirecting habitual behavior to a non-disruptive alternative. By replacing real phones with Methaphones during moments of mindless scrolling, users can become more aware of their digital consumption and begin reducing it gradually.

The product has sparked a mix of curiosity, praise, and skepticism online. While some call it a clever mental health tool, others view it as a commentary on how deeply ingrained our tech habits have become.

Still, in a world where constant connectivity is the norm, the Methaphone offers a refreshingly low-tech response — no apps, no alerts, just mindful mimicry.

# FaceAge: The AI Tool That Measures Your Health from a Selfie

A groundbreaking AI tool called FaceAge is making waves in the medical community by promising to assess a person’s health simply from a photograph. Developed by researchers at Mass General Brigham, a leading nonprofit healthcare system based in Boston, FaceAge uses deep learning algorithms to analyze facial features and predict a patient’s “biological health age” rather than just their chronological age.

FaceAge is inspired by the traditional “eyeball test” used by physicians—an intuitive, quick judgment about a patient’s health based on appearance. However, while human doctors might rely on subjective experience, FaceAge uses large datasets and AI to deliver a more standardized, objective measurement. According to the research team, this system evaluates visible facial cues such as skin texture, muscle tone, and other subtle features to estimate how “aged” a person appears in terms of overall health.

The goal is not to tell you how many birthdays you’ve had, but rather how your body is aging biologically. This distinction matters: two people aged 50 chronologically might differ significantly in biological age depending on factors like lifestyle, disease, and genetics. A person with a biological age of 60 may be at higher health risk than someone whose biological age is closer to 40.

Published in The Lancet Digital Health on May



8, 2025, the study highlights how FaceAge could help doctors make faster, data-driven decisions, especially in emergency and critical care settings. Early results suggest that FaceAge’s assessments correlate with health outcomes and mortality risk more accurately than some traditional methods.

That said, the researchers caution that FaceAge is still in the experimental phase and not ready for clinical deployment. More testing across diverse populations and environments is needed before it can become a trusted tool in hospitals or clinics.

Still, the potential is immense. In a future shaped by AI, FaceAge could help personalize treatments, monitor aging, and even catch health issues before symptoms appear—all from a single selfie.



# Mumbai Indians Sign Three Replacements Ahead of IPL 2025 Playoffs

Mumbai Indians have announced the signing of three new players ahead of the IPL 2025 playoffs, replacing key overseas names who are returning for national duties. Among the incoming players is Sri Lankan captain Charith Asalanka, who has reportedly secured a hefty ₹5.25 crore deal — a significant amount for a mid-season replacement. The franchise confirmed the arrivals of Asalanka, England pacer Richard Gleeson, and seasoned English batter Jonny Bairstow. These signings are necessitated by the departure of South Africa's Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch, along with England's Will Jacks. All three will be leaving the IPL due to international commitments ahead of the playoffs.

Will Jacks, who briefly returned to India to play MI's final group-stage matches, will now head back to England for their home ODI series against the West Indies, starting May 29. This international duty overlaps with the IPL's playoff schedule, rendering him unavailable for the remainder of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch have been called up by Cricket South Africa in preparation for the World Test Championship final. As per ESPNcricinfo, they are required to report back by May 27, which means their IPL campaign is effectively over.

Charith Asalanka, currently leading Sri Lanka, brings leadership and all-round capabilities, making him a valuable addition during the crucial knockout stages. His signing fee



reflects Mumbai Indians' urgency to bolster their middle order with a reliable overseas performer.

Richard Gleeson, known for his sharp pace and death-over skills, adds depth to the bowling attack in the absence of Bosch. Jonny Bairstow's inclusion brings top-order experience and explosive batting prowess. Having played 50 IPL matches with stints at Punjab Kings (2022, 2024) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (2019–2021), Bairstow adds both experience and firepower to the Mumbai lineup.

With these timely reinforcements, Mumbai Indians are looking to strengthen their campaign as they gear up for the high-pressure playoff encounters, aiming to secure another IPL title in their storied history.

# Thailand, Nepal Qualify for ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Global Qualifier

Thailand and Nepal have officially booked their places in the Global Qualifier for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, following strong performances in the Asia Regional Qualifier's Super Three stage. Alongside the UAE, both teams competed in a round-robin format, with the top two sides earning spots in the next round of qualification.

Nepal sealed their progression on Monday with a nail-biting five-wicket win over the UAE in Bangkok. Chasing 115, Nepal paced their innings carefully, reaching the target in the final over. Key contributions came from skipper Indu Barma (30) and Rubina Chhetry (23), while Manisha Upadhyay impressed with the ball, claiming 4/20 to restrict the UAE to 114/7 in 20 overs.

Nepal's disciplined bowling attack never allowed the UAE to build momentum, despite a steady 39 from opener Esha Oza. Tight fielding and consistent pressure meant the Emirati side fell short of a defendable total on a decent batting surface.

Thailand, on the other hand, had already confirmed their spot with a dominant victory over the UAE in an earlier Super Three clash. Led by Narue-mol Chaiwai, Thailand posted 144/5 thanks to a dynamic 46\* off just 20 balls by Natthakan Chantham and a steady 49 from Nattaya Boochatham. The UAE faltered in their chase after the early loss of Oza and finished at 90/5, never truly threatening the target.

With one Super Three fixture remaining—Thailand vs Nepal—both teams are now uncatchable at the top of the standings, confirming their advancement.



Thailand and Nepal will join Bangladesh, Scotland, and the USA at the Global Qualifier. Bangladesh and Scotland earned automatic entries due to their participation in the last ICC Women's T20 World Cup, while the USA secured their place through the Americas Qualifier held in Argentina in March.

Additional teams will qualify via the upcoming Europe and Africa regional tournaments, each offering two spots. One final team will qualify through the East Asia-Pacific region.

The Global Qualifier will determine the final four spots for the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales, joining the already qualified Australia, India, New Zealand, South Africa, West Indies, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and host nation England.

# Kidambi Srikanth Enters Main Draw of Malaysia Masters, Other Indians Fall in Qualifiers

Veteran Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the main draw of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament with two convincing wins in the qualification rounds on Tuesday. However, it was a disappointing day overall for Indian badminton, as none of the other singles or doubles players managed to progress beyond the qualifiers. Srikanth, a silver medallist at the 2021 World Championships and former world No. 1, showed signs of a strong comeback. After a slow start in his second qualifying match, he bounced back impressively to defeat Huang Yu Kai of Chinese Taipei 9-21, 21-12, 21-6. Earlier in the day, the 32-year-old had made light work of another Taipei shuttler, Kuo Kuan Lin, winning 21-8, 21-13 in straight games. Srikanth will now face a tough test in the main draw as he goes up against sixth-seeded Chinese player Lu Guang Zu in the opening round. Lu is known for his aggressive style of play and has consistently been among the top-ranked Chinese singles players in recent years.



Meanwhile, the rest of the Indian contingent had a forgettable outing in the qualifying rounds. Tharun Manne-palli narrowly lost to Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul in straight but closely contested games, 13-21, 21-23. S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian also fought hard but went down 20-22, 20-22 to China's Zhu Xuan Chen. In women's singles, young Indian prospect Anmol Kharb, a key member of India's historic Asian Team gold medal-winning squad last year, failed to advance as she lost 14-21, 18-21 to Hung Yi-Ting of Chinese Taipei. The mixed doubles pair of Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan were also unable to make it past the qualifiers, falling 15-21, 16-21 to the Malaysian duo of Ming Yap Too and Lee Yu Shan. Top Indian stars PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy are scheduled to begin their campaigns in the main draw of the \$475,000 tournament on Wednesday, with hopes resting on their performances to bring glory for India in Kuala Lumpur.

# India's Star Javelin Thrower At Olympics Fails Dope Test, May Be Banned

Indian javelin thrower Shivpal Singh, who represented the country at the Tokyo Olympics, has once again found himself embroiled in a doping scandal. Sources have revealed that Shivpal has been provisionally suspended after traces of methandienone, a banned anabolic steroid, were found in his sample during an out-of-competition test conducted earlier this year. Shivpal, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, was training at the National Centre of Excellence in Patiala under the guidance of India's javelin coach Sergey Makarov when the test was conducted. Following the test, he notably did not participate in the National Federation Senior Athletics Championships held in Kochi in April, raising early questions about his absence. This is not Shivpal's first brush with anti-doping regulations. In October 2021, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) suspended him for four years after methandienone was detected in his sample. However, in January 2023, the ban was reduced to one year following a successful appeal



by his legal representative, Parth Goswami. The appeal was based on Shivpal's claim that the positive result stemmed from a contaminated supplement, the name of which he had disclosed during the doping

control process. Despite having already served a suspension, this latest development places the 28-year-old athlete in serious jeopardy. Under current anti-doping rules, a second offence carries a much harsher penalty—Shivpal could now face an eight-year ban if found guilty. That outcome could effectively end his professional athletics career. Shivpal's case is particularly disheartening given his position as one of India's few Olympic-level javelin throwers. At the Tokyo Games, he finished 27th in the qualifying round. Though he has never reached the heights of Neeraj Chopra, India's Olympic gold medallist, Shivpal was seen as a strong national contender in the sport. The recurrence of methandienone in his samples raises significant concerns about either negligence or intent, both of which will be closely examined by NADA during the ongoing investigation. As of now, Shivpal awaits a final ruling, and the future of his athletic career hangs in the balance.

# Rajasthan Royals Crush CSK as 14-Year-Old Suryavanshi Steals the Show

In a match that could go down as a turning point in IPL history, 14-year-old prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi delivered a stunning half-century to guide Rajasthan Royals (RR) to a six-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in their IPL 2025 encounter. The win not only boosts RR's playoff hopes but also all but confirms CSK's place at the bottom of the table for the first time in the tournament's storied history. After being asked to bat first, CSK posted a competitive total of 187/8 in their 20 overs. The innings was anchored by strong contributions from Ayush Mah-tre and Dewald Brevis, both scoring gritty forties to give Chennai momentum through the middle overs. However, the rest of the batting lineup struggled to capitalize, as RR's disciplined bowling attack struck regularly to prevent CSK from crossing the 200-run mark. Rajasthan's reply began steadily with Ya-shasvi Jaiswal getting the team off to a



solid start. But the real highlight of the chase came when the teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi walked to the crease. Displaying composure beyond his years, Suryavanshi played a mature

and fearless knock, combining classical strokes with innovative shot-making to keep the scoreboard ticking. He found a reliable partner in skipper Sanju Samson, and together they forged a crucial 98-run partnership that turned the tide of the match. Once Suryavanshi departed after his memorable half-century, the finishing duties were taken over by Dhruv Jurel, who calmly sealed the chase with sharp running and well-placed boundaries in the final overs. The win not only reaffirms Rajasthan Royals' reputation for nurturing young talent but also serves as a sobering moment for Chennai Super Kings, who now face the prospect of finishing at the bottom of the IPL standings for the first time in their history. As for Suryavanshi, his performance has already ignited comparisons with past greats, and the cricketing world will be watching closely to see what this young star does next.



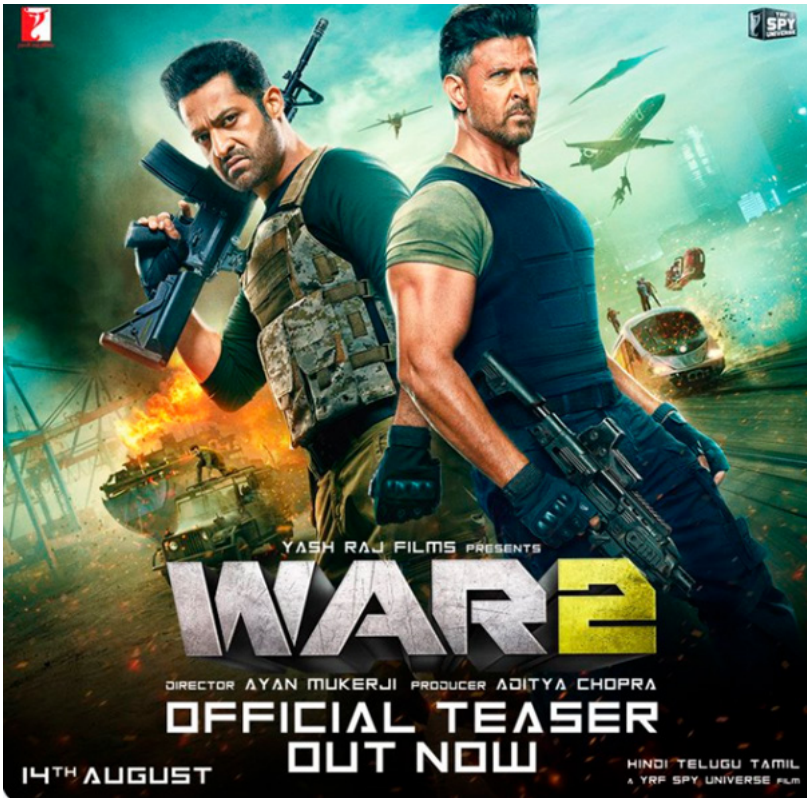


## War 2 Teaser: Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR Set the Screen Ablaze in This Explosive Action Promo

The teaser for War 2, one of the most awaited action thrillers of 2025, is finally out, and it lives up to the massive hype. Directed by Ayan Mukerji and produced by Yash Raj Films, War 2 is a pivotal addition to the YRF Spy Universe. The film also marks Telugu superstar Jr NTR's much-anticipated debut in Bollywood, starring alongside Hrithik Roshan, who reprises his role as Agent Kabir. The teaser was unveiled today, coinciding with NTR's birthday, much to the delight of his fans.

The teaser kicks off with a gripping voiceover by NTR: "Kabir was RAW's best agent... But not anymore." This bold declaration immediately sets the tone for the power-packed showdown between the two leads. We are quickly thrown into high-octane visuals of action sequences, face-offs, and an electric clash of egos and strength. The chemistry between Hrithik and NTR crackles onscreen, promising an intense rivalry and dynamic performances.

Kiara Advani, who plays the female lead, appears briefly but leaves a mark with her glamorous presence. Her role seems poised to add both style and intrigue to the narrative. While the background score may not be as thunderous as those in South Indian teasers, it complements the visuals effectively. The cinematography is slick and stylish, capturing exotic locations and tightly choreographed stunts



that define the YRF action template.

War 2 seems to tick all the right boxes for a blockbuster: a star-studded cast, intense action, global locations, dazzling visuals, and pulsating dance numbers. With its mix of commercial ingredients and patriotic undertones, the film aims squarely at mass appeal across India.

With music by Pritam and a pan-India release planned in Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil, War 2 is slated to hit theatres worldwide on August 14, 2025—just in time for the Independence Day weekend. If the teaser is anything to go by, fans are in for a thrilling cinematic ride.

## ‘Anaganaga’ Wins Hearts and Crosses 100 Million Streaming Minutes on ETV Win

In just five days since its premiere, Anaganaga has emerged as a breakout success on OTT, capturing audiences' hearts and clocking over 100 million streaming minutes on ETV Win. The emotional drama, headlined by Sumanth, has been widely praised for its sincerity, grounded storytelling, and relatable themes — quickly becoming a fan-favourite across age groups.

Directed by Sunny Sanjay, Anaganaga avoids the usual OTT spectacle in favour of a more intimate, character-driven narrative. It tells a heartfelt story that resonates deeply with viewers, thanks to its emotional core and restrained execution. The absence of over-the-top sequences and the film's focus on raw human emotion have made it stand out in a crowded digital space.

Sumanth's mature performance has earned him considerable appreciation, with many calling it one of his best in recent years. The film also features impressive performances from Kajal Chowdhary, Master Viharsh, Avasarala Srinivas, Anu Hasan, and Rakesh Rachakonda. Each actor brings authenticity and emotional depth to their roles, adding richness to the film's narrative.

What's also notable is the growing celebrity support for Anaganaga, with several prominent voices from the Telugu film industry praising the film on social media. Many have called it one of the most genuine and touching films they've watched recently, further amplifying its visibility and reach.

Produced by Rakesh Reddy Gadam and Rudra Madireddy, the film benefits from a tight script and thoughtful direction. The music,



composed by Chandu Ravi, blends seamlessly with the storytelling, enhancing the film's emotional impact without overshadowing it.

The 100 million streaming minutes milestone reflects not only the film's wide appeal but also the growing demand for quality, content-driven regional cinema on OTT platforms. As Anaganaga continues to gain momentum, it's clear that audiences are responding strongly to stories rooted in emotion, simplicity, and truth.

With this success, Anaganaga firmly establishes itself as one of the most impactful Telugu OTT releases of the year so far.

## ‘NTRNeel’: A Storm in the Making, Makers Unveil Special Birthday Poster

As Tollywood superstar Jr NTR celebrates his birthday today, the makers of his upcoming pan-India action spectacle, tentatively titled NTRNeel, stirred excitement by unveiling a special birthday poster. The film, directed by action maestro Prashanth Neel and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, promises to be one of the most explosive cinematic events of 2026.

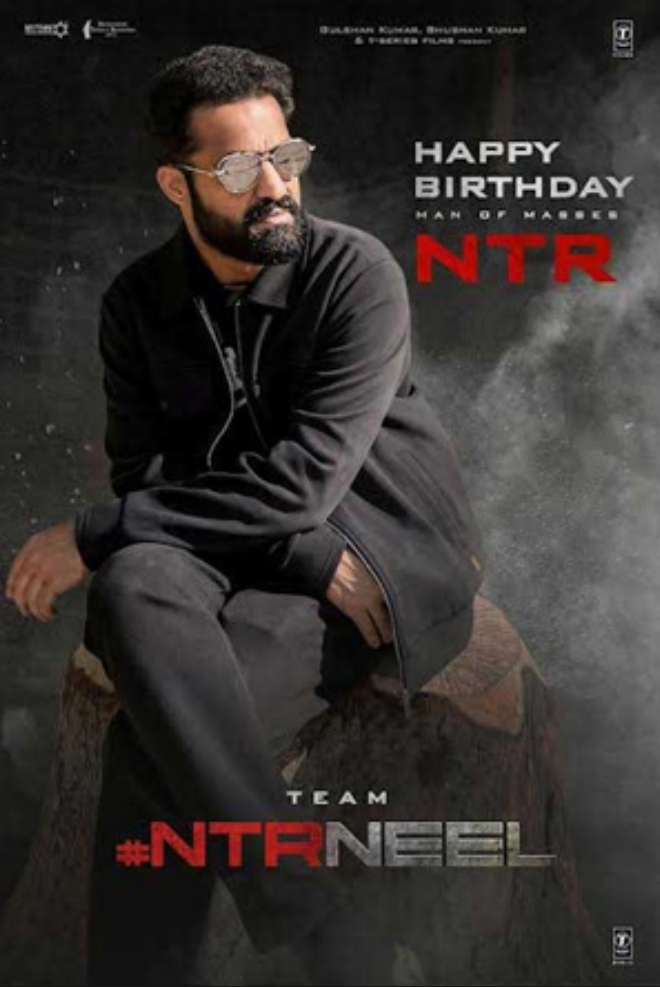
Marking the occasion, the team shared a striking poster on social media, featuring NTR in a lean and athletic avatar, dressed in a sleek black tracksuit. His intense look, combined with the rugged backdrop, exudes raw energy and unrelenting power. The caption accompanying the poster read: "A mass missile that's always hungry to hunt. NTRNeel is built to worship every moment of this storm." This power-packed statement perfectly captures the film's tone and the persona NTR is set to embody.

While fans were eagerly awaiting a first glimpse or teaser from the film, the makers respectfully postponed its release to allow the spotlight to remain on the War 2 teaser, which also features NTR. However, the birthday poster alone has been enough to set social media buzzing, with fans praising NTR's fierce new look and the film's intense vibe.

NTRNeel recently concluded an important shooting schedule near Mangalore, Karnataka, with high-octane sequences reportedly

filmed during this phase. The film is being crafted as a large-scale action thriller, with Prashanth Neel—known for KGF and Salaar—bringing his signature visual grandeur and gritty storytelling to the table.

Backed by the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers, NTRNeel is shaping up to be a pan-India release, target-



ing a massive theatrical rollout on June 25, 2026. The project is one of the most anticipated in Indian cinema, not just because of the director-actor collaboration but also due to its scale and vision.

As fans continue to celebrate NTR's birthday, the NTRNeel poster has only added fuel to the anticipation, promising a cinematic storm that's just beginning to brew.

## Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning

Tom Cruise Wore '125 Pound' Diving Suit For Underwater Sequence

Hollywood icon Tom Cruise has long been celebrated for performing his own death-defying stunts, but for the final chapter of the Mission: Impossible franchise, the actor has taken his physical commitment to a whole new level. As Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning marks the end of the high-octane series, Cruise went all-in to ensure the film delivers a fitting finale. According to a report by Variety, one of the movie's standout action sequences required Cruise to wear a specially designed diving suit that weighed a staggering 125 pounds. The intense underwater scene reportedly pushed the actor to his physical and mental limits. Known for always preferring practical effects over CGI, Cruise trained



extensively for the sequence, focusing on breath control, mobility, and strength conditioning. The heavy suit, designed for deep-sea dives and customized for the film's needs, made movement incredibly difficult, further elevating the danger and complexity of the shoot. "Tom thrives on challenges, and he wanted this scene to be as authentic and thrilling as possible," a crew member

told Variety. "Wearing that suit and performing underwater stunts required a level of discipline and physicality that only a few actors could pull off." This isn't the first time Cruise has pushed boundaries for the Mission: Impossible franchise. Over the years, he's famously clung to the side of a flying plane, scaled the Burj Khalifa, performed high-speed motor-

cycle chases, and completed over 500 skydives — all in the name of cinematic realism.

The Final Reckoning, directed by long-time collaborator Christopher McQuarrie, is expected to be a massive conclusion to the beloved action series. The film will reportedly tie together major storylines and deliver some of the most ambitious stunts yet seen in the franchise.

While plot details are tightly under wraps, Cruise's latest stunt is just one of many reasons fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release. With each installment, the Mission: Impossible series has redefined action cinema — and it seems the final mission will be no exception.

## ‘OMG 3’: Akshay and Director Amit Rai Brainstorm Ideas for Next Installment

Film Likely to Roll in 2026

Fans of the popular OMG (Oh My God) franchise have reason to be excited, as actor Akshay Kumar and director Amit Rai are currently developing ideas for the highly anticipated third installment, OMG 3. Following the success of the previous two films, the creative duo is now deep into discussions to shape the next chapter of the satirical drama series. According to sources close to the project, director Amit Rai recently accompanied Akshay Kumar during the shoot of Bhoot Bangla, a horror-comedy directed by Priyadarshan and filmed in Kerala. The shoot also featured actress Wamiqa Gabbi, and a song from the film was completed over three days in scenic locations across the state.

While in Kerala, Amit Rai and Akshay Kumar took time to brainstorm multiple concepts for OMG 3. A source told Pinkvilla, "Amit had sev-



eral storylines in mind for the third part of OMG, and he presented them to Akshay during their time together. They explored different narrative directions and discussed which themes could resonate most with the audience."

The OMG franchise is known for tackling socially relevant issues with a satirical twist. The original OMG:

Oh My God! (2012) focused on blind faith and religious dogma, while OMG 2 (2023) addressed sex education and societal taboos in a bold yet sensitive manner. With both films striking a chord with audiences and critics alike, expectations for the third installment are high.

"The jamming session between Akshay and Amit went really well," the source added. "The next step is for Amit Rai to finalize a compelling script. Once the narrative is locked in, the project is expected to go on floors in the latter half of 2026."

While official details about the plot or cast are yet to be revealed, fans can rest assured that OMG 3 is in active development, with Akshay Kumar and Amit Rai determined to deliver another thought-provoking cinematic experience.