



PM Modi vows continued support for Amaravati's revival

Lays foundation for Rs. 60,000 crore projects

Hails Amaravati as symbol of Andhra's future

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PROMISE IN WORDS, NOT IN NUMBERS

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who virtually participated in the inauguration ceremony of Amaravati's reconstruction, began his address in Telugu, paying homage to the divine and historic spirit of the land. He said he was honoured to stand on the holy soil of Amaravati, which he described as not just a city, but a dream poised to become reality. "Now I am standing on the sacred land of Amaravati. I see not just a city... I feel a dream about to come true. Amaravati will give rise to a new Andhra Pradesh," Modi declared. He said projects worth ₹60,000 crore had either been launched or had their foundation stone laid as part of this new development phase. Calling Amaravati the "capital of Indraloka and now the capital of

Andhra Pradesh," Modi said the city embodies the power to transform AP into a modern and progressive state. He envisioned Amaravati as a hub for IT, AI, green energy, clean industries, medical care, and education, and assured that the central government would provide full support in building its infrastructure. Recalling his association with the state's development, Modi said, "I laid the foundation stone for Amaravati as the people's capital in 2015. In the past ten years, the Centre has supported Amaravati's growth and will continue to support it in every way." The Prime Minister praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision and execution capacity, recalling how Gujarat officials were once sent to Hyderabad to study its IT progress under Naidu's leadership. "Whether it is undertaking huge

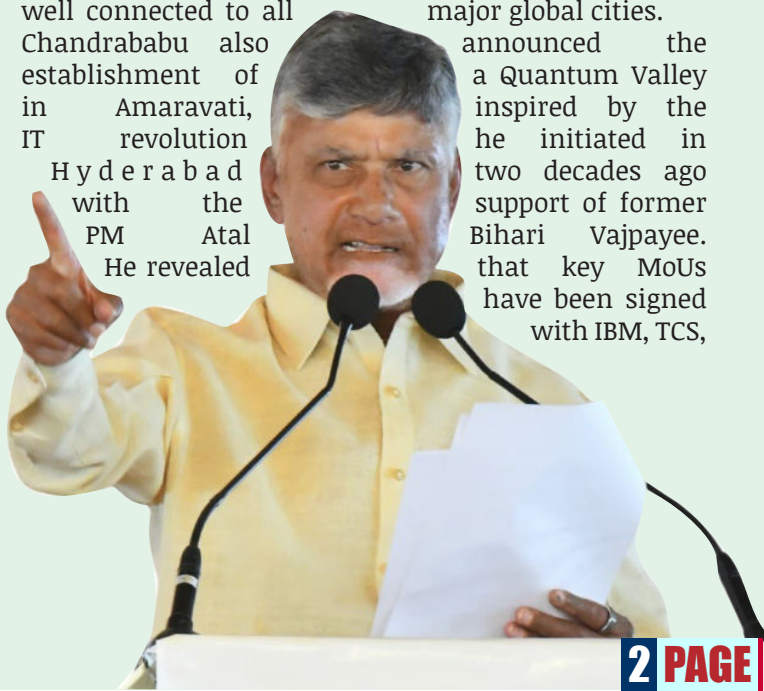
projects or completing them quickly, there's no better leader in the country than Chandrababu," he affirmed. Modi acknowledged the significant role of Jana Sena Chief and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, referring to him as a strong pillar in the government. He said the time had come for all forces to unite and realise the dreams of legendary leader N.T. Rama Rao. The Prime Minister also emphasized that connectivity will be a key driver in Andhra Pradesh's growth, citing the Naidupeta-Renigunta highway as an example of fast-paced infrastructure development. "Devotees going for darshan to Tirupati Venkateswara Swamy can now travel faster, thanks to the new highway. Rail and road projects worth thousands of crores are underway," Modi added. Despite the grandeur of the occasion

and Modi's powerful oratory, many observers note that Andhra Pradesh still needs much more than promises and foundation stones. The ₹60,000 crore figure includes several pre-existing or previously stalled projects, and there is little clarity on timelines, specific allocations to Amaravati, or a dedicated financial package that Andhra Pradesh has long awaited since bifurcation. While Prime Minister Modi's words struck an emotional chord and the visible show of unity between the Centre and the state government offers hope, Andhra Pradesh continues to seek concrete commitments beyond symbolic announcements. A state struggling with a financial deficit, stalled capital plans, and infrastructure gaps will need not just encouragement, but actionable and measurable support to truly realise its development vision.

MODI AND AMARAVATI REMEMBERED IN THE HISTORY

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, while addressing the inauguration ceremony of Amaravati reconstruction works, expressed confidence that Amaravati will soon stand as a world-class capital with the full support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that this day will be written in golden letters in Andhra Pradesh's history. Naidu emphasized that Amaravati is not just a city, but an emotional bond for five crore Andhras. He recalled how 29,000 farmers voluntarily handed over 34,000 acres of land for the capital's construction. "Their sacrifices and the unprecedented Amaravati movement will always remain unforgettable," he said. He slammed the previous YSRCP government, stating that the state's economy was on a ventilator, and Amaravati was neglected and left to decay. "Now, with the overwhelming mandate from the people and a 94% strike rate by the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance, Amaravati has been revived," he declared. The Chief Minister announced that Amaravati would be built to reflect modernity, heritage, and sustainability — a pollution-free, green-energy-based smart city. He revealed plans for transforming the city into an education and medical hub capable of accommodating five lakh students, and stated that Amaravati will be well connected to all major global cities. Chandrababu also announced the establishment of a Quantum Valley in Amaravati, inspired by the IT revolution he initiated in Hyderabad two decades ago. He revealed that key MoUs with the PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee that support of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee that key MoUs have been signed with IBM, TCS,



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IT'S THE VICTORY OF AMARAVATI FARMERS

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a passionate address during the grand inauguration ceremony of the Andhra Pradesh capital at Amaravati, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan hailed the decades-long struggle and sacrifices of Amaravati farmers, calling their contribution the foundation of the state's future. "The farmers of Amaravati have not just given land — they have gifted the future to Andhra Pradesh," said Pawan Kalyan, as he bowed his head in respect. He described their long-standing movement as a "battle of Dharma" that had now achieved a victorious conclusion. Pawan Kalyan assured the farmers that the state government would stand by them completely. "I take personal responsibility for the well-being of every farmer who gave land for Amaravati," he declared, pledging to repay all their pending loans and ensure their economic and social security. He lashed out at the previous YSRCP government, comparing its actions to the Diviseema cyclone, which he said devastated the aspirations and lives of Amaravati farmers. "Their dreams were buried under political vendetta," he said, adding that the sacrifices of the farmers will never be forgotten.

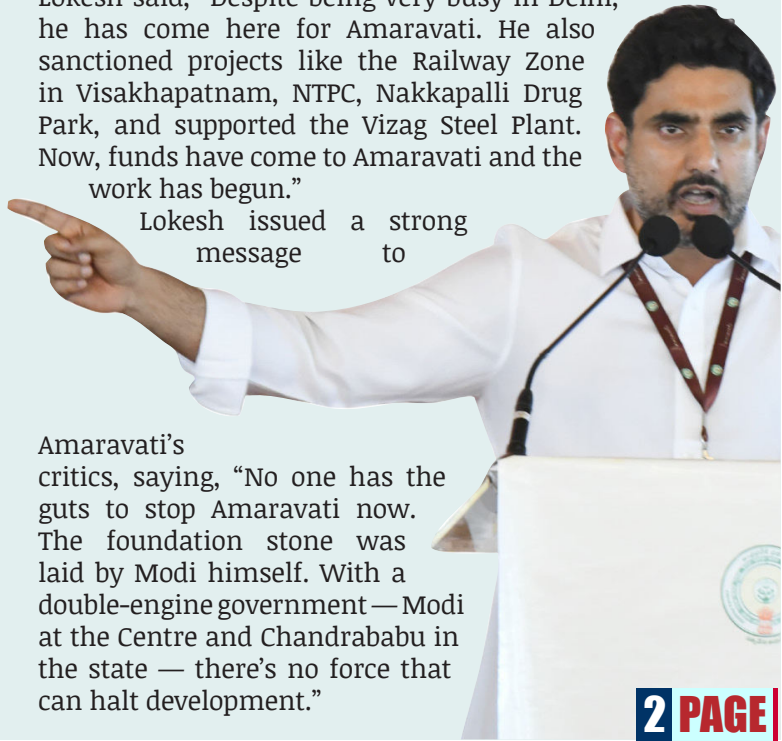


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NO ONE CAN STOP AMARAVATI NOW

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh, speaking at the resumption ceremony of Amaravati capital works, delivered a fiery speech, linking national security, rapid development, and the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He began his address by paying tribute to the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, and made a bold statement: "Even grass cannot be plucked on Indian soil by terrorists." He went on to declare, "Even if a hundred Pakistanis come, we have one missile to answer them — and that missile is Narendra Modi." Lokesh expressed strong confidence that Pakistan would face serious consequences under Modi's leadership, adding that even resignations within the Pakistan Army show the pressure NaMo is exerting. "They should not play games in front of a lion... Pakistan will vanish from the world map if they do," he warned. Lokesh also praised Modi for taking a historic decision to conduct a caste census, calling it a long-awaited move that no government dared to take. He said this bold step once again proves Modi's commitment to inclusive governance. Highlighting Modi's dedication to Andhra Pradesh, Lokesh said, "Despite being very busy in Delhi, he has come here for Amaravati. He also sanctioned projects like the Railway Zone in Visakhapatnam, NTPC, Nakkapalli Drug Park, and supported the Vizag Steel Plant. Now, funds have come to Amaravati and the work has begun." Lokesh issued a strong message to Amaravati's critics, saying, "No one has the guts to stop Amaravati now. The foundation stone was laid by Modi himself. With a double-engine government — Modi at the Centre and Chandrababu in the state — there's no force that can halt development."



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India's Largest Quantum Computer to be Set Up in Amaravati

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a landmark announcement, IBM, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh have unveiled plans to deploy India's largest quantum computer at the soon-to-be-completed Quantum Valley Tech Park in Amaravati, making Andhra

Pradesh the hub of India's quantum technology revolution. The tech park will be anchored by IBM's most advanced quantum system to date — the IBM Quantum System Two, featuring a 156-qubit Heron processor. This deployment marks the first such installation in India and is expected to significantly accelerate the country's

progress under its National Quantum Mission. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said, "Our National Quantum Mission is to make India a global hub in the quantum industry... The Quantum Valley Tech Park represents how industry and academia will together

push the nation's innovation frontier." He acknowledged the role of IBM, TCS, L&T and other stakeholders in shaping this pioneering project. IBM's Vice President of Quantum, Jay Gambetta, noted that the deployment of Quantum System Two will attract India's top developers, scientists, and experts to build quantum applications.

"This could be the next critical step toward a successful demonstration of quantum advantage," he said. TCS, through its Hybrid Computing strategy, will partner with IBM to build industry-specific quantum algorithms spanning life sciences,

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AP Liquor Scam: Raj Kasireddy in SIT Custody

- **ACB court allows one-week custody for in-depth investigation**
- **Medical tests done before interrogation begins at SIT office**
- **SIT probing role of ex CMO official’s links**

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a significant development in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case, the ACB court has granted the Special Investigation Team (SIT) custody of prime accused Raj Kasireddy for a week. Following the court’s permission, SIT officials took Kasireddy into custody from the Vijayawada district jail on Friday morning. Before commencing interrogation, SIT officials took Kasireddy to a government hospital for mandatory medical tests. He was then shifted to the SIT office, where the investigation is now underway. As per court directions, he will be questioned daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for seven days and returned to jail each evening. SIT officials suspect that Kasireddy played a central role in the massive liquor policy



scam that allegedly took place during the previous YSRCP government. He is believed to have overseen key elements of the poli-

cy—from issuing distillery permits to overseeing the monthly financial dealings tied to liquor contracts. Investigators allege that thousands of crores changed hands during this process under his supervision. Authorities had initially requested ten days of custody but were granted seven by the court. SIT aims to unravel the full extent of the scam during this time, especially focusing on the involvement of higher-ups in the former government. With allegations pointing towards Jagan’s Tadepalli Palace as the nerve center of the liquor scam, SIT officials are closely examining the role and instructions of senior government figures from that time. The outcome of Kasireddy’s interrogation is expected to shed further light on how deep the scam ran and who else might be implicated.

SC Declines Interim Relief in Ramanaidu Studios Land Case

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

In a key development in the Ramanaidu Studio land issue in Visakhapatnam, the Supreme Court on Friday refused to grant interim relief to Suresh Productions, which had challenged a show cause notice issued by the Andhra Pradesh coalition government. The notice questioned the previous YSRCP government’s decision to allow the studio to use land allotted for Film City for other purposes. A bench led by Justice Abhay S Oka took up the hearing and made it clear that the court would not intervene in the matter at this stage. The bench stated that if the government deems it necessary, it may approach the appropriate court to proceed further regarding the show cause notice. With this, the possibility of interim relief for Suresh Productions was ruled out. During the hearing, Suresh Productions, which had earlier filed a petition against the notice, chose to withdraw its petition. The court permitted the withdraw-



al, thereby concluding the current proceedings without any order in favour of the production house. The controversy stems from the decision of the previous YSRCP government, which permitted Suresh Productions to utilize the land, originally sanctioned for a Film City in Visakhapatnam, for purposes other than what was intended. The NDA government, after reviewing the permissions, issued a show cause notice demanding an explanation on the deviation. With the court refusing to intervene, the legal responsibility now shifts to Suresh Productions to justify its actions before the state authorities.



IBM, TCS and AP Govt to anchor Quantum Valley Tech Park with cutting-edge quantum system

India’s Largest... Quantum

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materials science, energy optimization, supply chain, and sustainable manufacturing. The goal is to address challenges that are currently beyond the capabilities of classical computers. TCS CTO Dr. Harrick Vin emphasized the importance of hybrid architectures: “We believe quantum computing will serve as a catalyst to solving intractable problems. Our partnership at the Quantum Valley Tech Park is aimed at developing applications with a real-world quantum advantage.” The Quantum Valley Tech Park, backed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, aims to become the heart of India’s quantum ecosystem, providing researchers and developers access to IBM’s quantum computers via the cloud until the full infrastructure is complete. Once operational, the tech park will support applied research and innovation across

academia, industry, and government sectors, also expected to generate high-end jobs and attract global investments. This initiative is part of Andhra Pradesh’s broader push to position itself as India’s most future-ready state. With its strategic coastline, infrastructure, and strong governance under CM Naidu, Andhra is emerging as a center for advanced technologies, AI, green energy, and next-generation manufacturing. While the announcement is being celebrated as a bold and visionary step, it also underscores the state’s dependence on future-focused promises. Despite this major technological leap, Andhra Pradesh continues to require much more—especially in basic infrastructure, public services, and balanced regional development. As such, this quantum collaboration is a powerful symbol, but its real value will lie in measurable, inclusive outcomes that extend beyond high-tech headlines.

NO ONE...

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Talking about employment and investment, the minister outlined a roadmap for the future. “We are targeting 20 lakh jobs over the next five years. Lakhs of crores in investments are coming through projects like NTPC Green Energy in Visakhapatnam, ArcelorMittal in Anakapalle, BPCL in Ramayapatnam, LG in Tirupati, Renewable Energy in Rayalaseema, Reliance CBG in Prakasam, and major pharma and IT projects in Uttarandhra,” Lokesh explained.

IT’S THE...

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“This proves his genuine love for the people of Andhra Pradesh and for Amaravati,” he said. He also praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, calling him a visionary leader who developed Hyderabad into a global city. “Just as he created Cyberabad, he will now lead Amaravati into becoming a world-class capital,” he said. Pawan concluded his speech with a note of optimism: “Under the leadership of Modi at the Centre and Chandrababu in the State, Andhra Pradesh will enter a golden era of development.”

YouTuber Dies Under Suspicious...

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

A 22-year-old YouTuber named Madhumati was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Vissannapeta mandal of NTR district, sending shockwaves across her village and followers. Hailing from A. Konduru village, Madhumati was reportedly involved in an extramarital relationship with a man named Pratap from Telladevarapalli. The young woman’s family has accused Pratap of killing her. They allege that he took her away and later hanged her to death. Madhumati’s parents have made a public appeal demanding justice and strict punishment for Pratap. According to initial reports, the body was discovered under unclear circumstances, and police officials have begun a preliminary investigation into the incident. The family’s allegations have intensified the seriousness of the case, though authorities have stated that full details are yet to emerge. As of now, the police have not released an official statement on the cause of death or confirmed any arrests. The community remains tense as locals await clarity and legal action. Further updates are expected as the investigation progresses.



Super-Fast Connectivity to Amaravati

- **New 3.11 km six-lane bridge eases access to AP capital**
- **3.11 km six-lane bridge inaugurated over Krishna River**
- **Bypasses Vijayawada traffic, connects directly to Amaravati**

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Good news for those traveling to the capital city of Amaravati. A 3.11-kilometre-long, six-lane bridge built over the Krishna River has been inaugurated, providing super-fast connectivity to the capital. With this development, commuters no longer need to enter Vijayawada city and endure heavy traffic. The new bridge, constructed as part of the Western Bypass, offers a direct and time-saving route to Amaravati. Authorities opened the bridge to the public ahead of the Prime Minister’s visit and the expected resumption of Amaravati construction works. Those arriving from Hyderabad can now cross the Krishna River at Gollapudi and reach Venkatapalem in Amaravati in just five minutes. Similarly, commuters from both Godavari districts and Uttarandhra can enter the capital in less than 30 minutes by taking the bypass at Chinna Awatapalli near Gannavaram. The bridge is expected to significantly reduce travel time and support the transport of heavy vehicles and construction equipment necessary for Amaravati’s development. Equipped with separate lanes, clear indicators, dividers, and a modern lighting system, the bridge ensures safe and fast travel without disruptions. Locals and commuters have welcomed the new infrastructure with enthusiasm, stating that it will boost development and ease daily travel to important destinations such as the Secretariat, the High Court, and other government offices in Amaravati.

Convert and lose SC status, rules AP High Court

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a landmark ruling, the Andhra Pradesh High Court has clarified that individuals belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) will lose their SC status if they convert to another religion. This verdict comes amid increasing concerns over the misuse of SC protections even after conversion. The case originated from Bapatla district, where a pastor named Anand, who had converted to Christianity, filed a police complaint under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in 2021. He alleged that certain individuals were interfering in the affairs of the church he was running. However, he concealed his religious conversion while invoking the protections available to Scheduled Castes. Following his complaint, the police registered a case under the Atrocities Act and later filed a charge sheet. The accused, however, approached the High Court, arguing that since Anand had converted from his original religion, he was no longer entitled to SC protections under the law. After examining the matter, the High Court ruled that the SC status of a person is revoked the moment they convert to another religion. It observed that the police should not have registered a case under the Atrocities Act in this instance and dismissed the case accordingly. The court’s decision also means that the case pending in the Guntur SC and ST Court must now be closed. This verdict is expected to have far-reaching consequences. It not only sends a strong message against the misuse of caste-based legal protections post-conversion but is also likely to deter religious conversions that seek to retain SC benefits unlawfully. Legal experts believe the ruling could trigger a wave of scrutiny into similar cases, with law enforcement agencies now being more cautious in registering Atrocities Act complaints from individuals who have converted from Scheduled Castes.

MODI AND AMARAVATI...

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and L&T for this project. He expressed optimism that under Modi’s leadership, Andhra Pradesh will become a leader in AI and advanced technologies. Referring to the presence of Prime Minister Modi at the event, Naidu said, “Even amidst the tragedy in Pahalgam, the PM’s presence here shows his unwavering support for Amaravati.” He wished that Modi would return to inaugurate the fully developed capital in three years. Naidu also noted how nature seemed to bless the occasion — though rain was forecast, it held off, allowing the event to go on smoothly. He quoted Modi as saying that in his 25 years of political life, no public assembly has ever been cancelled due to bad weather, and Amaravati’s rally too was a success. Finally, Naidu reaffirmed his commitment: “Not just Amaravati, all 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh will be developed equally. We will make this capital a place the world looks up to — and every Andhraite can proudly say, ‘This is our capital.’”

Narayana Vows to Make Amaravati a Global Capital

Minister says Amaravati will be among world’s top 5 capitals

TPN Correspondent |
Amaravati

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana addressed the public at the grand Amaravati reopening ceremony held on Friday, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan were also present on stage. Speaking during the event, Minister Narayana recalled the historical significance of Amaravati and the vision behind its creation. “Ten years ago, it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who laid the foundation stone for Amaravati. Today, we are fortunate that the revival of the capital is once again happening under his hands,” he said. The minister lauded the deci-



sive efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu post-bifurcation. “In just 58 days, CM Naidu succeeded in pooling

34,000 acres for Amaravati with a single call. This would not have been possible without the selfless sacrifice of farmers,

who offered their land in hope and faith. Their sacrifice is beyond value — we salute every single farmer.” Narayana emphasized that the present government is determined to fulfill the dream of Amaravati and transform it into a world-class city. “We have set ourselves a goal — to make Amaravati one of the top five capital cities in the world. The last five years have been a dark period, with construction work completely halted. But now, under the blessings of Prime Minister Modi and the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, the capital’s construction will move forward with new energy.” Concluding his speech, the minister said, “We will build a people’s capital — a capital that future generations will take pride in.”

Jagan Skips Amaravati Event, Flies to Bengaluru

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has stirred political debate by skipping the grand Amaravati reopening event, despite a formal invitation extended by the new coalition government. Instead, he reportedly left for Bengaluru on Thursday evening and is currently resting, according to party sources.

Jagan’s absence from the event, which saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi kick-start development works in Amaravati, has triggered criticism from within his own party and the public. Many believe the occasion was a missed opportunity for the YSRCP to reconnect with the people after years of capital-related controversy.

The Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government, which has been working over the past ten months to revive Amaravati, organized the event on a grand scale. A three-member ministerial committee was assigned the task, and a formal invitation was sent to Jagan on Wednesday. However, he chose not to respond or attend, with his PA receiving the invitation on his behalf.

Party insiders and political observers view this as a continuation of Jagan’s old stance. He had also boycotted the Amaravati foundation ceremony in 2017. At that time, it was perceived as a strategic political move. But with the return of Amaravati to the development map, even some YSRCP leaders are now questioning the decision to stick to the three-capital poli-



cy and skip a politically significant event. TDP supporters and Amaravati farmers were quick to lash out, accusing Jagan of only showing up in times of distress and ignoring the people’s celebrations. “Jagan only goes to the people who cry, not those who are happy,” remarked a TDP activist, pointing to the CM’s silence during the Amaravati farmers’ five-year-long struggle.

Meanwhile, the YSRCP has countered criticism by reiterating its stance that Amaravati does not represent the entire state, emphasizing that development should not be limited to just 12 villages. However, this message has failed to cut through the backlash within party ranks and among the public.

As the Prime Minister personally launched the capital works, many saw Jagan’s absence as a symbolic snub to not only the central leadership but also to the farmers and citizens who hoped for a show of unity. With Amaravati once again in the spotlight, Jagan’s political strategy is under scrutiny — both from allies and adversaries.

Modi's Amaravati Visit Leaves AP Disappointed, No Major Announcements

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Amaravati to restart the capital’s development works has sparked disappointment across Andhra Pradesh, as expectations for financial assistance and substantial support were left unmet. Modi addressed a gathering of over one lakh people during the meeting, reiterating the Centre’s support for the state. However, opposition parties and several media outlets were quick to criticize the Prime Minister for offering little more than words, with no tangible financial aid or new announcements for the capital.

The Prime Minister highlighted increased railway allocations for Andhra Pradesh, emphasizing investments in farmers, seeds, and fertilizers. He also mentioned the development of key infrastructure projects like the Polavaram and the linking of rivers. However, his speech largely focused on the Centre’s commitment to infrastructure projects rather than offering the much-awaited financial assistance to Amaravati’s development.

Opposition leaders, particularly from the Congress, expressed their displeasure with the Prime Minister’s address. Kolanukonda Shivaji, a core committee member of the Amaravati Capital Congress and Vice President of the APCC, criticized the Centre’s stance. “The Prime Minister’s speech failed to address the crucial pending projects like Polavaram and Banakacharla, and he didn’t even commit to making Amaravati the permanent capital,” Shivaji said. He further called the meeting a “self-goal” and mocked the claim of the state being led by a “double engine government.”

Shivaji added that despite the promises, nothing significant materialized for the state, and people were left deeply disappointed. He likened the event to “digging a mountain and catching a mouse” in terms of its outcome.

OBC Morcha welcomes caste census

Katru Vijay calls Centre’s move historic and transparent

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

The OBC Morcha has extended strong support to the decision of the Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet to include caste details in the upcoming national census. At a press conference held at the BJP office in Eluru on Friday, OBC Morcha District President Katru Vijay addressed the media and welcomed the move as a long-awaited and historic step.

Katru Vijay noted that the last comprehensive caste census in India was conducted during British rule in 1931. “Since then, except for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, no official caste-based data has been collected at the national level. This has hindered the effective implementation of welfare schemes for backward and oppressed communities,” he said.

He appreciated the Modi government’s initiative, describing it as a reflection of transparency and commitment to social justice. “The decision to revive this process after 94 years shows the BJP’s dedication to inclusive governance and social harmony. It is a commendable move that will ensure accurate data, crucial for welfare schemes, representation, and empowerment of marginalised sections,” he said.

Katru Vijay further added that the inclusion of caste data would help in better planning and delivery of benefits, especially for OBCs and other disadvantaged groups. “This decision is not just administrative — it is a step towards strengthening the socio-economic fabric of the country,” he stated.

He concluded by calling on all political parties, intellectuals, and civil society organisations to support the national census and contribute to its success. “This is a national responsibility. The more accurate the data, the better we can shape policies for the upliftment of all communities.”



No relief for Jagan’s aides in High Court...

HC declines to grant anticipatory bail to key ex-CMO officials

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday delivered a setback to key aides of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in connection with the ongoing liquor scam investigation. The court refused to grant anticipatory bail to three individuals closely associated with the former CM’s office, citing the need to first obtain the government’s opinion.

Krishnamohan Reddy (ex-OST to Jagan), Dhanunjay Reddy (former CMO secretary), and Balaji Govindappa (linked to the liquor scam) had all filed separate petitions seeking anticipatory bail amid fears of imminent arrest. Their names reportedly surfaced during the interrogation of other accused, including Raj Kasireddy, who has already been arrested by the CID.

The High Court, which took up the petitions, questioned the prosecution and directed the Public Prosecutor to present the government’s stance. In the absence of any interim relief, the court postponed the hearing to May 7, leaving the petitioners exposed to possible arrest in the interim. Notably, the court did not issue any order preventing the CID from arresting the petitioners before the next hearing.

The CID has been tightening its investigation based on the revelations made by Raj Kasireddy and others. Even MP Mithun Reddy has been questioned in connection with the case. Sources suggest that the CID is gearing up to make more arrests soon, especially those linked to the former Chief Minister’s Office.

With the High Court refusing immediate relief and the CID intensifying its probe, the case is entering a crucial phase. The government’s stance on the bail petitions, expected on or before May 7, will be key to the next developments. More updates are expected as the investigation unfolds.

Modi's Words Are Deceitful

- CPI(M) State Secretary V. Srinivasa Rao criticizes PM's Amaravati speech
- No central government buildings constructed in Amaravati so far

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

Communist Party of India (Marxist) State Secretary V. Srinivasa Rao strongly criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s speech during the Amaravati relaunch event, calling it a repetition of past betrayals and empty promises to the people of Andhra Pradesh.

“The Prime Minister has once again deceived the people of the state with hollow words,” Srinivasa Rao stated. He said there was nothing in Modi’s speech to inspire confidence in the state’s development or in the genuine commitment of the Centre to the capital project.



He pointed out that, despite claims of support, the central government has not built a single office in Amaravati over the past ten years. “It is

a blatant lie to say that the Centre supported Amaravati’s construction in the past decade,” he said. Rao also raised serious concerns

about the lack of financial clarity in the Prime Minister’s announcements. “Modi said he laid the foundation stone for ₹60,000 crore worth of projects, but how much of that is for Amaravati itself? And more importantly, how much is actually being funded by the Centre?” he asked. He warned that if the Amaravati capital project is taken forward only with borrowed funds, it will place a heavy burden on the people of the state.

In his closing remarks, Srinivasa Rao urged the Andhra Pradesh government to build an all-party consensus and put up a united front to demand rightful financial assistance from the Central government.

CM Naidu Bids Farewell to PM Modi

PM departs from Gannavaram after Amaravati relaunch program
CM Naidu, ministers, MPs, and BJP leaders present at airport

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, along with several ministers, MPs, MLAs, and top officials, bid farewell to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gannavaram International Airport on Friday evening. The Prime Minister was returning to New Delhi after attending the high-profile event marking the resumption of capital city construction in Amaravati. After concluding the Amaravati relaunch ceremony, Prime

Minister Modi arrived at Gannavaram Airport by helicopter from Amaravati at 6:07 pm. He spent some time interacting with party leaders and officials before departing for New Delhi in a special aircraft at 6:44 pm. On this occasion, a large number of public representatives and BJP leaders gathered at the airport to pay their respects and formally bid adieu to the Prime Minister. Among those present were Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanapatrudu, Deputy Speaker Ra-

ghurama Krishnamraju, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Revenue Minister Angani Satyaprasad, and Krishna District In-charge Minister Vasamsetty Subhash. Also present were Rajya Sabha MP R. Krishnaiah, Lok Sabha MPs Vallabhaneni Balashouri (Bandaru), Kesineni Sivanath alias Chinni (Vijayawada), Krishna Prasad Tenneti (Bapatla), Tangella Uday Srinivas (Kakinada), MLC Chief Whip Panchumarthi Anuradha, Gannavaram MLA and Government

Whip Yarlagadda Venkat Rao, and MLC P. Hari Prasad. Senior government officials, including Special Chief Secretary G. Ananth Ramu, DGP Anjani Kumar, Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji, and SP R. Gangadhar Rao, were also in attendance. BJP leaders from Krishna and West Godavari districts, including District Presidents, General Secretaries, and senior workers, such as Peekki Nagendra, Ponangi Santosh Pawan, Matla Veeranjanyulu, Penumaka



Seshagiri Rao, I. Sridevi, Pularparthi Venkateswara Rao, Aluri Sai Durgaraju, Komati Ravikumar, CH Vikram Kishore, Nagarapati Venkata Satyanarayana, Kotaprolu Naga Venkata Krishna Rao, Kallana Dhana Bhaskara Rao, and Kat-

ta Satyanarayana, were also present to send off the Prime Minister. After the farewell, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu departed by road from the airport to his residence in Undavalli.

Liquor Shop Owned by Excise Officer, Operated in Driver's Name

TPN Correspondent | NTR District
In a bizarre turn of events, a liquor shop located at the Thomala bend in Veerulapadu mandal has become a source of both safety concerns and public outrage, especially after it was revealed that the shop is owned by an excise officer, but is being run under the name of his driver. This unusual situation has raised questions about misuse of power and transparency within the local excise department. The shop, situated at a dangerous road bend, has become notorious for frequent accidents, increasing traffic congestion, and safety hazards for motorists, especially women passengers traveling late at night. The shop's location near the bus stand has further aggravated the problem, leading to growing concerns from villagers who are now planning to stage a dharna to protest the shop's continued operation. What adds to the irony of the

situation is the revelation that the liquor shop, although owned by the excise officer, is operating under the name of his driver, Kasani Naveen Kumar. This peculiar arrangement has raised suspicions about the motives behind it, as Naveen Kumar, a private individual, has allegedly been involved in managing the shop's operations and collecting money from other belt shops in the area. He has also reportedly been handling all liquor transaction records, a responsibility that typically falls to government officials. Despite being a temporary employee, Naveen Kumar has been accused of overstepping his role, acting as though he were a government officer, and making decisions that affect local businesses. The public is now questioning how such a critical establishment could be operated in this manner, with many calling for an immediate investigation into the excise officer's involvement and the shop's op-



erations. The combination of public safety concerns, the apparent conflict of interest, and the unconventional way the liquor shop is being managed has sparked widespread anger in the com-

munity. As the situation continues to unfold, local residents are pushing for higher authorities to intervene and bring an end to what many are calling a blatant misuse of power.

MP Kesineni Sivanath praises the double engine govt for revitalizing the capital project

TPN Correspondent | Gannavaram
Prime Minister Narendra Modi was warmly welcomed by Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), along with several ministers and public representatives, at the Gannavaram International Airport on Friday. PM Modi arrived in a special flight from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, to lay the foundation stone for the reconstruction of Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh. Expressing his gratitude, MP Kesineni Sivanath thanked Prime Minister Modi for his unwavering support towards the construction of Amaravati as the future capital of the state. In his statement, he emphasized that the capital, which had been stalled under the previous government's mismanagement, has been revitalized with the efforts of the double engine government. "The dream of five crore people will soon become a reality," he said, further adding that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and with the cooperation of PM Modi, Amaravati will transform into a global city. After the welcoming ceremony, MP Kesineni also participated in bidding farewell to PM Modi at Gannavaram Airport, where ministers and NDA coalition leaders expressed their appreciation for the Prime Minister's visit. PM Modi had arrived at the airport from Amaravati by helicopter, after concluding his capital reconstruction program. MP Kesineni Sivanath also thanked the Centre for its ongoing support towards the development of the state, including the infrastructure development for Amaravati.



Iron Sculptures Steal the Show in Amaravati Relaunch Event

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
A celebratory atmosphere has taken over Amaravati as Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived today to officially relaunch the capital city's reconstruction works. After landing in Gannavaram, he reached the Velagapudi assembly venue via helicopter, where he was welcomed with grandeur. Thousands of people from across Andhra Pradesh gathered to witness this historic occasion. While the political significance of the event is high, what has truly captivated the public are the remarkable iron sculptures on display at the venue. Crafted entirely from scrap metal by acclaimed sculptor Katuri Venkateswara Rao, these sculptures include



iconic figures such as Gautama Buddha, former CM N.T. Rama Rao, Prime Minister Modi himself, and even the symbolic 'Make in India' lion. The name 'Amaravathi' has also been designed in iron, adding a striking

visual appeal to the venue. These sculptures have become the center of attraction, with people flocking to take selfies and admire the artistry. Their presence adds a cultural and artistic dimension to the otherwise political event, reflecting the fusion of heritage and modern aspirations. The Andhra Pradesh government has made elaborate arrangements over a 276-acre stretch in Velagapudi for the event. Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for a series of development projects worth ₹57,940 crore, which includes the long-awaited restart of Amaravati's capital works.

Well-coordinated Amaravati event earns praise Collector Lakshmisha lauds Team NTR for successful execution

TPN Correspondent | NTR District
NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Shah praised the coordinated efforts of all departments in making the Amaravati capital reconstruction foundation laying program a grand success. The collector credited the micro-level planning, special summer arrangements, and continuous monitoring by officers for the smooth execution of the historic event. Speaking at the Special Command Control Center (CCC) in the Collector's Office on Friday, Dr. Lakshmisha said the event's success was a result of the collective hard work and commitment shown by Team NTR. He specifically commended the mandal and district-level nodal officers, RDOs, MPDOs, municipal commissioners, and tehsildars for their exceptional services. Transit points were set up at various places in Vijayawada to provide



breakfast, lunch, dinner, and drinking water to attendees who arrived in buses from different parts of the state. Special arrangements such as drinking water and buttermilk points were also made in view of the intense summer heat. Additionally, medical camps were organized by the Medical and Health Department to address any health emergencies. A dedicated Command Control Center was established at the Collectorate to monitor the entire event. Officers

from Revenue, Panchayati Raj, Police, Traffic, and Municipal Administration departments coordinated round-the-clock with field staff using CCTV surveillance. Collector Lakshmi Shah personally supervised the arrangements and conducted field inspections to ensure everything went smoothly. "We ensured smooth transportation by guiding buses through designated routes, arranged accommodation for VVIPs and officials, and provided food and water without any disruption," the Collector said. He noted that even after the event, dinner was served to attendees returning to far-off places, reflecting the administration's attention to detail. Dr. Lakshmi Shah congratulated everyone who played a part in the program and expressed gratitude to the state-level officers and the ministerial team for their planning and execution.

Post office account opening made easy with e-KYC

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The Indian Postal Department has simplified the process of opening accounts for several key savings schemes by launching a paperless, Aadhaar-based e-KYC system. This new digital process is designed to save time and streamline the customer experience, marking another step in the department's broader digitization efforts. Effective from April 24, customers can now use biometric authentication to open accounts in schemes such as the Monthly Income Scheme (MIS), Time Deposit (TD), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), and the National Savings Certificate (NSC). The e-KYC facility, which has already been in use for post office savings accounts since January, has now been extended to these four schemes, as confirmed in a recent circular from the Department of Posts. Under the new system, customers visiting the post office simply provide their

biometric details (fingerprints) to the postal assistant. The assistant inputs the customer's details—scheme selection, deposit amount, and other necessary data. A second round of biometric verification confirms the transaction. This eliminates the need for physical deposit forms, significantly cutting down paperwork and processing time. The department has emphasized the security of customer information, stating that only the last four digits of the Aadhaar number will be visible in records. This reassures users that their data is protected during the e-KYC process. Importantly, the traditional paper application method will remain available for those who prefer it, giving customers the flexibility to choose their preferred mode of account opening. This hybrid model aims to make post office services more accessible and efficient for all citizens.

High Court allows Pedda Reddy to visit Tadipatri

Permission granted with restriction of only five vehicles
No rallies or gatherings permitted during visit

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur
The Andhra Pradesh High Court has granted conditional permission to former Tadipatri YSRCP MLA Kethireddy Pedda Reddy to visit Tadipatri, following a petition he filed challenging police restrictions. The decision comes in the backdrop of heightened political tensions and clashes reported in Tadipatri after the recent general elections. Pedda Reddy had approached the court alleging that the police had unfairly prevented him from entering Tadipatri and had even placed him under house arrest at his residence in Thimmampalli, Yellanur mandal. He further claimed that his house was attacked by JC Prabhakar Reddy and activists of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), and that the police were not allowing him to respond or move freely. The High Court, after reviewing the matter, ruled in Pedda Reddy's favour but imposed strict conditions. It stated that he may



enter Tadipatri with no more than five vehicles and explicitly prohibited any form of rally or public gathering during his visit. The court also directed the police to provide adequate security for his movement. Earlier, the police had cited the volatile law and order situation in Tadipatri, citing recent clashes and unrest, as the reason for restricting Pedda Reddy's movement. Notices were issued to him, and efforts were made to

limit his influence in the town to prevent further disturbances. With the High Court now allowing his entry, it is reported that Pedda Reddy is preparing to meet Anantapur District Superintendent of Police Jagadish in the coming days and is making arrangements for his visit to Tadipatri. Meanwhile, locals remain apprehensive, with fears that political tensions in the region could flare up again with his return.

Tribal Woman Gives Birth on the Way as Doli Remains Lifeline in Vizianagaram Hills

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram
In a stark reminder of continued neglect in tribal areas, a woman in the Regapunayagiri hills of Shringavarapukota Mandal was forced to give birth on the way to the hospital due to the lack of proper road access. The incident occurred today in Girisshikara village, where Fangi Seethamma, a pregnant tribal woman, went into labor with no way to reach a hospital except by doli (make-shift stretcher). In the absence of any motorable road, her husband Narsingarao, along with relatives and villagers, tied a traditional doli and carried her across the rugged terrain for several kilometers. While en route to the S. Kota Government Hospital, Seethamma gave birth to a baby girl midway. The mother and newborn were then carried to Punyagiri College in the same manner before being shifted to the hospital by a 108 ambulance. Fortunately, both the mother and child



received timely medical care upon arrival. This heart-wrenching incident has once again spotlighted the inaccessibility and lack of basic infrastructure in tribal settlements. Despite multiple promises over the years and a sanctioned ₹4 crore allocation by the current coalition government for a BT road to Regapunayagiri, the work remains incomplete. Locals allege that the road construction has been moving at a snail's pace due to the negligence of the contractor and Panchayat Raj department engineers. For generations, tribal communities in this region have been relying on dolis to handle medical emergencies,

highlighting a painful disconnect from the modern facilities available elsewhere. While governments have changed over the years, the ground reality in these remote villages remains unchanged, with each emergency turning into a struggle for survival. Villagers now express growing concern, fearing for the safety of their loved ones due to the delay in road completion. "We are not even getting enough dollies when needed," one tribal resident remarked, underscoring the severity of the situation. The incident has once again triggered a demand for the immediate completion of the promised road to ensure that such tragedies do not repeat.

Huge turnout from Denduluru for Amaravati Event

MLA Chintamaneni leads rally to PM Modi's Amaravati program

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
A massive crowd of alliance supporters and fans from the Denduluru constituency participated in the public meeting held at Amaravati, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi relaunched the capital construction works. Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar took the lead in mobilizing people and flagged off a fleet of buses at Hanuman Junction, located on the Eluru district border, to ferry participants to Amaravati. The atmosphere was filled with

enthusiasm as thousands of party workers responded to the call. To ensure smooth logistics and comfort, Chintamaneni arranged food and rest facilities at SM Convention Hall in Gannavaram for leaders and activists from his constituency heading to the capital. Speaking on the occasion, Chintamaneni expressed satisfaction over the relaunch of Amaravati construction under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that the alliance government, under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu,



has laid a solid foundation for building Amaravati and fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Betting Racket Busted, 11 Arrested in Vizianagaram

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram
In a major crackdown on online cricket betting, Vizianagaram District Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal announced the arrest of 11 individuals involved in a well-organized IPL betting network. The arrests were made during a raid in a mango orchard on the outskirts of Shivarampuram village under the Bobbili Police Station limits. SP Vakul Jindal, addressing a press conference at the district police office, revealed that the investigation began with the apprehension of three individuals at the orchard. Interrogation led to the unearthing of a larger betting racket that operated across Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, and Visakhapatnam districts. The gang was reportedly being run by Musidipalli Diwakar from Parvathipuram Manyam district, who obtained admin rights to a betting app called Radhe Exchange from one Niranjana Reddy in Bangalore. Diwakar expanded the operation by appointing area-wise agents in the three districts and incentivizing them with commissions. These agents promoted the betting app among local youth through WhatsApp and managed bets based on ongoing IPL matches. The accused also acquired admin access to another app, National Exchange, to widen the business network, the SP said. So far, approximately 200 youth across Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, and Visakhapatnam districts were found to be

using these betting apps. Among those arrested were two admins – Musidipalli Diwakar and Ambati Rammohan; five agents – Mahanti Ganesh, Samireddy Vasu, Kottangi Mohan Rao, Modadla Paidiraju, and Tati Shankara Rao; and three users – Gedela Srinivas, Seerapu Narayana Rao, and Terli Mohan Rao.



The police seized ₹14,02,000 in cash, a Lenovo laptop, 13 mobile phones, and a car bearing registration number AP 05 EY 4567. Authorities are currently on the lookout for four absconding accused: Niranjana Reddy, Idurapalli Santosh, Karthik, and Naveen — all believed to be key admins in the betting network. SP Vakul Jindal explained that Diwakar offered agents a 3% commission on betting amounts and even gave them 50% of the money lost by users to boost recruitment and engagement. He urged the public, especially youth, to stay away from such apps, emphasizing, "Online cricket betting does not bring profit. These platforms are designed only to loot people." He cautioned that betting not only drains financial resources but can also ruin lives and families. The investigation is ongoing, and the police have promised strict action against all those involved in promoting or participating in online betting activities.

Farmers protest paddy purchase halt

Demand to raise targets and resume procurement immediately

TPN Correspondent | Eluru
Farmers and tenant farmers staged a dharna on Friday at the Venkatapuram Rythu Seva Kendra in Eluru district, protesting the halt in paddy procurement after officials claimed that the purchase target had been met. The protest was organized under the banner of the Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association. The farmers raised slogans demanding that the paddy already loaded in tractors and lorries be immediately transported to the mills for processing. Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association District Secretary K. Srinivas led the protest and voiced serious concerns over



the abrupt suspension of paddy procurement. He demanded that the government immediately raise the procurement target to prevent further hardship for farmers, especially in the wake of changing weather conditions which have left many in uncertainty. He said the lack of clarity, shortage

of gunny bags, and failure to arrange proper transportation were creating severe difficulties for farmers who were assured that every grain would be purchased. Srinivas strongly criticized the government for making tall promises but not backing them with proper execution. He emphasized the urgency of

moving paddy already loaded on vehicles to the mills and purchasing the remaining grain stored in granaries to support the farming community. He warned that if their demands are not met, the protest would be intensified further in the coming days. The protest saw participation from several affected farmers including Byreddy Lakshmana Rao, Tirumala Shetty Leela Madhava Ramu, Akiri Nagaraju, Thota Satyanarayana, Tirumala Shetty Jagadeeswar Rao, Nimmala Vasu, Chinini Krishna, Surangula Venkateswara Rao, B. Raju, and others.

Improved Facilities Needed at Children's Homes

TPN Correspondent | Nellore
In a review meeting held by Bathula Padmavati, member of the Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, she emphasized the need for better facilities at Children's Care Institutions (CCI) in alignment with the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act. The meeting focused on ongoing schemes and adoption processes under the Women and Child Welfare Department. Padmavati stressed that every CCI should be equipped with the necessary facilities to cater to the well-being

of children and should operate in conjunction with the JJ Act. She further reviewed adoption processes with various agencies, including the ICPS One Stop Center, Balika Sadan, and the Police Department. During the review, she highlighted the importance of speeding up the adoption process, particularly for orphaned, abandoned, surrendered, and neglected children. Padmavati instructed all relevant departments to cooperate in identifying children eligible for adoption and completing the process in accordance with KARA



guidelines. The review also addressed operational aspects such as registration and counseling at the OSC center, rehabilitation of women, and the status of orphan

children in Children's Care Centers (CCS). Additionally, the need for timely action in issuing CWC orders for adoption and the completion of pending FIRs and untraceable certifi-

icates by the police was emphasized. District Women and Child Welfare Department Project Director Smt. S. Suvarna assured that the district would ensure the timely completion of adoption processes with full cooperation from the staff. The meeting was attended by Child Welfare Committee members Mrs. T. Madhavi District, Rajya Lakshmi, Srinivas, Child Supervision Officer Sridhar, District Child Protection Officer B. Suresh, GCDO Mamata, DCPU staff, Bala Sadhanam staff, OSO staff, and Shishugruha staff from the department.

Can Mark Carney Reset Canada-India Relations?



The 2025 Canadian federal election, though somewhat overshadowed by U.S. President Donald Trump's escalating trade war, marked a significant political shift within Canada. The Liberal Party, now under the leadership of Mark Carney, returned to power with 168 seats—just shy of a majority—securing a fourth consecutive mandate. This outcome signals both continuity and change: a new face at the helm and a political landscape reshaped by shifting public sentiment.

Carney's rise to leadership played a piv-

otal role in the Liberals' resurgence. A former central banker with international credibility, Carney brings economic expertise at a time when Canada's economy faces mounting challenges. His technocratic and pragmatic style stands in stark contrast to the more ideologically driven leadership of his predecessor, Justin Trudeau. With the New Democratic Party (NDP) weakened—having lost nearly 12% of its vote share and with leader Jagmeet Singh losing his seat—Carney has more freedom to craft his own foreign and economic agenda.

This is especially relevant for India, given the NDP's past support for Khalistani elements, which strained India-Canada relations.

The fall of Singh and the NDP's reduced influence opens the door for a recalibrated approach to New Delhi. Carney, unburdened by Trudeau-era baggage, has the political space to rebuild bridges. While a dramatic reset in bilateral ties is unlikely in the near term, cautious re-engagement seems plausible. Strong economic ties, the influence of a vibrant Indian diaspora, and enduring cultural links provide a solid foundation.

Meanwhile, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre's defeat—along with the rejection of his populist, Trump-inspired rhetoric—reflected voter fatigue with divisive politics. Ironically, Trump's inflammatory remarks about Canada only galvanized nationalist sentiment, indirectly benefiting Carney.

Going forward, Carney must navigate a tense US-Canada relationship and a need for greater trade diversification. With ties to China and India currently strained, India emerges as a key potential partner. Whether Carney can capitalize on this opening will depend on his willingness to depart from the Trudeau legacy and pursue a more balanced, interest-driven foreign policy.

Caste Census: Will Political Parties Commit to Real Change?

Caste is fast becoming a central theme in Indian politics, with the recent announcement of its inclusion in the upcoming decadal census marking a turning point. On April 30, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw declared that the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs had approved caste enumeration, claiming it would "strengthen the social and economic structure" of society. The Congress quickly took credit, with Rahul Gandhi demanding the removal of the 50% cap on reservations and a clear timeline for the census.

While the announcement is politically significant, real questions loom: will this exercise lead to transformative change or remain a tool for electoral calculations? The Congress has posed the critical question—what happens after the census? A proper caste enumeration could reveal that backward castes and Dalits make

up a larger share of the population than previously acknowledged. Will political parties be prepared to translate those numbers into proportional representation and policies?

India's socio-economic landscape reveals stark caste-based inequalities. Upper-caste groups dominate 62% of micro and small businesses, 90% of media leadership, and a significant share of the judiciary. Dalits and other oppressed castes remain landless, underrepresented in decision-making roles, and continue to face educational and employment barriers.

A caste census is just the beginning. The challenge lies in reworking entrenched systems—land distribution, access to capital, leadership in institutions, and quality education. Without structural changes, caste enumeration risks be-

ing reduced to tokenism. Real justice demands a redistribution of power and resources, which may trigger resistance from dominant groups accustomed to privilege.

States like Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana have already conducted caste surveys, often facing backlash. In Karnataka, for example, dominant communities have questioned the data, while Telangana's results show inconsistencies. The Hindi heartland, with its complex caste politics, could see stronger resistance.

Caste enumeration, if taken seriously, implies a reshaping of India's social contract. But that requires courage from political leaders—not just to collect data, but to act on it. Until then, the promise of social justice risks remaining rhetoric, rather than a revolution in policy and society.



The impact of suspending a water treaty

India's Hydro-Political Response To Pakistan's Proxy War Doctrine



In a dramatic move signaling a significant escalation in India-Pakistan tensions, India has announced the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960. The decision follows the killing of 26 tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, by terrorists from The Resistance Front—a group India links to Pakistani support. The Indian Cabinet Committee on Security declared that the treaty would be "held in abeyance with immediate effect," contingent on Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably abjuring" its support for cross-border terrorism.

The suspension effectively signals India's intent to walk away from the longstanding water-sharing pact, though the legal framework complicates any such action. The IWT, brokered by the World Bank, has no clause allowing unilateral termination. Article XII (4) of the treaty clearly states it shall remain in force unless "terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two governments."

Some Indian legal experts suggest that provisions under Articles 60 and 62 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT) could potentially be used to argue for suspension or withdrawal. These articles pertain to fundamental breaches of a treaty or changes in circumstances. However, India is not a signatory to the VCLT, and Pakistan has signed but not ratified it—making reliance on this legal route contentious and difficult to enforce internationally.

The suspension may also have unintended consequences, including the risk of internationalising the water-sharing dispute. Pakistan is already exploring legal and diplomatic countermeasures. Aqeel Malik, Pakistan's Minister of State for Law and Justice, stated that Islamabad is weighing three options: raising the issue with the World Bank (a guarantor of the treaty), filing a case with the Permanent Court of Arbitration or the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague under the VCLT, or taking the matter to the United Nations Security Council.

Income Tax Bill 2025 and the Quiet Normalisation of Surveillance

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



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

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

This isn't just about regulation. It's about power. The proposed law normalises surveillance under the guise of efficiency and the common good, all while sidestepping any meaningful discussion on individual privacy. In a country where agencies like the Income Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate are frequently accused of political bias, granting them unchecked digital access is fraught with risk. Perhaps most concerning is the public's apathy. There is little discourse, little resistance. Citizens seem to have internalised a dangerous narrative: "If you've done nothing wrong, you have nothing to hide." This thinking not only erodes the presumption of innocence but reframes rights as conditional—granted only to those deemed harmless by the state.

In doing so, it also reduces citizens to passive data subjects rather than active digital participants with rights and agency. The rhetoric of the "common good" has become a convenient justification for sweeping changes, just as it was during demonetisation, the revocation of Article 370, and Aadhaar's rollout. Digital sovereignty cannot be built on surveillance. It must be founded on public trust, transparency, and respect for autonomy. The real strength of a nation lies not in the data it controls, but in the freedom and dignity it affords its people.

Pro-Khalistani Leader Urges Sikh Soldiers to Reject War with Pakistan



TPN Correspondent | Kerala

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments at the inauguration of the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala today have reignited discussions around Congress MP Shashi Tharoor. Modi, in a rare direct reference to the four-term Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram, remarked that Tharoor's presence at the event would "disturb the sleep" of some, suggesting that his involvement in the event carried a deeper political message.

"Today, Shashi Tharoor is sitting here. Today's program will disturb the sleep of some people. The message has gone wherever it had to go," Modi said, as the crowd reacted. The remark came at a time when speculation about Tharoor's standing within the Congress party, particularly in Kerala, has been intensifying. Tharoor has repeatedly positioned himself as a prominent figure within the party, often voicing concerns about a "leadership vacuum" within the state unit. His comments on the

state leadership and his meetings with senior Congress figures, including Rahul Gandhi, have sparked debate over his future. The situation was further highlighted when Tharoor personally received PM Modi at the Thiruvananthapuram airport, despite facing delays due to what he termed the "dysfunctional" Delhi airport. A photo of the encounter quickly went viral, adding fuel to the growing conversation around his role in Congress and his relationship with the party's leadership. Over the past months, Tharoor's comments praising India's vaccine diplomacy and the government's handling of the Russia-Ukraine conflict have not gone unnoticed. These remarks were seen by some as tacit approval of the Modi government's actions, even though Tharoor did not name the Prime Minister directly. Despite this, Tharoor has consistently denied any intention of leaving the Congress party, stating that his remarks have often been taken out of context. He has, however, hinted that he would consider other options if the party no longer needed his services. The Vizhinjam International Seaport, an Rs 8,867 crore project, was the focal point of today's high-profile event. Developed by Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, the port aims to become a critical transshipment hub for international maritime trade.



Jaishankar Advocates for Pluralism and Ethical AI at WAVES 2025

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of pluralism and ethical technology use during his address at the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 in Mumbai. He highlighted that colonialism and big power dominance had historically suppressed diverse traditions and ideas, and stressed the need to amplify these voices in the evolving global order. Jaishankar advocated for a more diversified and democratic re-globalization, where multiple centers of production and consumption coexist, moving beyond a singular narrative.

The minister also discussed the significant role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping the future, cautioning against its irresponsible use. He underscored the necessity of reducing bias, democratizing content, and

prioritizing ethics in AI development. Jaishankar emphasized that technology and tradition must go hand in hand, suggesting that modernity should not reject the past but build upon human achievements.

Furthermore, Jaishankar highlighted the importance of smoother mobility for talent to foster stronger creativity, noting that innovation and digital connectivity are key to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. He pointed out that in today's information-rich era, the challenge lies not in the abundance of content but in capturing attention, making it crucial to prepare young talent for this dynamic landscape.

In conclusion, Jaishankar's address at WAVES 2025 underscored the need for a global order that embraces diversity, ethical technology use, and the free flow of talent to foster creativity and innovation.

IAF Jets Land on Ganga Expressway for Emergency Trial Exercise

3.5-km airstrip near Shahjahanpur tested for military emergency use



TPN Correspondent | Shahjahanpur

In a major step toward bolstering national defense infrastructure, the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted special trials on the Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh on Friday. The objective of the exercise was to test the expressway's readiness for emergency landings and take-offs of military aircraft.

A 3.5-kilometre-long stretch of the expressway near Shahjahanpur has been developed as a dedicated airstrip for such operations. The IAF has deployed its frontline aircraft—including Rafale, Sukhoi-30MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar, C-130J Super

Hercules, AN-32 transporters, and Mi-17 V5 helicopters—to validate the airstrip's operational capability.

The trials, which began early in the morning and continued until 10 pm, are part of the IAF's broader strategy to create backup runways that can be used in times of war, natural disasters, or other national emergencies. These airstrip trials help ensure uninterrupted air operations if primary air bases are ever compromised.

Security was heightened in the area during the trials. The Uttar Pradesh government, in coordination with the Air Force, in-

stalled around 250 CCTV cameras for real-time surveillance and deployed security forces to maintain a strict perimeter. The Air Force assumed complete control of the airstrip zone starting Thursday night to ensure seamless execution of the trial.

With this exercise, the Ganga Expressway becomes the fourth such expressway in the state equipped with an emergency airstrip, following similar developments on the Agra-Lucknow, Purvanchal, and Bundelkhand Expressways. These dual-use infrastructure initiatives are part of India's growing focus on integrating military readiness with civilian development projects.

Mangaluru on High Alert

Gatherings Banned After Hindu Activist Killed

Suhas Shetty was killed by five assailants

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Mangaluru has been placed on high alert after the brutal murder of Suhas Shetty, a prominent Hindu activist and prime accused in the 2022 murder of a 23-year-old man, Mohammed Fazil. Shetty, in his early thirties, was killed by at least five assailants armed with machetes and swords in broad daylight on a busy road. The chilling attack was captured on CCTV footage.

In response to the killing, police in Mangaluru enforced prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, banning public gatherings, meetings, and processions until May 6. The orders also prohibit the carrying of items that could be used as weapons.

Suhas Shetty had several cases registered against him, including charges related to assault and unlawful assembly. He was a key figure linked to local Hindutva groups and was reportedly involved in the murder of Mohammed Fazil, which had been widely regarded as a retaliatory act following the assassination of BJP youth worker Praveen Nettaru. Following Shetty's murder, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara condemned the incident as a "gruesome" act. He assured that four separate police teams had been assigned



to track down the perpetrators and emphasized that the administration would not compromise in bringing the culprits to justice. Additional forces have been deployed in Mangaluru to maintain peace and harmony in the region. The attack on Shetty is the second murder within a week in Mangaluru. On April 27, Ashraf, a resident of Wayanad in Kerala, was allegedly beaten to death over a dispute during a cricket match on the outskirts of the city. Preliminary investigations suggested that the victim was assaulted after shouting "Pakistan Zindabad," leading to a violent confrontation. The police had detained 25 individuals for questioning, and 20 of them have been arrested following further investigations into the assault.

"Not A Time For Politics": Congress Working Committee on Pahalgam Attack



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Congress party, in a resolution passed by its Working Committee (CWC) on Friday, emphasized that the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 people on April 22, is a moment for national unity and strength rather than political division. Chaired by party president Mallikarjun Kharge, the CWC meeting was attended by senior leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, K C Venugopal, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. In the resolution, Congress urged the Centre to take firm action against Pakistan for its continued export of terror, and

called for a time-bound investigation into the lapses in security and intelligence in one of the country's most heavily-guarded regions. "The entire country awaits accountability, answers and justice," the resolution stated. The party reiterated that this is not a time for politics but for national resolve, unity, and strength. It called on the government to act decisively in isolating and penalizing Pakistan for its role in perpetuating terrorism. "We must rise above partisan divides and send out an unambiguous message that India stands together," Congress emphasized. The Congress Working Committee also expressed its unwaver-

ing support for the families of the victims of the attack, stressing that compensation alone is insufficient. The party demanded long-term rehabilitation, mental health support, and national recognition to honor the victims. "The pain of these families is the pain of the entire nation. The CWC stands with them, not only in words but in enduring solidarity," the resolution stated. In addition, Congress reaffirmed its call for transparency and accountability in the handling of security and intelligence issues surrounding the attack. The party urged for a comprehensive, time-bound inquiry into the lapses.



Ukraine's air force says Russia launched 150 drones in overnight attack

TPN Correspondent | Russia

Russia launched a significant drone offensive against Ukraine, deploying 150 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The Ukrainian Air Force successfully intercepted and destroyed 64 of these drones. An additional 62 drones were rendered ineffective, likely due to Ukraine's advanced electronic warfare measures. The fate of the remaining 24 drones remains unreported .

This attack marks one of the most

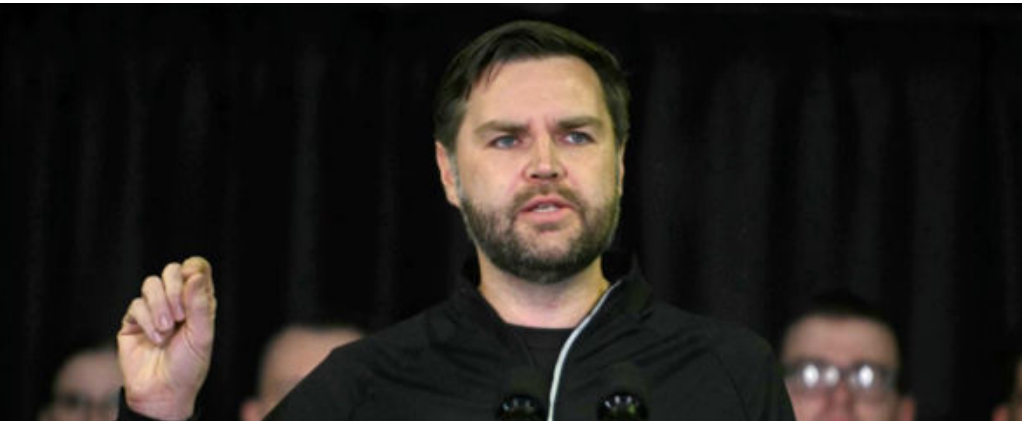
extensive UAV offensives since the conflict's inception. The targeted regions included Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Dnipropetrovsk, with several drones reportedly striking civilian infrastructure. In Zaporizhzhia, a drone strike resulted in 29 injuries, including a child .

Ukraine's air defense systems, bolstered by electronic warfare capabilities, played a crucial role in mitigating the impact of this large-scale assault. The country's electronic warfare units have pre-

viously demonstrated effectiveness in neutralizing UAV threats, underscoring their strategic importance in modern defense operations .

Despite the high interception rate, the persistent threat of drone warfare continues to challenge Ukraine's defense infrastructure. The international community remains vigilant, monitoring the evolving dynamics of this conflict and its implications for regional stability.

Pahalgam attack: Indian response to Kashmir attack should avoid regional war: J.D. Vance



TPN Correspondent | WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance has urged India to exercise restraint in response to the recent Pahalgam terror attack, emphasizing the importance of avoiding a wider regional conflict. Speaking to Fox News on May 1, 2025, Vance also called on Pakistan to cooperate with India in identifying and neutralizing militants that may be operating from its territory.

Vance's comments came while he was visiting India with his family on a four-day trip, coinciding with the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam — the deadliest since the 2019 Pulwama incident. The attack, which claimed 26 lives, has significantly escalated tensions between India and Pakistan.

“Our hope is that India responds to this terrorist attack in a way that doesn't lead to a broader regional conflict,” said Vance during Fox News' “Special Report.” When asked if the situation between the two nuclear-armed nations was concerning, Vance acknowledged, “Anytime you see a hotspot flaring up, especially between two nuclear powers, it's a cause for concern.”

The Vice President reiterated the U.S. commitment to remaining in close contact with both India and Pakistan. He expressed hope that Pakistan, “to the extent that they're responsible,” will take accountability and work with India to ensure that terrorists allegedly operating from within their borders are tracked down and held responsible.

Vance's remarks come at a time of heightened diplomatic strain. In the immediate aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, India took several measures, including suspending the 1960 Indus Water Treaty and closing the Attari land-transit point with Pakistan. The attack also drew widespread international condemnation, with many global leaders expressing solidarity with India.

Vice President Vance had earlier taken to social media to condemn the Pahalgam attack and extend condolences to the victims and their families.

With cross-border tensions on the rise, Vance's appeal highlights Washington's concern about stability in South Asia and its support for counterterrorism cooperation without triggering further escalation.

Pro-Khalistani Leader Urges Sikh Soldiers to Reject War with Pakistan Amid Pahalgam Attack Fallout



TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

In a provocative video message, pro-Khalistani activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has called on Sikh soldiers in the Indian Army to refuse participation in any military conflict between India and Pakistan. Pannun, leader of the banned group Sikhs For Justice, claimed that Pakistan is a “friendly” nation for Sikhs and Khalistan supporters, and urged Sikh personnel to “serve langar” to the Pakistani army in the event of war.

The appeal comes in the wake of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which resulted in the deaths of 26 people, including 25 tourists and one local. The attack, carried out by militants from The Resistance Front (TRF), a Pakistan-based offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba, has heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. The TRF initially claimed responsibility for the attack but later retracted its statement.

Pannun's comments have been met with criticism from Indian officials, who view them as an attempt to incite division among Sikh soldiers and undermine national unity. The Indian government has not responded directly to Pannun's remarks, but the Ministry of External Affairs has condemned the Pahalgam attack and called for international cooperation in combating terrorism.

The situation remains tense, with both India and Pakistan on high alert. The international community continues to monitor developments closely, urging restraint and dialogue to prevent further escalation in the region.



Canadian PM Mark Carney to Meet US President Donald Trump Amid Rising Tensions

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced on Friday that he will meet with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on Tuesday. This high-stakes meeting comes amid escalating tensions between the two countries over trade disputes and sovereignty concerns.

Carney's Liberal Party secured a narrow victory in the recent federal elections, defeating Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre. The election result was seen as a response to Trump's aggressive trade policies and threats to Canadian sovereignty. In his victory speech, Carney emphasized that Canadians elected his government to stand up to President Trump and build a strong economy. He vowed to defend Canada's interests and negotiate future cooperation terms with the U.S. .

The upcoming meeting between Carney and Trump is expected to address immediate trade challenges and the broader economic outlook. Carney has emphasized the importance of promptly engaging with the U.S. administration to resolve these issues.

In addition to the meeting with Trump, Carney announced that King Charles III will deliver a speech outlining the Canadian government's priorities on May 27, when Parliament resumes. This marks the first time a monarch has performed this ceremonial duty since Queen Elizabeth II in 1957.

As the two leaders prepare for their meeting, all eyes will be on how they navigate the complex issues at the heart of the Canada-U.S. relationship.

Pakistan Reopens Wagah Border for Stranded Citizens Amid Visa Row



Pakistan announced on Friday, May 2, 2025, that it would continue to allow the use of the Wagah border crossing for its citizens stranded in India, following New Delhi's decision to revoke visas in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror incident.

The Attari-Wagah border, located near Amritsar in India and Lahore in Pakistan, was shut on Thursday, May 1, 2025, after being kept open until April 30. Reports indicated that as many as 70 Pakistani nationals were stranded at the border on Thursday, as the deadline for leaving India expired a day earlier.

In response to media queries, a spokesperson for Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) acknowledged reports of Pakistani nationals, including children, stranded at the Attari border on the Indian side. The spokesperson stated, “We are aware of the media reports indicating that some Pakistani nationals are stranded at Attari. We are open to receiving our citizens in case the Indian authorities allow them to cross the border from their side.” The MoFA also criticized India's decision to revoke visas of Pakistani citizens, stating that it was creating serious humanitarian challenges, including disruptions to medical treatments and family separations.

India had issued the 'Leave India' notice to Pakistani nationals after 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed by terrorists with Pakistan links in Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. The deadline for exiting India for those holding SAARC visas was April 26, for medical visas was April 29, and for other categories of visas was April 27. After the expiry of the deadline, no one from Pakistan or India could cross over to each other's country.

Mirroring India's steps, Islamabad had also closed the Wagah border post, canceled visas given to Indians under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES), and asked military advisers at the Indian High Commission to leave. Pakistan had stated, “All cross-border transit from India through this route shall be suspended, without exception.”

Markets End Week on a High Note; Reliance Leads, Profit-Booking Caps Gains

Domestic stock markets closed with moderate gains on Friday. The benchmark indices, which had reached highs in the beginning due to mixed signals from international markets, fell sharply after noon. This was due to investors taking profits. However, it is noteworthy that the markets have closed in profit for three consecutive weeks after December 2024. Big brother Reliance Industries has gained 10% this week, a record increase in five years. Defense stocks performed better. Overall, the Nifty 12 and the Sensex rose by 259 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,242 in the previous session, opened at 80,300 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 81,177. It reached an intraday high of 80,168. Finally, it closed at 80,501 with a gain of 259 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,311, touched a low of 24,238 and



a high of 24,589. It closed at 24,346, up 12 points. The Nifty Bank rose 28 points to settle at 55,115.

In the Nifty50, 17 companies gained while 32 lost. Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, SBI, Hindalco were the top gainers. JSW Steel, Bajaj Auto, Eicher Motors, HDFC Life, Hero Moto suffered the most losses. Oil, media, IT, PSU bank, finance indices rose today. Consumption, healthcare, telecom, pharma, metal, auto, FMCG indices turned red.

Market breadth in NSE is in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2938 stocks traded, 2938 gained and 1651 lost. 26 shares touched their 52-week high and 31 shares touched their 52-week low. 63 shares reached the upper circuit and 67 shares reached the lower circuit.

Today, Marico released its fourth-quarter results. Net profit rose 7.8% to Rs. 345 crore from

Rs. 320 crore. The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at Rs. 84.56. Jefferies maintained a buy rating on Sona BLW with a target price of Rs. 565. Jindal SA reduced its net profit to Rs. 291 crore from Rs. 502 crore. Citi has given a sell rating to JSPL with a target price of Rs. 675. Indus Tower has been given an underperform rating with a target price of Rs 345. Citi has maintained a buy rating on Exide Industries at Rs 540. SBI, Kotak and DMart will release results on Saturday. Capacity Infra Project Company has received a letter of acceptance for an infrastructure project worth Rs 384 crore. M&M Financial's board has approved a rights issue worth Rs 3000 crore. 40 lakh shares have changed hands in Nykaa. Jefferies has given a hold rating to Eternal with a target price of Rs 250. Godrej Properties' net profit has decreased by 19% to Rs 382 crore. Indian Overseas Bank's net profit has increased by 30% from Rs 808 crore to Rs 1051 crore. Latent View's net profit rose 18.4% to Rs. 53.5 crore from Rs. 45.2 crore.

Amazon Posts Strong Q1 Results Amid Trade Uncertainty, Shares Dip After-Hours



Amazon reported strong first-quarter earnings on Thursday, with both profit and revenue surpassing analysts' expectations, reinforcing the company's dominance in e-commerce and cloud computing despite economic headwinds and mounting trade tensions.

For the quarter ending March 31, Amazon posted a net income of \$17.13 billion, or \$1.59 per share—up from \$10.43 billion, or 98 cents per share, in the same period last year. Revenue climbed 9% year-over-year to \$155.7 billion, compared to \$143.3 billion in Q1 2024.

Amazon Web Services (AWS), the company's powerhouse cloud computing division, posted a 17% increase in sales, reaching \$29.3 billion for the quarter. The growth underscores AWS's continued strength in the tech landscape, particularly as Amazon ramps up investments in generative artificial intelligence and data infrastructure. The company is investing billions in AI development, including custom chips and expanded data centers.

Despite the strong quarterly performance, Amazon shares dipped more than 2% in after-hours trading, as investors weighed the company's cautious outlook amid growing economic and geopolitical concerns.

CEO Andy Jassy acknowledged challenges ahead, particularly around President Donald

Trump's trade policies, which include steep 145% tariffs on China. These policies are expected to impact consumer prices and supply chains. Still, Jassy emphasized Amazon's ability to navigate turbulent markets.

“When there are uncertain environments, customers tend to choose the provider they trust most,” said Jassy. “Given our broad selection, low pricing, and fast delivery, we’ve consistently emerged from these periods stronger.”

To mitigate the impact of tariffs, Amazon and many of its third-party sellers accelerated imports ahead of policy changes. However, further strain is expected as the U.S. prepares to end a duty exemption on low-value shipments from China—affecting platforms like Shein and Temu, and potentially impacting Amazon's new China-based storefront, Amazon Haul.

Amazon said it spent \$25.02 billion on property and equipment in Q1, up from \$14.92 billion a year ago. It also announced a \$4 billion rural delivery network expansion through 2026.

For Q2, Amazon expects sales between \$159 billion and \$164 billion, slightly under analysts' average estimate of \$161.2 billion. Operating income is forecast between \$13 billion and \$17.5 billion—just below the \$17.6 billion expected by Wall Street.

India's GST Collections Hit Record High of Rs 2.37 Lakh Crore in April

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached an all-time high of Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April, marking a significant 12.6% year-on-year increase. This surge follows a consistent upward trend in GST revenue, with March and February collections rising by 9.9% and 9.1%, respectively.

The April 2025 collections represent a robust performance, surpassing the previous high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore recorded in April 2024. In comparison, March 2025 saw a collection of Rs 1.96 lakh crore. The government had set a target of an 11% increase in GST revenue for the fiscal year, estimating total collections to reach Rs 11.78 lakh crore.

Breaking down the data, revenue from domestic transactions rose by 10.7% to about Rs 1.9 lakh crore. Additionally, GST revenue from imported goods saw a notable increase of 20.8%,



amounting to Rs 46,913 crore. The government also issued a significant amount of refunds in April, totaling Rs 27,341 crore, which marks a 48.3% rise from the previous year.

The growth in GST collections can be attributed to a combination of factors,

including strong domestic consumption and improved compliance. The rise in revenue from imported goods indicates the continued recovery of the global economy and the resilience of India's trade sector.

With the GST system now fully integrated and operational since its rollout on July 1, 2017, this record collection further strengthens the government's position on the effectiveness of the tax regime. As India's economy continues its growth trajectory, analysts expect this upward trend in GST collections to continue, reflecting a healthy recovery across key sectors.

India's fiscal health appears to be improving, with the significant rise in GST collections helping to boost the government's tax revenue base, supporting budgetary allocations for key infrastructure and welfare initiatives.

Deloitte Forecasts India's Economic Growth at 6.6% for FY2025-26

Deloitte has projected India's economic growth to remain steady at 6.6% for the fiscal year 2025-26, amid a balancing act between domestic tax incentives and uncertain global trade conditions. The global consultancy firm highlighted that while domestic tax measures are expected to stimulate consumer demand, global trade volatility, particularly potential tariffs on exports to the US, poses a significant risk to the growth trajectory.



The forecasted growth is shaped by the Indian government's efforts to boost domestic consumption through tax stimulus, which is expected to offset some of the adverse impacts of trade-related uncertainties. However, the outcome of ongoing US-India trade negotiations will

play a crucial role in determining the future course of India's economy. A positive trade relationship with the US could bolster India's exports, while tariffs could undermine trade growth.

Deloitte's report also noted that despite a slowdown in the global economy, In-

dia's economy showed resilience, with growth rates moderating to 6.1% year-on-year through the third quarter of FY2025. The slowdown was attributed to factors such as uncertainty surrounding the general elections, unusual rainfall patterns in the first half of the year, and ongoing vola-

tility in global trade.

For FY2026, Deloitte emphasized that India's economic outlook hinges on evolving trade relations, particularly with major partners like the US, and the continued success of government policies aimed at stimulating domestic demand. The tax incentives provided by the government, including relief to consumers, are expected to support demand in the short term, but the external trade environment will remain

a critical factor in shaping India's growth prospects.

While the outlook remains positive, India's ability to navigate global uncertainties and capitalize on its domestic growth engines will be crucial in achieving the forecasted 6.6% growth rate.

Sam Altman’s Ghibli-Style Photo with Satya Nadella Sparks Buzz

Amid ongoing speculation about a growing rift between Microsoft and OpenAI, a whimsical Ghibli-style image of their CEOs has caught the internet’s attention. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman shared an AI-generated picture of himself with Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella, seemingly attempting to downplay the tension with a lighthearted social media post.

“Fun showing @satyanadella our new office and talking about some of our latest progress!” Altman wrote on X (formerly Twitter) on May 1, 2025, alongside the stylized image. The post quickly went viral, not just for the high-profile subjects but also because it used a trending anime-inspired Ghibli filter. Nadella responded warmly, saying, “Great to see you today, @sama. Love the new office!”

The post sparked a flurry of online reactions. While many users appreciated the playful tone between the two tech leaders, others criticized the use of AI filters. “You guys are so cute,” commented one user. Another pointed out, “Satya looks older in this than he really is,” while a skeptical user asked, “Are they friends again?” One



particularly critical comment read, “I hate these phoney f**king images so much. Cringeworthy and signals for me to disagree with whatever is being messaged.”

This moment of online levity comes amid a serious backdrop. A recent Wall Street Journal report claimed that the tech giants — once seen as tightly allied in the AI race — may be heading toward separation. According to the report, Microsoft has taken steps to reduce its reliance on OpenAI by hiring talent from a rival AI firm,

fueling speculation of internal disagreements. The story also suggested Altman and Nadella have been clashing behind closed doors.

With Microsoft investing heavily in developing its own AI models, the companies appear to be positioning themselves as independent leaders in the AI landscape. Altman’s post, however, surprised many and seemed to project unity, even if just for the cameras — or in this case, for the AI-generated illustration.

Weekend Marriages: Redefining Commitment in a Fast-Paced World

In a world where professional ambition often overshadows personal time, a new relationship model is quietly gaining ground among young couples — the “Weekend Marriage.” This unconventional arrangement sees spouses living apart during the week and reconnecting on weekends, reshaping the traditional understanding of marriage.



Rather than a sign of emotional distance, weekend marriages are often a practical solution to modern challenges. Career demands, academic pursuits, and the desire for personal space have led many couples, particularly in metropolitan cities, to maintain separate households. Yet, the emotional foundations of these marriages — love, trust, and shared goals — remain intact.

Take the example of a Bengaluru-based software engineer whose wife lives and works in Pune. “We see each other every weekend, and those two days are sacred,” he shares. “We don’t take each other for granted,

and we actually argue less now.”

This growing trend reflects a shift in cultural norms and individual priorities. With both partners often pursuing high-pressure careers, living apart is less about drifting away and more about balancing self-growth with relationship goals. Mental well-being is another key factor. A marketing executive who meets her spouse twice a month says, “Living separately gives me space to focus on myself, my friendships, and still have a fulfilling marriage.”

Some couples adopt this lifestyle out of necessity — long-distance or digital relationships that naturally evolve into weekend marriages. Others

make a deliberate choice to live apart while pursuing studies or specialized training.

Technology has become an essential enabler, bridging the physical gap through constant communication, video calls, and shared calendars. Relationship experts stress that the success of a weekend marriage depends on emotional maturity, communication, and clearly defined expectations.

While critics argue it dilutes the essence of traditional marriage, supporters say it offers a balanced approach. The time spent together feels more intentional, conflicts decrease, and personal development flourishes. However, it does come with challenges — managing logistics, shared responsibilities, and sustaining intimacy.

For many modern couples, the weekend marriage is not a compromise, but a conscious adaptation — a way to nurture love while honoring individual dreams in an increasingly demanding world.

Understanding Ophidiophobia: The Fear of Snakes and How It Affects Lives

Snakes have captivated and terrified humans for centuries, inspiring both awe and dread. From ancient folklore to modern movies like Snakes On A Plane and the Anaconda franchise, snakes have long been a symbol of mystery and fear. Their portrayal in popular culture, such as the Indian TV series Naagin or Harry Potter’s ability to speak Parseltongue, has deepened their fascination. However, for many, this fascination comes with an overwhelming sense of fear, leading to a condition known as ophidiophobia.

What Is Ophidiophobia?

Ophidiophobia, an extreme fear of snakes, is more than just a mild discomfort or unease. It is a specific type of anxiety disorder that goes beyond typical fear. People with this phobia experience intense anxiety or panic at the mere thought of snakes, even if they are harmless or merely imagined. This phobia affects around 2–3% of the global population, although many more people report some level of fear towards these reptiles.

How Does Ophidiophobia Impact Lives?



The effects of ophidiophobia can range from mild unease to intense psychological and physical reactions. Common symptoms include an increased heart rate, shortness of breath, sweating, trembling, nausea, dizziness, and chest tightness. In extreme cases, panic attacks can occur. People with ophidiophobia may also experience psychological effects like a sense of terror or impending doom. This can lead to avoidance behaviors, such as steering clear of areas where snakes might be present, like forests, zoos, or even outdoor activities like hiking or camping.

Why Do People Develop A Fear of Snakes?

The origins of ophidiophobia are com-

plex and varied. Some individuals may develop this fear after traumatic experiences, such as being bitten by a snake or hearing about a snake-related death. Evolutionary psychology suggests that humans may have a built-in instinct to avoid snakes as a survival mechanism. Additionally, the portrayal of snakes in culture—whether in myths, folktales, or movies—can also contribute to the development of ophidiophobia.

Can Ophidiophobia Be Treated?

Ophidiophobia can be treated through various therapeutic approaches. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) helps individuals identify and challenge negative thought patterns related to their fear. Exposure Therapy, where individuals are gradually exposed to snakes in controlled settings, is another effective treatment. In severe cases, anti-anxiety medications may also be prescribed to manage symptoms.

While the fear of snakes can be debilitating, with the right treatment, individuals can overcome it and reclaim control over their lives.

Divorce Celebrations: A New Era of Empowerment and Renewal

Once seen as a symbol of failure and sorrow, divorce is increasingly being viewed as a chance for personal



growth and renewal. A recent viral video exemplifies this shift in perception. In the video, a woman celebrates the end of her marriage, not with tears, but with a joyful party atmosphere. Adorning her hands with intricate mehndi designs, she boldly displayed the words “Finally DIVORCE” in a gesture that turned a traditional symbol of joy into one of liberation.

But this wasn’t just any mehndi. The artwork featured symbolic motifs that humorously reflected the emotional and legal aspects of marital dissolution. Phrases like “100 grams of love,” “200 grams of compromise,” and the scales of justice appeared on her hands, blending humor and introspection into the design. It wasn’t a bridal mehndi; it was a testament to the end of a chapter and the beginning of something new.

The video quickly went viral, sparking a wide array of reactions. Some viewers were shocked, call-

ing it a reflection of “Ghor Kalyug” (a sign of societal decline), while others applauded the woman’s courage, calling it a powerful statement of “women’s empowerment” and personal freedom. For many, the video encapsulated a moment of transformation, where divorce was no longer seen as something shameful, but as an opportunity to reclaim one’s life and identity.

This change in perspective mirrors the evolving attitude toward relationships, particularly for women, who are increasingly rejecting the notion that a successful marriage is the sole path to happiness. Instead, the focus is shifting to individual well-being, personal growth, and empowerment.

While divorce will always carry emotional weight, more and more people are embracing it as an opportunity for a fresh start, marked by self-love and a celebration of new beginnings.

Generation Beta: Shaping a New Era of Technology and Sustainability



As 2025 marks the beginning of Generation Beta, experts predict a time of rapid technological change and profound societal transformations. This cohort, which spans from 2025 to around 2039, follows Generation Alpha (2010-2024), Gen Z (1996-2010), and millennials (1981-1996). While the precise dates for generational classifications may evolve, one thing is clear: Generation Beta will face challenges and opportunities shaped by both technology and the environment.

Mark McCrindle, a demographer and futurist, notes that environmental sustainability will be central to Generation Beta’s values. He emphasizes that “sustainability will not just be a preference but an expectation,” highlighting the growing need for climate action, responsible urbanization, and sustainable living practices during the generation’s formative years.

In terms of technology, Generation Beta is set to have an even closer relationship with artificial intelligence (AI) and smart devices. Unlike previous generations, who have grown up with social media and content-driven platforms, Generation Beta will engage with AI not just as a tool, but as an integral part of daily life and problem-solving. McCrindle also points out that Gen Z parents, as the most tech-savvy

caregivers, are already pushing back against the early and overwhelming exposure of technology to children. This may influence how Beta interacts with technology in their own childhoods.

Growing up in a post-pandemic world, Generation Beta will not experience the same disruptions that affected earlier generations. According to Jason Dorsey, a generational researcher, while Beta will learn about the pandemic as a historical event, it won’t be part of their direct experience. As Beta matures, they will witness a shift in leadership, with Millennials and Gen Z addressing global challenges like climate change.

Despite the increasing reliance on generational labels to define experiences, experts caution against oversimplifying the diversity of lived realities. The Pew Research Center has recently moved away from using generational labels, noting that factors such as race and class often play a more significant role in shaping experiences than age alone.

Generation Beta will likely navigate a world defined by both technological advancements and environmental imperatives. How they address these challenges will shape the future for years to come.

Gujarat Titans Defeat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 38 Runs in IPL 2025 Showdown

Gujarat Titans (GT) continued their strong campaign in IPL 2025 with a dominant 38-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in a thrilling encounter at home. Powered by a stellar 76 from Shubman Gill, along with vital contributions from Jos Buttler (64) and B Sai Sudharsan (48), GT posted a commanding total of 224/6 in their 20 overs.

The Titans' innings were built on a solid foundation, with Gill anchoring the batting, and Buttler and Sudharsan adding valuable runs in the middle order. While GT's top order fired, it was the disciplined bowling from SRH that tried to rein in the scoring. However, the impressive total was always going to be a challenging target for the visitors.

In reply, SRH had a rocky start when Travis Head was dismissed for a duck following a spectacular catch by Rashid Khan, who leapt high to take a one-handed stunner at mid-off. Despite the early setback, Abhishek Sharma rose to the occasion, playing a stunning knock of 74 from 41 balls, which briefly raised hopes of an SRH revival. But the target proved too steep, as GT's bowlers tightened the screws.

Prasidh Krishna was the standout performer with the ball for Gujarat, producing an exceptional spell of 2/19 in his four overs. His timely breakthroughs and control with the ball helped seal the victory for GT.

Despite Sharma's valiant effort, SRH's chase fell



short, and they finished at 186/8 in their 20 overs. This result not only secured two crucial points for Gujarat but also lifted them to second place in the points table. On the other hand, SRH's loss leaves them with slim chances of progressing to the playoffs in IPL 2025.

Gujarat Titans' all-around performance showed their strength, while SRH's inconsistent showing has left them on the brink of elimination from the playoff race.

Indian Men's Hockey Team Narrows Camp Squad to 40 After Intense Selection Phase

The Indian Men's Hockey Team has trimmed its national camp squad from 54 to 40 players following a week of rigorous evaluation that began on April 25. The decision to streamline the group was based on recent performances and current form, particularly during the 15th Senior Men's National Championship and the early days of the ongoing camp.



Out of the original 54 probables, 38 have retained their spots from the previous core group, while two new talents have earned their call-ups thanks to standout showings. Chief Coach Craig Fulton confirmed that the selection process was thorough and focused on maintaining competitive intensity across all departments.

The goalkeeping department remains unchanged, with Krishan B Pathak, Suraj Karkera, Pawan, and Mohith Honnenahalli Shashikumar continuing to don the gloves.

In defense, 10 players have been retained, including Amit Rohidas, Varun Kumar, Jugraj Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Amandeep Lakra, Harmanpreet Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, and Mohammed Raheel Mouseen. A new addition to this group is Pratap Lakra from Hockey Madhya Pradesh, who impressed selectors with his recent performances.

The midfield unit showcases a solid mix of experience and rising talent. Raj Kumar

Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Sumit, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Poovanna Chandura Bobby, Rajinder Singh, Vishnu Kant Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, and Shamsheer Singh make up this dynamic lineup.

The forward line has been further strengthened with seasoned players like Gurjant Singh, Abhishek, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Dilpreet Singh, and Sukhjeet Singh. They are joined by Shilanj and Lakra, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Bobby Singh Dhami, Selvam Karthi, Sunil Jojo, Sudeep Chirmako, and Angad Bir Singh. Newcomer Uttam Singh from UP Hockey has also earned a spot following his notable performance.

Coach Fulton praised the depth and balance of the selected group, stating, "This group gives us depth across all departments. The young players stepping up and challenging the seniors is a positive sign as we prepare for major upcoming tournaments."

Europa League Lifeline: Manchester United and Tottenham Secure Crucial First-Leg Wins

Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur have revived their troubled seasons with impressive first-leg victories in the UEFA Europa League semifinals, keeping their hopes alive for silverware and an unlikely route to Champions League qualification.

On Thursday, May 1, 2025, United delivered one of their best performances of the season with a dominant 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao at the San Mames in Spain. Meanwhile, Spurs earned a convincing 3-1 home win against Norwegian side Bodo/Glimt, giving both Premier League strugglers a lifeline in Europe.

For Manchester United, who sit 14th in the league and are facing a record-low domestic finish, European competition has provided rare joy. Casemiro opened the scoring in



the 30th minute with a header from Harry Maguire's cross. Moments later, Rasmus Hojlund won a penalty after being fouled by Dani Vivian, who was sent off after a VAR review. Bruno Fernandes converted from the spot and added a third just before halftime with a composed finish. Fernandes now has 19 goals and 16 assists this season, second only to Liverpool's Mohamed Salah in goal

contributions.

United could have extended their lead further, with Nussair Mazraoui and Casemiro both hitting the post. The return leg takes place at Old Trafford next Thursday, with the final set to be held in Bilbao on May 21.

Tottenham, also mired in domestic struggles and under

pressure, gave manager Ange Postecoglou a timely boost. Brennan Johnson scored within a minute, and James Maddison made it 2-0 by the 34th. Dominic Solanke added a third from the penalty spot in the 61st minute. Though Bodo/Glimt pulled one back in the 83rd via Ulrik Saltnes, Spurs take a strong lead to Norway for the second leg.

Postecoglou expressed confidence in his squad, saying, "All you want is to be in a good position after the first leg — and we've done that."

In the UEFA Conference League, Chelsea added to the English success with a 4-1 win over Djurgarden in Sweden, thanks to a brace from Nicolas Jackson. Real Betis beat Fiorentina 2-1, with on-loan United winger Antony continuing his strong form.

Liverpool's Premier League Win Causes Seismic Shockwaves at Anfield

Liverpool's emphatic 5-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur on April 27, 2025, was more than just a sporting triumph—it quite literally shook the earth. In an extraordinary scientific study conducted by researchers from the University of Liverpool, seismic activity was recorded at Anfield during the match, highlighting the passionate fervor of the club's supporters.

Using advanced seismic monitoring instruments typically deployed in earthquake-prone regions like Chile and Italy, scientists measured the ground movement generated by over 60,000 fans. The result? A peak magnitude of 1.74 on the Richter scale was recorded when Alexis Mac Allister fired a thunderous goal from outside the box, putting the Reds ahead in a pivotal moment of the game.



Other goals in the match also registered significant tremors. Mohamed Salah's second-half strike in front of the iconic Kop measured 1.60, while Cody Gakpo's contribution registered 1.03. Even an own goal by Tottenham's Destiny Udogie scored 1.35, and Luis Diaz's initially disallowed equaliser reached 0.64 on the seismic scale.

The research team, which included Dr. Antoine Septier, Dr.

Farnaz Kamranzad, and Professor Ben Edwards, partnered with Liverpool Football Club to execute this groundbreaking experiment. According to Professor Edwards, the seismic data provides a "scientific record of the magnitude of Liverpool's historic title-clinching win," underscoring the intensity and unity of the fanbase.

"These seismic bursts mimic those caused by natural earthquakes," said Edwards. "They're

triggered not by tectonic plates, but by the roaring energy of fans reacting to pivotal goals."

Dr. Septier expressed hope that the findings would inspire future seismological research and potentially lead to innovations in enhancing stadium experiences.

Liverpool's victory secured their 20th top-flight English title, bringing them level with arch-rivals Manchester United. The Reds sealed the championship with four games remaining, as challengers Arsenal faltered in the closing weeks of the season.

This landmark win was not only a footballing milestone but also a testament to the electrifying spirit of Anfield—a force now proven to move the earth itself.

Indian women's hockey team falls 0-2 to Australia



The Indian women's hockey team displayed grit and determination but ultimately fell short in their third match of the Australia tour, losing 0-2 to the Australian national team at the Perth Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

This encounter marked India's first match against the senior Australian team following two earlier contests against Australia A. Despite a valiant effort, India couldn't overturn the early deficit, with Australia capitalizing on key opportunities to seal the win.

The hosts started on the front foot, testing India's defense early and earning a penalty corner within the opening minutes. Although India held off the initial threat, Australia broke through in the 9th minute when Courtney Schonell scored a well-placed field goal, giving her side a 1-0 lead.

India struggled to gain momentum in the opening quarter as Australia continued to dominate possession and looked threatening with another penalty corner, though they couldn't convert the chance. The Indian defense did well to prevent further damage before the end of the quarter.

In the second quarter, India came out with renewed energy and intent. They earned back-to-back penalty corners and showed better control in midfield. However, despite these opportunities, the equalizer remained elusive. Australia's defense stayed compact, and India went into the halftime break trailing 0-1.

The third quarter was closely contested, with both teams creating chances but failing to find the net. Each side had a penalty corner opportunity, but the goalkeepers and defenders stood tall to keep the scoreline unchanged heading into the final quarter.

As the match approached its climax, India continued to press for an equalizer but were unable to break through a disciplined Australian backline. In the 52nd minute, Australia doubled their lead through Grace Stewart, effectively sealing the game.

While the Indian team showed flashes of promise and resilience throughout the match, the inability to convert scoring chances proved costly. The squad will look to regroup and address these concerns as they prepare for their remaining fixtures on the tour.



First Look of Bhakasaura Restaurant Unveiled: Praveen Shines in a Comedic Lead Role

The much-anticipated first look of Bhakasaura Restaurant has finally been revealed, putting to rest the recent buzz and speculation surrounding the project. In recent weeks, rumors spread like wildfire suggesting that popular comedian and actor Praveen was venturing into the restaurant business with a new eatery named Bhakasaura. However, it's now clear that the name refers to a movie, not a business endeavor. Praveen is playing the lead role in this upcoming comedy film, which is already capturing the audience's attention.

Unveiled on Friday, the film's first look poster presents Praveen in a humorous avatar, holding a giant ladle in a kitchen-like setting. The image features other cast members, including Viva Harsha and Shining Phani, in quirky and expressive poses, hinting at the film's lighthearted and eccentric tone.

Directed by SJ Shiva in his debut, Bhakasaura Restaurant promises to be a "hunger comedy entertainer," according to the filmmaker. The story aims to blend humor, thrill, and originality, offering something new to audiences of all ages. SJ Shiva stated that each scene is designed to deliver

both laughs and excitement, with Praveen set to reveal a fresh dimension of his acting prowess.

Alongside Praveen, the film stars Viva Harsha in a significant title role, supported by a diverse cast that includes Shining Phani (Bumchik Bunty), KGF Garuda Ram, Krishna Bhagavan, Srikant Iyengar, Uppena Jayakrishna, Vivek Dandu, Amar, Rampatas, Ramya, Prachi Thakur, and Jabardasth Apparao.

Produced by Lakshmaiah Achari and Janardhan Achari under the SJ Movies banner, the film has completed its shooting and is gearing up for release. With cinematography by Bala Saraswati, editing by Marthand K. Venkatesh, and music by Vikas Badisa, the technical crew brings strong credentials to the project. Art direction is led by Sri Raja CR Tangala, while publicity is managed by Eluru Srinu and Maduri Madhu, and executive production by Vinay Kotti.

The buzz generated by the first look indicates that Bhakasaura Restaurant might serve up a delightful cinematic treat. Would you like a glimpse of the first-look poster?



Nani's Hit 3: The Third Case Smashes Box Office Records with ₹43 Crore Opening Day

Natural Star Nani has delivered yet another blockbuster with his latest release, Hit 3: The Third Case. The crime thriller, which hit theatres yesterday, has taken the box office by storm, grossing an impressive ₹43+ crore worldwide on its opening day. The film's makers confirmed the figure on social media, celebrating the success with an enthusiastic post:

"SARKAAR'S BOX OFFICE MAYHEM collects a whopping 43+ CRORES GROSS WORLDWIDE on DAY 1 Natural Star @NameisNani's HIGHEST DAY 1 GROSSER #HIT3 is the #1 INDIAN FILM WORLDWIDE YESTERDAY."

This stunning debut marks a personal milestone for Nani, setting a new record for his highest-ever day-one collections. Compared to the previous installments in the Hit franchise, the third chapter has outperformed by a significant margin, proving Nani's rising popularity and box office draw. The film's gripping storyline, combined with a powerful promotional campaign, played a key role in driving footfalls across theatres.

Directed by Sailesh Kolanu, Hit 3 has also made a strong impact overseas. The film earned more than \$1.2 million on its first day abroad, becoming Nani's highest-grossing overseas opening to date. The overwhelming response from international audiences showcases the global appeal of the Hit franchise and Nani's growing stardom beyond Indian borders.

Adding to the impressive performance, online ticketing platform BookMyShow reported over 2.7 lakh tickets sold within just 24 hours, signaling massive interest and strong word-of-mouth buzz.



Produced by Prashanthi Tipirneni under the banners of Wall Poster Cinema and Nani Unanimous Productions, Hit 3 continues the franchise's reputation for gritty crime thrillers with high production values. Following the success of this installment, the makers have confirmed that a fourth part in the Hit series is already in the pipeline, further exciting fans of the franchise.

With its stellar opening, Hit 3: The Third Case has firmly cemented Nani's position as one of the most bankable stars in Indian cinema today. Have you had a chance to watch Hit 3 yet?

Mahesh Babu's Athadu Set for Historic IMAX Re-Release on 20th Anniversary

Mahesh Babu's iconic action thriller Athadu is all set to make a spectacular return to the big screen, nearly 20 years after its original release in 2005. Directed by Trivikram Srinivas and co-starring Trisha, the film was a decent box office success upon its release, but truly gained cult status following its satellite premiere, becoming one of the most beloved films in Telugu cinema. Now, Athadu is poised to create history by becoming the first Indian film ever to be re-released in the IMAX format. This marks a groundbreaking moment in Indian cinema, as no other film from the country has previously been re-released in such a grand and technically upgraded format. The re-release is being planned as a special celebration for Mahesh Babu's birthday in August 2025. The film will return to theaters across both Telugu states with a major technical makeover—featuring 4K Ultra HD resolution and Dolby audio mastering for a visually and sonically immersive



experience. This upgrade ensures that both new audiences and longtime fans will get to enjoy Athadu in a way never seen—or heard—before. To mark the occasion, the makers have launched a 100-day countdown poster, adding to the excitement and anticipation. The poster, released earlier today, has already begun trending among Mahesh Babu fans and film enthusiasts, setting the tone for what is expected to be a grand cinematic event.

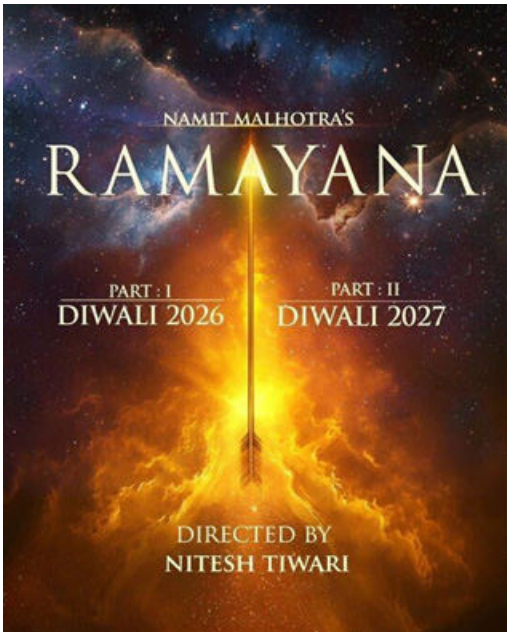
Produced by veteran actor and filmmaker Murali Mohan, Athadu originally stood out for its gripping screenplay, stylish execution, and stellar performances. Its timeless soundtrack, composed by Mani Sharma, continues to be a fan favorite even today. With this historic IMAX re-release, Athadu is not just revisiting the past—it's redefining how classics can be celebrated in the future. Fans are eagerly awaiting the chance to relive Mahesh Babu's sharp and suave performance as Nandu on the big screen, this time bigger and better than ever.

Ranbir Kapoor's Ramayana Teaser to Be Showcased at WAVES Summit 2025

Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana is quickly emerging as one of the most ambitious and eagerly awaited mythological films in the history of Indian cinema. Headlined by Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama and Sai Pallavi as Sita, the epic saga is being made in two parts and is drawing attention for its grand vision, scale, and star power.

The film is back in the spotlight as it has been confirmed that a special teaser of Ramayana will be unveiled during the inaugural World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), which began yesterday in Mumbai and continues through May 4, 2025. While this teaser will be presented at the event, it will not be released to the general public just yet, meaning fans will need to wait a bit longer for their first glimpse of this cinematic spectacle.

Ramayana boasts a stellar ensemble, with Kannada superstar Yash portraying the iconic role of Ravana. The film is being produced on an enormous scale by Namit Malhotra's



DNEG, in collaboration with Yash's own production house, Monster Mind Creations. Adding further weight to the project is its exceptional music lineup, featuring two of the world's most celebrated composers—AR Rahman and Hans Zimmer. Their involvement signals an audio-visual experience like no other.

The first installment of the two-part saga is currently slated for a grand Diwali 2026 release, with the second part expected to hit theatres during Diwali 2027. Given the film's mythological roots, powerful cast, and global production values, Ramayana is anticipated to set a new benchmark for Indian cinema.

With the teaser being privately screened at WAVES, industry insiders and select attendees will get a taste of the scale and storytelling that awaits. As anticipation builds, fans across the world are counting down to the moment they can witness Tiwari's vision for themselves.

Ajay Devgn's 'Raid 2' Revives Bollywood with Blockbuster Opening

At a time when Bollywood has been grappling with underwhelming box office performances, Ajay Devgn's latest release, Raid 2, has brought a much-needed boost to the industry. Opening to an impressive first-day collection of ₹18.25 crore in India, the film has exceeded expectations and marked a strong comeback for the star-driven thriller genre.

A sequel to the 2018 hit Raid, Raid 2 explores the high-stakes world of Income Tax raids, with Ajay Devgn reprising his role as a tough-as-nails IT officer. This time, Riteish Deshmukh steps in as the antagonist, delivering a powerful performance that has been widely appreciated. Directed by Rajkumar Gupta, the film has been made on a budget of ₹48 crore and is jointly produced by Bhushan Kumar, Abhishek Pathak, and Krishna Kumar.

The cast also features Vaani Kapoor, Rajat Kapoor, Supriya Pathak, Saurabh Shukla, Govind Namdev, Yashpal Sharma, Amit Sail, and Brijendra Kala in significant roles. Saurabh Shukla, who played the villain in the



first installment, also appears in the sequel, but this time in a different capacity, adding depth to the storyline.

What makes Raid 2 stand out is its strong narrative, rooted in real-life-inspired tax raids, combined with taut performances and a gripping screenplay. The film has struck a chord with audiences, particularly in North India, where it is being celebrated as a one-sided hit.

Trade analysts are optimistic about the film's prospects over the weekend, with early predictions suggesting that Raid 2 might achieve break-even status within its first three days. In addition to its domestic success, the movie is also performing well overseas, with estimated collections of around ₹5 crore on day one, taking its global first-day tally to approximately ₹22 crore.

As Bollywood continues to search for consistent box office successes, Raid 2 comes as a refreshing win and could set the tone for a positive summer at the movies.