

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 36° C

L 27° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 37° C

L 28° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 37° C

L 27° C

## “Everything is in your hands now”: CM Naidu to Narayana



- CM lauds Amaravati restart event as historic and successful
- PM Modi’s presence gave strong reassurance to the state
- Capital works to be completed and inaugurated in 3 years

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed immense satisfaction over the grand success of the Amaravati capital works resumption program. Speaking in a teleconference with alliance MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and ministers, Chandrababu called the restart a landmark moment and attributed the success to collective effort and Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s support. “The Amaravati capital work resumption program was successful. We restarted the work through the hands of the Prime Minister to explain the necessity of Amaravati,” said the CM. He praised PM Modi’s powerful words, stating, “Amaravati is not a city... it will become a power,” and noted that Modi’s vision cemented Amaravati’s role as the state’s future growth engine.

2 PAGE |



## Pakistan-Flagged Ships Banned from Indian Waters

- India enforces ban on Pakistan-flagged ships entering its ports
- Restrictions are in response to the Pahalgam attack in J&K
- All imports from Pakistan banned with immediate effect
- Action aimed at strengthening India's national security

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a major escalation of tensions with Pakistan, India has imposed a ban on Pakistan-flagged ships from entering any Indian ports. This move follows the brutal Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the tragic deaths of 26 civilians. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued the directive, citing national security concerns and the need to protect Indian assets, cargo, and related infrastructure. The order, effective immediately, states that no ship flying the Pakistan flag shall be allowed to dock at any Indian port. Additionally, India-flagged ships are prohibited from visiting Pakistan’s ports. This

decision comes as part of a broader initiative to ensure the safety and efficient functioning of India’s maritime industry, reinforcing the development of the country’s mercantile marine in line with national interests. The ministry also emphasized that this ban will remain in effect until further notice, underlining the ongoing concerns regarding India’s national security. Exceptions to the ban will only be considered on a case-by-case basis, which could allow for specific exemptions, although this will require government approval. This action follows India’s earlier decision to ban all imports from Pakistan, both direct and indirect. According to a notification from the Ministry of Commerce, the import

and transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan are now prohibited. The notification underscores that these restrictions have been imposed in the interest of national security and public policy, with no exception granted unless explicit approval is given by the Indian government. These steps reflect India’s ongoing strategy to secure its borders, protect its infrastructure, and enhance its maritime security, signaling a further deterioration in diplomatic relations with its neighboring country. As tensions continue to rise, experts believe these actions are part of a broader strategy to ensure the safety of Indian nationals and its assets amidst growing regional instability.



## SIT Intensifies Probe into AP Liquor Scam

- SIT grills Kasireddy over liquor policy, bribe collection
- Reddy evades questions on distribution of ₹50-60 crores monthly
- SIT seeks to question Chanakya, other suspects in coming days

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has escalated its inquiry into the AP liquor scam, focusing on key figures involved in the case. Kasireddy, a central figure in the scam, was taken into custody for a second round of questioning as the investigation team sought answers to critical queries related to the scam’s operations. The SIT raised questions about how the original distiller companies received permission, the decision-making process for monthly approvals, and the distribution of the large sums of money allegedly collected each month. According to sources, Reddy was evasive when asked about the management of the ₹50-60 crore collected each month, failing to specify how the money was distributed or to whom. The investigation has now confirmed that Kasireddy, along with Rajasekhar Reddy, Chanakya, and Dilip, were pivotal players in the scam, which began when the liquor policy was implemented under the previous government. All key figures have been remanded in Vijayawada district jail.

2 PAGE |

## Jagan Never Stood by Farmers

### Nadendla hits Back with Facts

- ₹1,674 crore farmer dues cleared by NDA, not YSRCP
- ₹8,277 crore paid in 24 hrs during Kharif procurement
- Jana Sena leader counters Jagan’s claims

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a scathing counter to YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s post on X (formerly Twitter), Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister and Jana Sena senior leader Nadendla Manohar accused the former Chief Minister of betraying the trust of farmers during his time in power. “You have never been sincere towards the farmers of Andhra Pradesh @ysjagan garu.!!” Manohar posted, calling out what he described as empty rhetoric from the opposition leader. Manohar stressed that it was the NDA government that prioritized clearing farmer dues — ₹1,674 crore — left unpaid during the previous YSRCP regime.

2 PAGE |

## Simhachalam Tragedy Probe reveals shocking lapses by officials

No permissions, no design, no supervision

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam



The investigation into the tragic wall collapse at Simhachalam temple, which claimed seven lives during the Chandanotsavam festival, has revealed gross negligence and irresponsibility by key departments. A committee led by IAS officer Suresh Kumar uncovered alarming lapses in planning, permissions, and supervision. The preliminary report points fingers at the Tourism Development Corporation, Endowments Department, and the contractor for their collective failure. The investigation exposed that construction activities were taken up without approved designs, permits, or engineering supervision. According to sources, not a single department could provide a clear answer as to who gave permission for the wall or who supervised the construction. The absence of engineering checks and basic safety measures in such a sensitive and crowded religious site has highlighted deep flaws in administrative accountability. The committee also noted that even the preliminary works for the shopping complex were started without any formal approvals. This, it stated, further reflects the laxity and disregard for due process. The inquiry committee has reportedly recorded all testimonies and is preparing to submit its report to the government. Once submitted, action is expected against the officers and staff from the concerned departments, especially those who tried to deflect responsibility in a matter involving serious loss of life.

The probe found that:

- The wall that collapsed was constructed without any sanctioned design or structural foundation.
- There were no permissions obtained for building the three-storey shopping complex near the temple.
- There was no designated engineering officer overseeing the temporary wall construction.
- Officials from multiple departments gave evasive responses and shifted blame onto each other during questioning.



# Bomb threat to AP Bhavan in Delhi

## Security tightened after anonymous email

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Tension gripped Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday night after an anonymous email threatened to blow up the premises. The threat came just hours after a terror attack in Pahalgam, raising serious security concerns. According to AP Bhavan officials, an email containing the bomb threat was received around 8:30 pm, just as arrangements were being made to screen the movie “Phule” for senior officials. The presence of high-ranking officials at the time added to the urgency of the situation. Police were immediately alerted and rushed to the scene. A bomb disposal squad and dog squad were deployed to conduct a thorough inspection of the entire building and its surroundings. The teams carried out extensive checks but fortunately did not find any suspicious items. “The entire Bhavan was combed, and no explosives or suspicious objects



were detected,” a senior police officer confirmed, adding that normalcy was restored after the area was deemed safe. The police have registered a case and launched an investigation to trace the source of the threat email. Cyber teams are working on identifying the sender

and their location. The incident caused brief panic among the staff and officials at AP Bhavan, but the swift response from the authorities helped bring the situation under control. Security has been beefed up in and around the premises as a precautionary measure.

## AP govt notifies 175 posts for young professionals

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has issued a major notification for the unemployed youth, announcing the recruitment of 175 young professionals in the State Planning Department on a contract basis. The initiative is part of the government's plan to implement vision action plans and P4 programs in each of the 175 assembly constituencies across the state. As per the notification, selected candidates will be appointed for a period of one year, with a monthly salary of ₹60,000. However, officials indicated that the tenure might be extended based on performance and program requirements. To be eligible, candidates must possess an MBA or any postgraduate degree, and should not be above 40 years of age as of May 1, 2025. One young professional will be placed in each constituency to assist in the planning, execution, and monitoring of constituency-level development strategies under the government's P4 initiative. The selection process includes evaluation of educational qualifications, a written test, and interviews. Applications will be accepted online until May 13, and the detailed notification, including eligibility and application guidelines, is available on the official recruitment portal: <https://apsdpscareers.com/YP.aspx> This move is seen as a proactive step by the newly formed coalition government to bolster development planning at the grassroots level and provide meaningful employment to skilled youth in Andhra Pradesh.

## SIT Intensifies Probe into...

Continued from page 1

After a court granted permission for Reddy's custody from May 2 to 8, the SIT intensified their investigation. They questioned Kasireddy from 10 am to evening, probing the sale of liquor, bribe collection from distilleries, and other illicit activities. Despite presenting transaction documents and evidence, Reddy denied any knowledge of key details, including who initiated the liquor syndicate and how funds were diverted. Vijayasai Reddy's statement implicating the higher-ups since the inception of the policy seems to have provided some leads, but Reddy de-

nied knowing anything about the operation when confronted with this evidence. The SIT also inquired about the roles of Chanakya, Dilip, and Avinash Reddy, who were part of the scam team. With the probe showing limited results so far, the SIT plans to question Chanakya and other suspects individually and jointly in the coming days to extract more information. Legal experts suggest that if Raj Kasireddy cooperates during his custody, it could open the door to uncovering deeper links, possibly implicating officials close to Tadepalli Palace. The SIT is determined to uncover the full extent of the scam during the ongoing investigation.

## Anantapur Court Grants Bail to Borugadda Anil

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

The First Additional District Court in Anantapur has granted bail to Borugadda Anil Kumar in a series of controversial cases. The charges against him include making insulting remarks against prominent political leaders such as TDP Chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, Jana Sena President Pawan Kalyan, and TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh. These cases were registered at the 4th Town Police Station. In addition to these, Borugadda is also facing legal trouble over allegations of threatening the Circle Inspector of the Three Town Police Station. His legal team had strongly argued for his bail, presenting their case before the court, which eventually ruled in his favor.



Despite being granted bail, there is still uncertainty surrounding Borugadda Anil Kumar's actual release from custody. Legal formalities and other procedural aspects are expected to play a role in determining when he will walk free. Borugadda's arrest and the subsequent legal proceedings have drawn attention across political and legal circles, given the nature of his remarks and the personalities involved.

## 84 Red Sandalwood Logs Seized in Kadapa, Smugglers on the Run

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Forest officials in Kadapa district seized 84 red sandalwood logs weighing approximately 2.25 tonnes, along with a mini lorry used for transportation, during a crackdown on smugglers on the Kadapa-Chennai main road. The estimated black market value of the seized wood is over ₹2 crore. The incident occurred near Ontimitta Cheruvu Katta when forest personnel tried to stop a suspicious mini lorry for inspection. However, the smugglers refused to halt and sped away. A second attempt to intercept the vehicle at the Bhakarapet check post was also unsuccessful, prompting the forest officials to avoid high-speed pursuit. Realizing they were being tracked, the smugglers abandoned the lorry on the outskirts of Kadapa and fled the scene. Upon inspection, the forest staff discovered 84 red sandalwood logs camouflaged under cabbage, along with two mobile phones left behind in the vehicle. At a press meet held at the Ontimitta Forest Department office, District



Forest Officer (DFO) Vineeth Kumar confirmed the seizure and stated that a case has been registered. He emphasized that the forest department is taking strict action against red sandalwood smuggling. Based on the mobile phones recovered, the accused have been identified, and efforts are underway to track down prime suspect Murali, a resident of Regalla in Pileru district, who is currently absconding. DFO Vineeth Kumar issued a stern warning, urging youth not to fall prey to illegal activities like red sandalwood smuggling, which could destroy their futures. He reiterated the department's commitment to eradicating illegal trafficking and stated that an intensified search operation is ongoing to apprehend the culprits.

## 4200 crore allocated for NTR Medical Services: Minister Satyakumar

- 18 new dialysis centers established in 10 months
- Free life-saving heart attack injections provided in govt hospitals
- Target of 4.1 crore people to be tested for cancer



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

State Medical and Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav announced significant reforms in the medical and health sector over the last ten months, during his visit to Udayagiri constituency. Minister Satyakumar inaugurated a 5-bed dialysis center at Vinjamur Community Health Center on Saturday, marking an important step in the government's efforts to improve healthcare access in underserved areas. Speaking at the inauguration, the Minister highlighted the coalition government's achievements, including the establishment of 18 dialysis centers across the state within just ten months, compared to only 21 centers during the previous government's five-year term. Three dialysis centers have also been sanctioned for the joint Nellore district. The Minister linked the rising number of kidney patients to the previous government's failure to regulate alcohol quality, causing financial devastation for thousands of families.

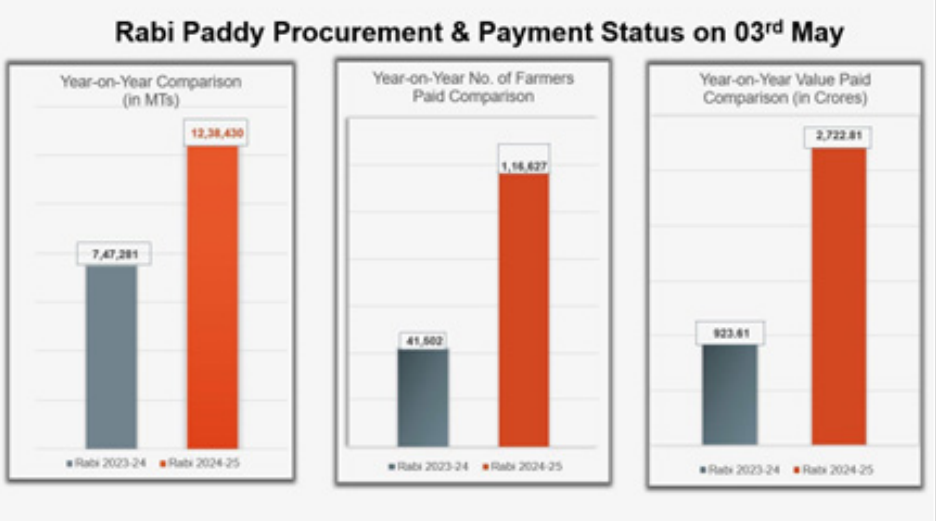
However, the current government is focusing on providing better healthcare services and improving public health. Satyakumar further mentioned that Rs 4200 crore is being allocated for NTR Medical Services. Additionally, through the STEMI program, approximately 2800 lives have been saved, and injections costing ₹45,000 are being provided free of charge to heart attack patients during the critical golden hour. A major cancer testing initiative is also underway, with a target of screening 4.1 crore people, and over 3 crore individuals have already been tested. The Minister also announced plans to build a 100-200 bed multi-specialty hospital in Udayagiri constituency under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. In his address, MLA Kakarla Suresh praised the government's commitment to solving public health issues and emphasized the need for better healthcare services, especially for those living far from the district headquarters.

## Jagan Never Stood by Farmers

Continued from page 1

**He presented key data to underline the NDA's commitment:**

Kharif 2024: 35.94 lakh metric tons of grain procured from 5.65 lakh farmers, with ₹8,277.59 crore credited to their accounts within 24 hours. Rabi 2024: 12.38 lakh metric tons procured from 1.16 lakh farmers, and ₹2,722.81 crore paid within 24 hours. “This is the kind of immediate financial support our government offers in times of hardship. Our NDA alliance is fully committed to the support and upliftment of farmers,” Manohar said. The remarks come amid an intensifying political war of words between the ruling NDA alliance and the YSRCP, with both sides vying for the farmers' trust ahead of elections. Manohar's strong rebuttal signals the NDA's strategy to highlight YSRCP's alleged failures and contrast them with swift action under the current regime.



## “Everything is in your hands...”

Continued from page 1

Chandrababu also set a clear target, directing Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana to complete all capital-related constructions within three years. “Everything is in your hands now,” he told Narayana during the call. He highlighted that Modi's speech was a reflection of his deep affection for the people of Andhra Pradesh and his commitment to the state's progress. “The Prime Minister's assurance that Amaravati will become a role model for the country is a matter of pride,” Chandrababu said. The Chief Minister congratulated ministers and leaders for their meticulous planning and responsible execution of the massive public event. “Even though lakhs of people attended, there were no issues anywhere.



## Government Accelerates Amaravati Capital Construction

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government is speeding up the construction of Amaravati, with the Prime Minister's re-opening ceremony marking a significant milestone. Minister Narayana held discussions with design companies to finalize plans for iconic structures in the capital. At a meeting with representatives from Norman Poster, Hafeez Contractors, and L&T at the CRDA office, Minister Narayana reviewed the final designs of five key towers, including the Assembly and High Court buildings. The architecture firms presented their detailed plans, pushing forward the vision for Amaravati's development.



# Jagan slams CM Naidu for failing farmers

## Demands govt intervention on MSP crisis

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP) chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has severely criticised the Chandrababu Naidu-led government for its inaction regarding the ongoing agricultural crisis in the state. Expressing anguish over the plight of farmers across Andhra Pradesh, Jagan questioned whether ignoring farmers' protests has become a new virtue for the ruling leadership. Taking to social media, Jagan fired a volley of questions at CM Chandrababu Naidu: "Farmers in the state are protesting on roads for lack of minimum support prices (MSP), yet you, your ministers, and the administration do not even turn your eyes towards them. Farmers are falling into

debt traps as their investments are not being recovered. Is it a virtue to not even look at them?" Jagan pointed out that key crops such as chilli, cotton, jowar, lentils, maize, ragi, groundnut, banana, sugarcane, and tobacco are all failing to receive MSP. He accused the government of failing to take even the basic step of market intervention and condemned it for continuously misleading the farming community with false promises. He was particularly scathing about the chilli procurement issue. "You promised chilli would be bought at ₹11,781 per quintal through NAFED, though the Centre has no role in this matter. But you didn't pay even a single paisa. You wrote letters to farmers promising procurement, yet didn't buy even one quintal. Is this how you

repay the trust of those who feed the nation?" Jagan asked. Jagan contrasted the current government's neglect with the steps taken during his administration. "We created a ₹3,000 crore Price Stabilization Fund and spent ₹7,796 crore over five years to support farmers, including those growing crops not listed under MSP, like tobacco. Even if you didn't want to start new schemes, continuing our policy would have helped lakhs of farmers," he said. Slamming the allocation of only ₹300 crore for price stabilization in the current budget, Jagan demanded accountability. "Have you spent even a single rupee from it?" he questioned, accusing the government of fiddling like Roman emperors while farmers suffer. With ongoing protests by paddy, co-



coa, tobacco, and aquaculture farmers across districts, Jagan warned of a deepening rural crisis. "When 60% of the state's population relies on agriculture, can the government afford this neglect? Who will take responsibility if lakhs lose their livelihoods?"

He concluded by demanding immediate intervention. "I urge the government to enter the market directly, procure crops through Markfed, and ensure farmers are given a fair price for their hard work."

## Encroachments on Kadapa tank must be stopped, demand TDP, BJP leaders



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Leaders of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday urged Kadapa District Collector Sri-dhar to take immediate action against alleged encroachments on the old Kadapa tank, which they claimed is threatening thousands of acres of surrounding agricultural land. The leaders, including Old Kadapa TDP leader Krishna Reddy and BJP State Secretary Balakrishna Yadav, submitted a formal petition to the Collector at his office, highlighting that the 460-acre tank supports irrigation for more than 3,000 acres of cultivated land. They alleged that individuals were violently encroaching upon the tank, including areas close to their patta lands. Speaking to the media, the leaders expressed concern over the illegal removal of nearly 400 tipper loads of gravel from the tank. "We want to know how permission was given for such large-scale gravel removal. It's a serious matter," they

said. They also slammed the Fisheries Department for remaining inactive and demanded disciplinary action against officials involved. The petitioners pointed to a government regulation prohibiting development activities within 75 meters of water bodies, stating that any such activity severely hampers natural water flow and creates drainage issues for the local population. They emphasized the urgency of halting these encroachments and restoring the natural boundaries of the historic tank. "We demand that the administration take strict action against those responsible, including government departments that failed in their duties," they stated. Several local leaders and community members participated in the meeting, including Old Kadapa Lake Chairman Narayana Reddy, First Division TDP In-charge Isukupally Chaitanya, BJP senior leader Srinivasulu Reddy, and district vice presidents Kalyan, Krishna Reddy, Vasu, Surendra Babu, among others.

## Modi gave only sand to Amaravati, says APCC chief



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president YS Sharmila launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accusing both of betraying the people of Andhra Pradesh over the construction of Amaravati, the state capital. She alleged that despite clear obligations laid out in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, the Centre

has failed to deliver on its promises. Sharmila expressed deep disappointment over the Prime Minister's recent visit, stating, "Modi gave only soil and lime to Amaravati." She criticized the lack of commitment from the Centre even after a decade since the bifurcation. Citing Section 94(3) of the Act, she said, "It is clearly stated that the Centre is responsible for providing infrastructure for the new capital of Andhra Pradesh. But

what has Modi really given? He made grand declarations in 2015 and is repeating the same lies now." She lambasted the Prime Minister's claims of contribution to Amaravati, asking, "If everything has been given, why hasn't the capital come up yet? Has even a single rupee been allocated out of the lakhs of crores needed? Did he at least grant Amaravati legal status? Where is the time-bound clarity on the bifurcation assurances?" Turning her criticism towards CM Chandrababu Naidu, Sharmila accused him of falling into the same trap again by believing Modi. "You once trusted him and fell into the pit during the night. Now you've called him back and fallen into it again, this time in broad daylight." She strongly opposed the

state government's approach of taking loans for capital construction, stating, "What Amaravati needs is not debt, but central funds. Chandrababu says the state has ₹10 lakh crore in debt and struggles to pay salaries, yet he seeks ₹60,000 crore more for capital construction. Who will bear this interest burden? Why is the Centre not ready to support? Why are you mortgaging the future of Andhra Pradesh to the World Bank, ADB, KFW, and HUDCO?" Sharmila also questioned the move to sell off government lands for capital building, arguing that these are public assets. "Chandrababu Naidu must answer to the people why he is pushing the state further into debt while the Centre evades its responsibility," she demanded.

## What reconstruction? Amaravati was never built, says Sailajanath

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YSRCP leader Sake Sailajanath has raised sharp questions over the Amaravati capital development, calling it a myth perpetuated by grand visuals but lacking actual substance. "What is the reconstruction of Amaravati, which was never built in the first place?" he asked, targeting the current TDP-led state government for what he termed as misleading claims and regional discrimination. Speaking to the media, Sailajanath accused the previous Chandrababu Naidu government of merely showcasing graphic designs during its five-year tenure without taking up any permanent capital construction. "Apart from a few temporary buildings, not a single permanent structure was constructed," he claimed. He further alleged that the 34,000 acres of land taken from farmers for the capital turned into barren lands, and now, another 44,000 acres are being demanded under pressure. He strongly condemned Minister Narayana's reported remarks that the lands would be taken "with difficulty" if farmers did not cooperate. "This is nothing short of a threat," Sailajanath said. The YSRCP leader questioned the rationale

behind setting up a new airport in Amaravati when the Gannavaram International Airport is already nearby. "There's no money for a bus stand, yet they want an airport next door?" he remarked. He raised further concerns about alleged corruption in Amaravati's development, questioning why road construction in Amaravati costs Rs. 59 crore per kilometer when the national average is Rs. 20 crore. "Whose pockets is this money going into?" he asked, suggesting large-scale commissions and manipulation in awarding contracts without proper tenders. Pointing out the capital's vulnerability to floods, Sailajanath cited reports that banks refused loans unless Rs. 1100 crore were spent on flood prevention measures. "Thousands of crores are being wasted in a flood-prone zone," he said. Sailajanath concluded by accusing the government of ignoring the aspirations of backward regions like Rayalaseema and North Andhra, instead sinking state finances into Amaravati. He demanded a public explanation on why development in these regions is being sabotaged and challenged the government to produce evidence refuting the serious allegations made.



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Chief Spokesperson and former MP Dr. Narreddy Tulasi Reddy has sharply criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for participating in a second foundation-laying ceremony for Amaravati, questioning the necessity and intent behind the event. Addressing the media in Kadapa on Saturday, Tulasi Reddy said the Prime Minister's claim that the Centre had extended full support to Amaravati in the last ten years was a blatant lie.

He recalled that Prime Minister Modi had already conducted a high-profile stone-laying ceremony on October 22, 2015, by bringing soil from Parliament and water from the Yamuna River, promising to build a capital grander than Delhi. "After a decade, not even the commemorative plaque laid at Uddandarayunipalem is visible. Then why another foundation stone ceremony now? Is it like getting married a second time?" he asked sarcastically. He further stated that the Centre

had allocated only ₹2,500 crore to Amaravati and mocked the event as excessive and unnecessary. Quoting a Telugu idiom, he likened Modi's claim to boasting that a tiny pepper (Tanguturi mirchi) is the size of a palm tree. Tulasi Reddy expressed disappointment that the PM made no mention of key pending issues, including special category status, a development package for Rayalaseema and Uttarandhra, a steel plant in Kadapa, or the Durgajapatnam port, all of which are vital to the state's interests. He emphasized that the Centre is obligated under Section 94 of the AP Bifurcation Act to fund Amaravati's development and demanded immediate financial grants. He also expressed condolences over the death of Velugu CC Nagaraju, who died in a road accident while on his way to the Amaravati public meeting, and urged the government to support his family. The press meet was attended by DCC Vice Presidents Sirajuddin and Kadiri Prasad Goud, DCC Secretary Ekadashi Reddy, OBC District President Chinna Kullayappa, social worker Salauddin, and former PCC General Secretary Abdul Sattar.



# Protest Over Madhumitha's Death Sparks Tension in Tiruvuru

**Madhumitha died under suspicious circumstances**  
**Family and locals demand justice with a protest at Circle Office**  
**Dharna at Ganesh Center causes heavy traffic disruption**

**TPN Correspondent | NTR District**  
Tension prevailed in Thiruvur of NTR district after the body of YouTuber Madhumita, who died under suspicious circumstances, was kept at the government hospital for several hours as her relatives refused to accept it until justice was delivered. Madhumita's body has been lying in the hospital mortuary since 4 p.m., with family members and supporters staging protests and demanding a thorough investigation into her death. Alleging foul play and negligence in the probe, Madhumita's family members and well-wishers took out a rally with her photos and flexis from the hospital premises to the Thiruvur police station, demanding swift justice and accountability. They raised slogans against the police and urged authorities to take immediate action against those responsible for her death. The protesters staged a sit-in at the



Thiruvur police station, calling for an impartial probe and questioning the delay in the investigation. They alleged that despite clear indications of suspicious circumstances, the police had not taken concrete action,



prompting them to resort to public protest. Madhumita was a budding YouTuber with a growing social media presence, and her sudden death has sparked widespread concern and outrage among the local community and her followers online. Several activists and youth groups have extended support to her family's demand for justice. As of late evening, the body remained in the hospital, with officials in discussions with the family to resolve the situation. Police have assured the family that all necessary steps will be taken to uncover the truth behind Madhumita's death.

## AP Forensic Science Workshop to Begin on 5<sup>th</sup> May

*DGP Harish Kumar Gupta to inaugurate the workshop*

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
The Andhra Pradesh Forensic Science (APFSL) Workshop will be held from May 5th to 10th, with the aim of enhancing the understanding of forensic science evidence among investigating officers, doctors, and public prosecutors. The workshop will be inaugurated by DGP Harish Kumar Gupta at the Andhra Pradesh

State Police Headquarters. Under the guidance of AP Forensic Department Director G. Palaraju, IPS, the workshop is designed to emphasize the importance of forensic science in criminal investigations. Participants will gain insights into the latest techniques and advancements in forensic evidence collection and analysis. The state's efforts to strengthen

its forensic capabilities also include the development of a "Center of Excellence" in Tullur. This state-of-the-art facility, being built at a cost of Rs 250 crore, is expected to be completed by March 2026. The Andhra Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory has already made remarkable strides, achieving a 96% success rate in forensic investigations.

## Field-level Inspection of Kochi's Subhash Bose Park



**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
As part of the southern states' study tour, a delegation from the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, led by Deputy Mayor Smt. Shailaja Reddy, Tour Coordinator and Floor Leader Venkata Satyanarayana, and a team of corporators, was warmly welcomed on Saturday evening at the Council Hall of Kochi Municipal Corporation by Mayor Anil Kumar, Commissioner Shibu, and other municipal officials. In this meeting, Mayor Anil Kumar elaborated on the administrative system of the Kochi Corporation, the process of electing public representatives, and most importantly, the steps being taken to reduce pollution in the city, plastic ban strategies, administrative mechanisms, drinking water supply,

sanitation management, project implementation, and park maintenance. Kochi Corporation Secretary Shibu detailed the uniqueness of Subhash Park, which spans 11.5 acres. He mentioned that it is the largest park in the city and has been developed in an eco-friendly and aesthetic manner. He also provided insights into the sanitation management and other aspects within the corporation's jurisdiction. Following this, the delegation of corporators conducted a field visit to Subhash Park located in Menaka and reviewed the park facilities. Tour Coordinator and Floor Leader Venkata Satyanarayana presented a video showcasing various projects being implemented in Vijayawada city and explained their execution procedures.

## Ex-MLA Vamsi taken to hospital due to illness

- Police shift him back to jail after three-hour medical tests
- Reports say he had swollen feet, unable to wear slippers

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Former Gannavaram MLA Valabhaneni Vamsi, who is currently facing criminal charges in multiple cases, was shifted to the Vijayawada Government Super Specialty Hospital on Friday after he complained of health issues. According to sources, Vamsi was experiencing severe swelling in his feet, making it difficult for him to even wear his regular slippers. On account of this, jail authorities arranged for a medical evaluation at



the government hospital, where a series of diagnostic tests were conducted over a period of three hours.

After the completion of the tests, he was escorted back to the jail by police personnel. While officials have not released detailed results of the tests, sources indicated that no emergency condition was detected during the examination. Vamsi, a former legislator from the Gannavaram constituency, has recently been in the spotlight due to his alleged involvement in several criminal cases and is currently under judicial custody.

## Amaravati will become world's No.1 city: Minister Parthasarathy

- Amaravati Sabha success brings joy across the state
- Amaravati to be future hub for AI, IT, quantum computing



**TPN Correspondent |Vijayawada**  
Minister for Information, Public Relations and Housing Kolusu Parthasarathy said that the grand success of the Amaravati inauguration Sabha has brought happiness to all Telugu people across the state. Addressing a press meet at his office on Bandaru Road on Saturday, he stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself described Amaravati as the capital of the gods, highlighting the city's potential for becoming a global

centre of progress. He remarked that where gods reside, it is natural for some demons to be present — referring to those who opposed Amaravati's development in the past. He said that 5 crore Telugu people firmly stand behind Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, whose leadership has earned the admiration of even the Prime Minister. Parthasarathy said Amaravati is on track to emerge as a thriving hub for artificial intelligence, information technology, and quantum computing. He emphasized that the launch of ₹58,000 crore worth development works from the Prime Minister's platform signals a massive boost to the state's progress. He asserted that the combined experience of Modi, Chandrababu, and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan can uplift Andhra Pradesh from its current debt crisis. He criticized the previous government for neglecting and intimidating Amaravati's residents, and recalled how they even mocked Amaravati as "Bhramaravathi". He said these former rulers were invited to the Amaravati Sabha but chose to stay away, failing once again to

acknowledge the capital's significance. He urged them to repent for the damage done and added, "Even if the Telugu people do not forgive them, at least God might." Minister Parthasarathy also reiterated the coalition government's commitment to the poor, pointing out the administration's plan to create 20 lakh jobs for the youth. He noted that thousands of people couldn't attend the Amaravati Sabha due to lack of transportation, yet the enthusiasm was widespread. He stated that suspicions surrounding Amaravati have now been dispelled, and the government will take legal measures to officially recognize Amaravati as the capital. He added that the completion of the Polavaram project and the Banakacharla linkage will help bring water to every acre in the state. He concluded by reaffirming that if any conspiracy was involved in the fire accident during the Amaravati Sabha, it will be exposed through investigation. The coalition government, he said, is working with clarity and vision for the future of Andhra Pradesh.

## Farmers' welfare is our top priority: MLA Venigandla Ramu

**TPN Correspondent | Gudlavaluru**  
Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu reaffirmed his commitment to prioritizing the interests of farmers in the constituency. On Saturday, the MLA inspected the silt removal works in the Vinnakota Medium Drain in Gudlavaluru mandal, taken up at a cost of ₹32 lakhs. He was accompanied by local farmers, officials, and coalition leaders. During the inspection, officials briefed the MLA on the progress of the work. Farmers from Chintalagunta, Kurada, Puritipadu, Vinnakota, Chinnagonnur, and surrounding areas expressed gratitude to the MLA, stating that the issue, which had persisted for decades, was finally addressed. They noted that the flooding problems had been resolved and anticipated better crop yields this season. MLA Ramu stated that the 9-km stretch from Kurada to Vinnakota would great-

ly benefit from the silt removal, which will ensure smoother water flow and help prevent crop damage. He added that after observing the hardships faced by farmers before the elections, he immediately prioritized these issues upon assuming office. He credited the Water Association system introduced by CM Chandrababu Naidu for enabling timely intervention in canal desilting and water flow management. He assured farmers that the government would continue to modernize crop canals and drainages across the Gudivada constituency to ensure agricultural prosperity. The inspection was attended by AP SWC Chairman Ravi Venkateswara Rao, Drainage AE Bhogendra Prasad, and coalition leaders Narendra, Borra Prasad, and Borra Madhusudan, alongside a large number of local farmers.





# Aquaculture Without Permission Wreaks Havoc on Fertile Lands

Fertile lands ruined by high salt concentration in ponds  
Officials ignoring Collector's orders to halt aquaculture  
Illegal aquaculture persists in East Godavari despite court orders  
Govt fails to address aquaculture's damage to agriculture

**K Govinda Raju | TPN**  
Ramachandrapuram, May 4: Il-legal aquaculture is rapidly ex-panding in fertile agricultural lands in Ramachandrapuram, despite clear orders from author-ities to halt such activities. Large areas of land are being convert-ed into shrimp ponds, with no permission granted for their use. Officials are turning a blind eye, and some public representatives,

motivated by vested interests, are granting permissions for these ponds. Farmers are growing increasing-ly concerned as the once-produc-tive lands are now barren due to the salt concentrations from the shrimp ponds. Water holes that were once sources of clean water are now contaminated, impact-ing both farming and livestock in the region.

Despite several complaints and protests from the local commu-nity, including a sit-in organized in K. Gangavaram mandal, the authorities have failed to take decisive action. In the past, former Minister Chellubhoin Venu intervened when locals raised concerns about water pollution, and aqua ponds were demol-ished. However, within days, they were re-established, and

aquaculture continues unabated. The issue highlights a significant gap between the orders issued by the High Court and the lack of en-forcement on the ground. With no politician or official willing to address the problem effectively, the people of Ramachandrapu-ram remain helpless, suffering under the unchecked expansion of illegal aquaculture.



## MSME parks to be set up in every constituency: Minister Srinivas



**TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram**  
State MSME and SERP Minister Kondapalli Srinivas has emphasized the long-term vision for the develop-ment of Andhra Pradesh, with plans totaling ₹58,000 crore for the growth of the state. Speaking at a me-dia conference on Saturday, the Minister highlighted the significance of the reopening of Amaravati as the state capital and the strategic initiatives unveiled by Prime Minister Modi. Minister Srinivas mentioned that despite ten years since the state's bifurcation, the development of the capital had been a challenging task. He credited former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for providing the necessary groundwork for the capital's establish-ment. The Minister outlined plans to create MSME parks in every constituency across rural and urban areas, with the goal of generating employment for youth and boosting local economies. Additionally, he em-phasized that the government is focused on creating IT and tech hubs in Amaravati and has prepared a visionary document for developing all zones in the state. According to Srinivas, the Chief Minister has also formulated a comprehensive action plan to ensure balanced governance, prioritizing both welfare and development.

## Steps to Control Prices in Eluru: District JC Orders Action Plan

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**  
District Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy has directed officials to formulate a comprehensive action plan to control the prices of essential commodities and ve-getables in Eluru district. This decision follows a meet-ing held on Saturday with the Price Control Commit-tee at the local Collectorate. Addressing the committee, the Joint Collector em-phasized the need to monitor and regulate prices in both wholesale and retail sectors to ensure consum-ers have access to affordable goods. She instructed officials to analyze the price trends closely, especially for vegetables and essential commodities, and take appropriate steps to prevent any price hikes that would burden the public. The meeting saw the participation of key district of-ficials, including District Civil Supplies Officer Y. Prat-ap Reddy, District Horticulture Officer S. Rammohan, District Agriculture Officer Habib Bhasha, and others. Representatives from the district's farmers' markets, as well as local farmers and business owners, also attended the meeting to discuss the current market conditions and challenges.



## Inspection of NEET Exam Centers by District SP



**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**  
District SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore has emphasized the need for stringent measures to ensure smooth conduct of the NEET ex-amination and prevent any in-convenience for candidates. The SP conducted an inspection of var-ious NEET exam centers on Sat-urday, including Kendriya Vidya-laya, Government High School in Gopannapalem, Government Ju-nior College, Kasturiba Girls' High School, and Subbammadevi Mu-nicipal Corporation High School in Eluru. During the inspection, the District SP highlighted the importance of

implementing a comprehensive traffic control plan to avoid any disruptions for candidates trav-eling to the exam centers. He also stressed the need for police security at each exam venue and the establishment of help cen-ters with information facilities to guide candidates. The inspection was attended by key officials, including Eluru RDO Achyut Ambareesh, Eluru District Additional SP N. Suryachandra Rao, Eluru DSP D. Shravan Kumar, and local police inspectors, who discussed the measures required to ensure a smooth examination process.

## Farmers protest against suspension of Rabi grain procurement

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**  
The Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association has condemned the state government's decision to suspend the procurement of Rabi grain, calling it a "cruel move" that severely affects farmers and tenant farmers. Led by District Secretary K. Srinivas, the farm-ers staged a protest in front of the District Collectorate and Dis-trict Civil Supplies Office in Eluru on Saturday, demanding that the government fulfill its promise to purchase all harvested grain. Addressing the gathering, K. Sri-nivas criticized the government for backtracking on its assur-ances to farmers. He said the au-thorities had set a purchase tar-get of only 2.2 lakh metric tons, while the total Rabi grain produc-tion in the district is estimated at around 4 lakh metric tons. "The procurement has been halted on the pretext of meeting the target, leaving nearly half the grain un-purchased," he said. He further revealed that grain



loaded into lorries and tractors has been lying at Farmers' Ser-vice Centers for the past three days, with no clarity from offi-cials. "The civil supplies depart-ment has expressed helplessness, citing a lack of new targets from the government. This has pushed food grain suppliers and farmers into distress," Srinivas added.

The protesters demanded that the government immediately increase the procurement tar-get and resume purchases to avoid losses to farmers. A pe-tition outlining their concerns was submitted to Civil Supplies Organization District Manager P. Sivaramamurthy. Several affected farmers and

tenant cultivators, including Byreddy Lakshmana Rao, Bonag-iri Kanakaraju, Tirumala Shetty Jagadeeshwar Rao, Akiri Nagara-ju, Thota Venkata Satyanaraya-na, Tirumala Shetty Leela Mad-havarao, and Balaji, participated in the protest and shared their grievances.

## Agricultural labourers to Hold One-Day Strike on May 20

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**  
Agricultural Labor Union District Secretary P. Ramakrishna an-nounced that a one-day nation-wide strike will be held on May 20 to protest the ongoing issues in the Mahatma Gandhi Nation-al Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). He demand-ed that the central government increase both the funds and the number of working days allotted under the scheme in the upcom-ing budget. Speaking at a district-wide meet-ing of the Agricultural Labor Union held at Anne Bhavan in Powerpet, Eluru, on Saturday, Ramakrishna alleged that the ruling class is deliberately try-ing to weaken the MGNREGS. He called upon workers to fight back

and protect this scheme, which was won through long-standing struggles. He criticized the current state of implementation, stating that workers have not been given even 30 days of employment this year, far short of the promised 100 days. He also pointed out the severe delay in wage payments, stating that payments due within two weeks are now pending for over 13 weeks. As part of the protest, he called on all employment guarantee work-ers to stop work for one day and organize dharnas and demon-strations at mandal offices and village secretariats across the district. The aim of the May 20 strike, he said, is to draw atten-tion to these serious issues and press for immediate redressal.



The meeting was chaired by Dis-trict President M. Jeevaratnam and attended by union leaders and activists including A. Ravi, Tama Muthyalamma, G. Venkat

Rao, Karam Naga Durga, Sat-koteswara Rao, Sai Krishna, Cha-lapathi, Prabhakar, Seetha Ra-jasekhar, and Holy Mary.



# Operation Vigilant Citizen: A Call to Action Against Terrorism

To effectively engage citizens as vigilant observers, protectors, and informants in the fight against terrorism, a thorough and multi-layered approach is crucial. Given India's extensive geography and its population of 1.4 billion, it is vital to encourage active public involvement in counter-terrorism measures.

The national counter-terrorism policy and strategy, as expressed by our minister Sri Amit Shah, is centered on the objective of dismantling the comprehensive infrastructure that supports terrorist activities. This initiative is intended to enhance and build upon existing programs like the Police Mitra Scheme and the Cyber Volunteer Program, ensuring they are in accordance with the forthcoming National Counter-Terrorism Policy from the Ministry of Home Affairs. This strategic approach aims to strengthen our defenses against terrorism and improve overall public safety..

By executing this comprehensive strategy, India can leverage the collective power of its citizens to establish a strong defense against terrorism, promoting a culture of vigilance and proactive citizen engagement, transforming them from passive observers into active guardians against terror threats..

## Community Vigilance Corps (CVC)

The goal is to create a grassroots network of trained civilian volunteers who will serve as the initial defense against terrorism. This involves recruiting individuals with clean backgrounds, such as former military personnel, students, and community leaders, and providing them with thorough training that includes structured protocols for recognizing suspicious activities, basic self-defense techniques, and establishing communication with law enforcement. Volunteers



**Dr. Buragadda Srinadh**  
*Author, Former National consultant for NRHM, Ministry of Health, Govt of India*

will be assigned to local police stations to facilitate coordination and information exchange. To ensure credibility and authority, it is essential for authorities to issue official identification cards to these individuals..

## Developing Digital Surveillance and Reporting Platform

The objective is to utilize technology for real-time reporting and monitoring of potential threats. This must initiate developing a mobile application that allows citizens to anonymously report suspicious activities. Additionally, AI-driven analytics will be employed to analyze collected data for identifying patterns and potential threats. Furthermore, a Cyber Volunteer Program must be established to expand and improve the current initiative by increasing the number of volunteers and offering advanced training.

## Public Awareness and Education Campaign

Enhancing public awareness about the crucial need for vigilance and the significant contribution of individuals to national security initia-

tives in the ongoing fight against terrorism. Implementing mass media campaigns through television, radio, and social media to share information and success stories. Organizing community workshops regularly in schools, colleges, and community centers. Developing educational materials such as brochures, posters, and digital content in various languages is essential .

## Incentive and Recognition Initiative:

Foster community involvement by recognizing and rewarding valuable contributions. Implement a system of financial incentives for actionable intelligence that leads to effective threat mitigation. Host public events and utilize media platforms to celebrate exceptional volunteers, highlighting their efforts and achievements. Provide certificates and badges to participants who actively engage in the initiative, acknowledging their commitment and contributions to the community.

## Policy Integration and Oversight

Develop a comprehensive citizen engagement strategy that is closely aligned with national security policies, ensuring that all actions taken are accountable and transparent. This strategy should include the integration of citizen engagement protocols directly into the National Counter-Terrorism Policy, fostering a collaborative approach to security. Establish committees at local, state, and national levels tasked with overseeing the implementation and assessment of this program, ensuring that it meets its objectives effectively. Additionally, create multiple channels through which citizens can provide feedback and suggestions, allowing for their voices to be heard and considered in the decision-making process.



# 'Indian Threat', '1962 War': How Chinese 'Experts' Are Batting For Pak Over India

Following the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, Chinese official rhetoric has appeared to echo, if not subtly support, Pakistan's position while downplaying Indian concerns. Although China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiankun publicly condemned all forms of terrorism, Chinese state media coverage has followed a narrative that questions India's account of events and avoids labeling the attack as terrorism.

Chinese media giants like Xinhua and CCTV have described the attack as a shooting by "unknown local gunmen" and referred to the site as "India-controlled Kashmir," a softer variation of Pakistan's "Indian illegally-occupied Kashmir." Such language avoids implicating cross-border terrorism and instead fuels doubt around India's claims.

Further, the \*Global Times\* lent credibility to The Resistance Front's (TRF) withdrawal of responsibility by citing a cyber intrusion, and warned India against "premature conclusions." This narrative ignores the broader context of state-sponsored terrorism originating from Pakistan—a pattern with decades of history.

China's second key stance is its call for peaceful bilateral negotiations between

India and Pakistan. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated this to his Pakistani counterpart on April 27, echoed by spokesperson Guo in a press conference on April 28. While calls for dialogue seem neutral, the undertone of China's messaging implies that India lacks the capability or strategic advantage to pursue a military resolution—pointing to India's 1962 war defeat and downplaying its modern-day military readiness.

Prominent Chinese commentators have gone further. Scholars like Wang Shida argue that escalation doesn't benefit India's development goals, while others like Gu Huoping (a pen name for a pro-military voice) suggest that a war would test Pakistan's Chinese-made military arsenal—framing conflict in a way that indirectly advertises China's defense exports.

Lastly, China's repeated offers to mediate the crisis under the guise of supporting a "fair investigation" shift the narrative from cross-border terrorism to an international dispute. These moves, particularly aligned with Pakistan's calls for external involvement, reveal a pattern: while claiming neutrality, China's discourse consistently undermines India's position, offering subtle yet sustained support to Pakistan's diplomatic narrative.

# Bharat Summit 2025: A Global Progressive Alliance Against Rising Far-Right Forces



The Bharat Summit, held in Hyderabad on April 25–26, 2025, marked a significant global event commemorating 70 years since the Bandung Conference, which had united countries of the Global South against colonialism and neocolonialism. Organized by the Samruddha Bharat Foundation in partnership with the Telangana government, the summit brought together over 400 delegates from more than 100 countries, including politicians, academics, and social activists, with the goal of building a new alliance of progressive forces to counter the growing global influence of far-right extremism.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his ministers played active roles in hosting and participating in the summit, which focused on reshaping the current world order through progressive collaboration. The underlying concern: the global shift from liberal democracy to far-right authoritarianism, a trend threatening civic nation-states and modern constitutional values.

Seven major panels and a concluding valedictory session tackled urgent global challenges. Discussions ranged from gender justice and feminist foreign policy to the dangers of disinformation and propaganda driven by right-wing politics. The panels emphasized the connections between patriarchy, conservatism,

and religious fundamentalism that bolster far-right ideologies.

Youth engagement and multilateralism were central to the conversation, with participants highlighting the importance of youth leadership in resisting authoritarianism and advocating for cooperation between nations. Concerns were also raised about the weakening of international institutions, particularly due to far-right governments pulling out of multilateral agreements, such as the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord.

Climate justice, diversity, pluralism, and economic fairness were among the summit's key priorities. Delegates stressed the role of the far right in undermining climate action and spreading ethnic nationalism, which threatens cultural diversity and global solidarity.

The summit concluded with a powerful valedictory session led by Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, who likened his Bharat Jodo Yatra to a "market of love" challenging a climate of hatred. The summit culminated in the adoption of the 'Hyderabad Resolution: Delivering Global Justice', a 44-point declaration envisioning a future rooted in liberty, equality, and fraternity. The event marked a bold step toward building a hate-free, just, and progressive global society.

# Embracing Homo Augmentus: Overcoming Human Cognitive Limits with AI

Despite the remarkable capabilities of the human brain, our cognitive system is riddled with limitations—restricted memory, attention deficits, slow data processing, and a reliance on years of education to gain expertise. Unlike machines, we require rest and sleep, struggle with multitasking, and cannot instantly recall precise information or perform complex calculations. These limitations, while natural, are now being addressed by artificial intelligence (AI), which offers unprecedented support in expanding human cognitive capacity.

Throughout history, humans have developed tools to extend physical abilities—the wheel, steam engine, electricity, and computers revolutionized our productivity. Today, AI represents a leap forward, not just as a tool, but as a cognitive partner. Unlike static technologies, AI learns and evolves, bridging the gap between human constraints and the limitless power of computation.

In medicine, for example, a doctor may analyze millions of images over a lifetime, but AI can examine billions in mere days. Systems like IBM Watson Health Imaging are outperforming human doctors in specific diagnoses, enabling quicker, more accurate treatments. Moreover, AI's knowledge is easily transferable—once trained, it can instantly replicate expertise across systems, unlike human learning, which takes years of experience and mentorship.



AI has already driven major breakthroughs. The rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines was accelerated by machine learning algorithms that analyzed data, identified vaccine candidates, and streamlined production—compressing a decade-long process into under a year. Across industries, AI optimizes decision-making, enhances cybersecurity, forecasts trends, and even supports creativity in writing, music, and art.

Yet, skepticism remains. Fears of job loss obscure the truth: AI will not replace humans but reshape work. Just as the Industrial Revolution created new industries, AI will push human labor toward creativity, empathy, and strategic problem-solving. To thrive, we must shift our mindset—accepting AI as an enhancement rather than a threat.

The emergence of "Homo Augmentus"—humans enhanced by AI—signals a new evolutionary chapter. Those who embrace this partnership will lead the future. By acknowledging our cognitive limits and leveraging AI, we can confront the world's most complex challenges and usher in a new era of human advancement.



# PM Modi Announces \$200 Million Defence Credit Line for Angola, Reaffirms Stand Against Terrorism

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced a USD 200 million defence credit line for Angola and reaffirmed India's unwavering resolve to combat terrorism and its sponsors. The announcement was made following wide-ranging talks with Angolan President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenço, who is currently on a four-day visit to India.

Speaking at a joint media briefing, PM Modi described President Lourenço's visit as a milestone in strengthening the India-Angola bilateral relationship and deepening India's broader partnership with the African continent. "President Lourenço's visit not only gives new direction to India-Angola relations but also adds strength to the India-Africa partnership," said the Prime Minister.

As part of the discussions, PM Modi announced India's decision to extend a USD 200 million defence line of credit to help Angola modernise its defence forces. He also highlighted plans for collaboration in the maintenance, repair, overhaul, and supply of defence platforms, signalling India's growing defence cooperation with African nations.

The leaders agreed to expand cooperation beyond defence into key sectors such as digital public infrastructure, space technology, and capacity building. India also expressed its interest in working closely with Angola in areas like healthcare, di-



among processing, fertiliser production, and critical minerals—sectors crucial for both nations' economic development.

In a strong message following the recent Pahalgam terror attack, PM Modi emphasized India's zero-tolerance approach to terrorism. "We are committed to taking firm and decisive action against terrorists and those who support them," he said.

Reflecting on the broader geopolitical alignment, PM Modi underscored the im-

portance of the India-Africa partnership. "We are partners in progress and pillars of the Global South," he said, reaffirming India's support for the African Union and its growing role on the global stage.

President Lourenço's visit marks a significant step in India-Angola relations and comes at a time when India is strengthening strategic ties with key African nations, both bilaterally and through multilateral forums. His visit concludes on Sunday.

## India Bans All Imports from Pakistan Amid Rising Tensions Post-Pahalgam Terror Attack



TPN Correspondent | Shahjahanpur

In a significant escalation of its stance against Pakistan, the Indian government has imposed a complete ban on all imports from the neighbouring country, citing national security and public policy concerns. The decision follows the deadly Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, in which 26 civilians, including a Nepalese tourist and a local pony guide, were brutally killed in Jammu and Kashmir's Baisaran meadow.

The Ministry of Commerce issued a notification adding a provision to the Foreign

Trade Policy 2023 that prohibits "direct or indirect import or transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan, whether or not freely importable or otherwise permitted," effective immediately. Any exceptions will now require explicit prior approval from the Government of India.

India-Pakistan bilateral trade has plummeted over the years, falling from \$2.4 billion in 2017-18 to just \$647 million in 2023-24. In the current fiscal year (2024-25, up to January), Indian exports to Pakistan stood at \$447.65 million, while imports were a negligible \$0.42 million — less than 0.0001% of India's total imports.

In response to the terror attack, India also suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, a vital agreement signed in 1960, threatening to block or divert water flowing into Pakistan. This could critically affect millions in Pakistan who depend on the Indus River system.

Additionally, all visas for Pakistani nationals, including those issued for medical purposes, have been revoked. Pakistani citizens residing in India were instructed to leave within a stipulated timeframe. India's Home Minister Amit Shah reaffirmed the nation's stance, declaring that no trade dialogue would take place until terrorism is eradicated from Jammu and Kashmir. The situation remains tense along the Line of Control, with continued cross-border firing met with strong Indian retaliation.

## Ethnic Communities in Manipur Mark Two Years of Violence with Protests in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Members of the Kuki, Zomi tribes, and the Meitei community held separate protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar to mark two years since ethnic violence erupted in Manipur on May 3, 2023.

The Kuki protesters, dressed in black, mourned the lives lost during the violence and voiced their demand for a separate administrative setup for their community. Organised by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) and the Kuki-Zo Women's Forum, Delhi (KZWFD), the protestors raised concerns over issues such as safety, displacement, and the ongoing lack of justice for the victims.

Gladdy Vaipay Honjan, a Kuki activist in



Delhi, stated, "We have been asking the government to give us a solution, let us live a normal life like people in any other state." She expressed that the Kuki community continues to suffer, still awaiting justice for the violence, displacement, and destruction that occurred over two years ago.

The protesters observed a moment of silence for those who lost their lives or were

displaced, holding placards that read "Freedom's call: Separate administration" and "No justice, no peace."

Meanwhile, the Meitei protesters, dressed in white, gathered under the banner of the Delhi Meitei Coordinating Committee. Their demands focused on justice, the rehabilitation of the displaced, and a safe return to their original homes. They also called for an end to cross-border terrorism, the withdrawal of support for armed groups under the suspension of operations (SoO) agreement, and the removal of buffer zones dividing the communities.

RK Khaidasana, a Meitei protester from Churachandpur in Manipur, shared his personal experience, recalling the violence that broke out on May 3, 2023.



## 8 Arrested In Killing Of Murder-Accused Suhas Shetty In Mangaluru

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Police have arrested eight individuals in connection with the brutal murder of Hindu activist Suhas Shetty in the communally sensitive coastal city of Mangaluru. Officials confirmed the arrests on Saturday, stating that formal announcements would follow after initial interrogations.

Shetty, a Bajrang Dal activist and the prime accused in the 2022 killing of Mohammad Fazil, was murdered in a meticulously planned attack. According to police sources, the assailants rammed his vehicle with a goods truck before a group from a trailing Swift car emerged and hacked him to death. The entire incident was captured on surveillance cameras, which aided in identifying and tracking the suspects.

The murder has reignited communal tensions in Mangaluru and nearby Udupi, with multiple stabbing incidents reported since the killing. The atmosphere remains volatile, prompting Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara to visit Mangaluru on Saturday to assess the law-and-order situation and hold discussions with senior police officials.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka alleged lapses in police conduct, claiming that officers had warned Shetty not to carry weapons just a week before the attack and had searched his vehicle. "How did the attackers know this? If he had a weapon, he might have survived," Ashoka stated. He also pointed to pre- and post-murder social media messages threatening and celebrating Shetty's death.

Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje and Mangaluru MP Captain Brijesh Chowta have called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah to hand the case over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Meanwhile, BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra announced ₹25 lakh compensation for Shetty's family.

BJP MLC C.T. Ravi warned of possible revenge killings if swift action is not taken. "There is no one who will tolerate Suhas' murder going unpunished," he said.

Ashoka further alleged the involvement of banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) and Karnataka Forum for Dignity in the killing. Police are also probing links between Shetty's murder and a recent mob lynching incident involving a man allegedly shouting pro-Pakistan slogans.

## Owaisi Calls for Stronger Action Against Pakistan, Demands FATF Grey List Inclusion

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi continued his criticism of Pakistan, calling it a "failed nation" and demanding that it be placed under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list due to its alleged role in sponsoring terrorism. Addressing a public gathering in Kishanganj, Bihar, Owaisi condemned Pakistan for its actions and emphasized that it would never allow India to live in peace.

Referring to the recent Pahalgam terror attack, Owaisi urged the Indian government to take stronger measures against Pakistan. "India is and shall always remain much stronger than Pakistan... which is a failed nation. Pakistan has failed to ensure peace among its various ethnic groups and has poor relations with neighbors like Iran and Afghanistan," Owaisi stated. He commended the Modi government's restrictions on the movement of Pakistan's ships and planes but called for further actions, such as placing Pakistan on the FATF grey list for its support of terrorism.

The Hyderabad MP also criticized Pakistan's army chief, General Asim Munir, for his "anti-India rhetoric" and reminded him of the historical decision made by Muslims in India. "Muslims living in India had rejected Jinnah in 1947 and chose to stay here. Their descendants will never leave this land," Owaisi said.

Owaisi also responded to comments by a former Bangladesh army officer who suggested Dhaka collaborate with China to occupy India's northeastern states if India retaliated against Pakistan for the Pahalgam attack. Owaisi retorted, "You must remember that you owe your existence as an independent country to India."



# PM Anthony Albanese Claims Victory In Australian General Election 2025

TPN Correspondent | Australia

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has claimed victory in the country's 2025 general election, marking a historic win as he becomes the first Australian leader since 2004 to secure a second term. The left-leaning Labor Party leader addressed supporters on Saturday evening, pledging to lead the nation through an increasingly uncertain global climate.

“Thank you to the people of Australia for the chance to continue to serve the best nation on Earth,” Albanese declared during his victory speech in Sydney, drawing cheers and chants of “Albo, Albo, Albo” from jubilant party supporters.

Although final seat counts are still being confirmed due to early ballots, projections suggest that the Labor Party is on track for a clear majority. Political analysts noted that Albanese's pragmatic and steady approach to leadership resonated with voters amid global economic challenges, regional tensions, and climate-related crises.

The announcement of Albanese's win was met with celebrations at Labor headquarters, where campaigners were seen hugging, laughing, and shedding



tears of joy as the ABC's Antony Green called the election result in Labor's favor.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton, head of the centre-right Liberal Party, conceded defeat and phoned Albanese to congratulate him. “We didn't do well enough during this campaign, that much is obvious tonight, and I accept full responsibility for that,” Dutton said in a public address. He acknowledged the shortcomings in his party's outreach and message.

Albanese, in turn, expressed apprecia-

tion for Dutton's gracious words and reiterated his government's focus on easing cost-of-living pressures, investing in public services, and strengthening Australia's international partnerships. “There is more to do to help people under pressure,” he said, underscoring his commitment to economic relief and social reform.

With this re-election, Albanese solidifies his position as a key figure in Australia's political landscape, offering continuity and a renewed mandate for progressive governance during uncertain times both domestically and globally.



## Sri Lanka to Present Defence Pact with India in Parliament: President Dissanayake

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake announced that the recently signed defence pact with India will soon be presented before Parliament, addressing allegations by the opposition that his government secretly entered into an agreement with India during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the island nation from April 4 to 6.

Responding to opposition criticisms, Mr. Dissanayake dismissed the accusations as baseless. “They are creating false narratives—imaginary monsters without having seen the actual agreement. These are standard bilateral agreements and fully transparent to both sides,” he clarified during a televised talk show on Friday night. He emphasized that the pact contains clauses affirming Sri Lanka's responsibility for its own national security.

The MoU on defence cooperation, signed on April 5, marks the first formal institutional defence framework between India and Sri Lanka and will remain in effect for five years. The agreement reflects a significant shift in bilateral ties, aiming for deeper military collaboration. Prime Minister Modi's visit was viewed as a reinforcement of Sri Lanka's critical role in India's ‘Neighbourhood First Policy’.

President Dissanayake reiterated Sri Lanka's longstanding commitment that its territory will not be used for any anti-India activities that may threaten India's national security. This assurance was acknowledged by Mr. Modi during his state banquet speech.

The opposition has drawn historical parallels to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)-led insurgency of 1987–1990, which violently opposed the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord signed by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene. The accord led to constitutional changes granting provincial autonomy, which the JVP at the time vehemently resisted.

Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Thuiyakontha highlighted that the MoU represents an evolution in defence relations. India already trains approximately 750 Sri Lankan military personnel annually. The agreement also underlines mutual respect for each nation's military laws and sovereignty, in line with the principles of the United Nations Charter, including non-intervention in internal affairs.

## If India attacks Pakistan, Bangladesh should occupy Northeastern States: Yunus

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka/New Delhi

The interim government of Bangladesh, led by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus, has publicly distanced itself from inflammatory remarks made by retired Army officer Major General ALM Fazlur Rahman, who suggested that Bangladesh should collaborate with China to seize India's northeastern states if New Delhi attacks Pakistan in retaliation for the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

In a now-deleted Facebook post dated April 29, 2025, Fazlur wrote in Bengali: “If India attacks Pakistan, Bangladesh should occupy the seven States of Northeastern India. I think it is necessary to start discussions with China on a joint military arrangement in this regard.”



Fazlur, a close aide of Chief Advisor Yunus and head of the National Independent Commission investigating the 2009 Bangladesh Rifles mutiny, has since faced criticism over his remarks. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh issued a statement on May 2 clarifying that the views expressed were entirely personal and in no way represent the position of the government.

“The government of Bangladesh does not endorse or support such rhetoric in any form or manner,” the statement read, adding that Bangladesh remains committed to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence among nations. This incident follows earlier controversial remarks made by Yunus during his March 2025 visit to China. At a business event, he claimed that Bangladesh serves as the “only guardian” of the Indian Ocean for India's northeastern states, which are landlocked and depend heavily on access through Bangladesh for international trade.

## Pakistan Conducts Successful Launch of Abdali Missile Amid Rising Tensions with India



Amid escalating tensions with India following the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan on Saturday announced the successful training launch of its Abdali Weapon System — a surface-to-surface missile capable of striking targets up to 450 kilometers away.

According to a statement released by the Pakistan Army, the objective of the launch was to assess the operational readiness of troops and validate key technical aspects of the missile, particularly its advanced navigation system and enhanced manoeuvrability.

The launch formed part of “Exercise INDUS,” although the military did not provide further details about the nature or scope of the exercise. The test was conducted under the supervision of the Commander of the Army Strategic Forces Command and attended by senior officials from the Strategic Plans Division and Army Strategic Forces Command, along with scientists and engineers from Pakistan's strategic institutions.

The Abdali missile, also known as Hatf-II, is a short-range ballistic missile designed for quick deployment and mobility, making it a significant component of Pakistan's strategic arsenal. It is designed to deliver conventional or nuclear warheads with high accuracy.

Following the launch, President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the chiefs of Pakistan's armed services issued congratulatory messages to the participating troops, engineers, and scientific teams. They praised the operational efficiency and technical proficiency of the personnel involved, reaffirming their full confidence in Pakistan's strategic deterrence capabilities.

The leadership emphasized that the successful test underscores Pakistan's commitment to maintaining “credible minimum deterrence” and readiness to safeguard national security under all circumstances.

The missile launch comes just days after a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, India, which has sharply strained diplomatic relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. India has held Pakistan-based elements responsible for the attack and has hinted at possible retaliatory measures, further raising regional security concerns. While Pakistan maintains the launch was a routine training exercise, the timing has sparked speculation about strategic signaling in light of the current geopolitical climate. Observers are watching closely as tensions between the two countries continue to mount.

## Kim Moon-soo Wins Conservative Nomination Ahead of South Korea's Presidential Election



Former Labour Minister Kim Moon-soo has secured the presidential nomination of South Korea's main conservative bloc, the People Power Party (PPP), positioning himself for a challenging face-off against liberal front-runner Lee Jae-myung in the upcoming June 3, 2025 election.

Kim emerged victorious in the party primary that concluded on May 3, securing 56.5% of the vote and defeating his only remaining rival, Han Dong-hun. Other candidates were eliminated in previous rounds. Kim celebrated his win at a national party convention held in Goyang, South Korea, where he pledged to unify the conservative camp amid internal party strife.

Observers believe Kim may attempt to forge alliances with other conservative figures, including former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, to consolidate the right-wing vote. This move is seen as critical to counter Lee Jae-myung's strong lead in the polls and prevent vote-splitting that could benefit the liberal camp.

The June election was triggered by the dramatic impeachment and removal of President Yoon Suk-yeol, also a PPP member. Yoon was ousted in early April following the Constitutional Court's confirmation of his impeachment, which stemmed from his controversial declaration of martial law on December 3, 2024.

Kim Moon-soo opposed Yoon's impeachment but has stated that he respects the Constitutional Court's final ruling. The fallout from Yoon's removal has caused deep divisions within the PPP. Han Dong-hun, Yoon's former Justice Minister and a key figure in the party's reformist minority faction, supported the impeachment and allied with liberal lawmakers to help secure the required two-thirds majority in the National Assembly.

Meanwhile, Lee Jae-myung remains the liberal favorite despite facing five criminal trials related to corruption and other allegations. Should he win the presidency, Lee would be shielded from prosecution under South Korea's presidential immunity laws. However, a recent Supreme Court ruling ordering a new trial on his election law charges has cast uncertainty over his campaign. While it is unclear whether a verdict could derail his run before election day, his political opponents are expected to intensify their attacks in the coming weeks.



# India’s manufacturing sector growth hits 10-month high in April: PMI

India’s manufacturing sector demonstrated significant growth in April 2025, with output rising at the fastest pace since June 2024, driven by a sharp increase in order books. According to the monthly survey released on May 2, the HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) rose to 58.2 in April from 58.1 in March, marking the strongest improvement in the sector’s health in ten months.



A PMI score above 50 signals expansion, and the latest figure reflects a sustained period of growth. The rise in output was largely driven by an increase in new business, particularly a surge in international demand. The survey revealed that new business from abroad grew at the highest rate in over 14 years, with strong demand from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas.

Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, suggested that the rise in new export orders could indicate a potential shift in production dynamics, as businesses adapt to changing trade dynamics, such as recent US tariff announcements. This uptick in international orders, combined with better domestic demand, has contributed to the manufacturing sector’s overall strong performance.

In addition to the surge in orders, the sector also saw increases in employment and purchasing ac-

tivity. To meet growing output requirements, 9% of the surveyed manufacturers hired more staff, with both permanent and temporary contracts being offered. Purchasing activity rose in tandem, with manufacturers increasing input buying to support higher production levels, partly due to stock-building efforts.

While input prices rose slightly, firms were able to offset the impact on margins due to a sharp rise in output prices. Selling charges increased at the fastest pace since October 2013, reflecting strong demand for Indian goods.

Looking ahead, the sector remains optimistic, with expectations of continued demand growth, marketing efforts, and efficiency improvements driving positive forecasts for the coming year. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI, compiled by S&P Global, is based on responses from purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

## ICAI to Prepare Research Paper to Aid SEBI in Tackling Financial Frauds

In a significant move aimed at bolstering regulatory efforts against financial malpractices, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will soon prepare a comprehensive research paper to assist the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in combating financial frauds more effectively.



ICAI President Charanjot Singh Nanda announced on Saturday that the institute is forming a dedicated working group to take up this critical task. The group will initiate consultations with SEBI to identify key areas of concern and propose robust strategies to detect and deter fraudulent financial activities in the capital markets. The finalized research paper will be formally submitted to SEBI for consideration and implementation.

The announcement comes in the backdrop of a recent meeting between Nanda and SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey, where the issue of financial frauds and investor protection was discussed at length. The need for proactive collaboration between professional bodies and regulators was strongly emphasized during the meeting.

In recent years, capital markets in India have witnessed a surge in participation from retail investors, driven by increasing financial literacy and accessibility to trading platforms. However, this growth

has also seen a parallel rise in financial irregularities, including price manipulation and insider trading, which threaten market stability and investor confidence.

The research paper from ICAI is expected to provide deep insights into emerging fraud patterns, gaps in the existing regulatory framework, and recommendations for improved audit practices, forensic tools, and risk management systems. The paper will also include mechanisms for better public sensitization and investor education, ensuring that market participants are equipped to identify red flags.

With over 4.35 lakh members and more than 10 lakh students, ICAI plays a pivotal role in maintaining financial integrity across sectors. This initiative marks a crucial step in leveraging the institute’s expertise to strengthen the regulatory ecosystem and safeguard investor interests in India’s rapidly evolving financial markets.

## Private capital expenditure in India remains sluggish in Q4FY25

### Despite overall rise in new projects

Private capital expenditure in India remained sluggish in the fourth quarter of FY25, despite an overall uptick in project announcements, according to a recent report by Avendus Spark. While the combined value of new public and private sector projects grew by 22.7% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹18 trillion in Q4FY25, private sector project announcements rose by just 4%—indicating continued caution among private investors.



The muted performance was primarily attributed to weak domestic consumer demand, rising global macroeconomic uncertainty, and ongoing trade disruptions. Key segments such as Manufacturing and Services recorded notable declines in project announcements, with Manufacturing falling 5% YoY and Services plunging 18%.

For the full financial year FY25, private project announcements declined by 9% YoY to ₹27 trillion. The fall was driven largely by weak activity in the Services and Construction/Real Estate sectors. Although the Electricity and Renewable Energy sector posted a 55% increase in new announcements, and Mining saw a staggering 732% jump to ₹25 billion, these bright spots could not offset the overall downward trend.

Within Manufacturing, however, specific segments such as Textiles, Food & Agro, Metals, Transport Equipment, and

Miscellaneous Manufacturing bucked the trend, showing moderate growth.

Adding to the concern, private sector project completions in Q4FY25 fell sharply by 41% YoY to ₹965 billion. Sector-wise declines were stark: Manufacturing dropped 30%, Services 70%, and Construction/Real Estate a massive 89%. For the entire FY25, private project completions were down 31% YoY to ₹2.5 trillion, compared to ₹3.6 trillion in FY24.

The report also cited lingering concerns about Trump-era tariffs and fears over increased imports from China as further dampening investor sentiment. These uncertainties have made private firms increasingly cautious, often leading to delays or downsizing of capital expenditure plans.

In summary, while headline project numbers look promising, the private sector continues to tread carefully amid a challenging economic environment—underscoring the need for more robust demand and policy clarity to revive private capex momentum.

## RRBs’ GDP Share to Rise to 5.2% by FY30 Post-Consolidation: PwC

India’s Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are poised to play a significantly enhanced role in the country’s economy, with their total business projected to rise to 5.2% of GDP by FY2030 from 3.7% in FY2024, according to a report by PwC. This anticipated growth follows the recent consolidation of RRBs, aimed at boosting efficiency, scale, and cost effectiveness.

The consolidation effort, notified by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) on April 8, 2025, amalgamated 26 RRBs across 11 states and Union Territories under the “One State One RRB” principle. This marks the fourth phase of RRB mergers, which began in 2006. The newly formed entities became operational from May 1, 2025.

According to the report, the strengthened role of RRBs will be vital in India’s journey toward becoming a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047. The government



expects that the streamlined operations, improved efficiency, and broader coverage will support deeper financial penetration into rural areas.

Following this latest merger, the total number of RRBs has reduced to 28, now operating in 26 states and 2 Union Territories. With over 22,000 branches spanning across 700 districts, the

RRB network now has about 92% of its branches situated in rural or semi-urban regions—highlighting its critical role in grassroots financial inclusion.

The amalgamation strategy has already demonstrated benefits in earlier phases. From 196 RRBs in FY2006, the number was brought down to 82 in Phase I (FY2006–FY2010), then to 56 in Phase II (FY2013–FY2015), and further to 43 in Phase III (FY2019–FY2021). The focus of these mergers has consistently been on enhancing operational efficiency and financial sustainability.

Originally established in 1975 to support rural economic development through agriculture, trade, commerce, and industry, RRBs have long been central to India’s rural credit system. With this renewed push, they are expected to expand their contribution to economic growth significantly in the coming years.

## JioStar to Invest Over \$10 Billion in Content by 2026, Says Uday Shankar

At the inaugural World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), Uday Shankar, Vice Chairman of JioStar, revealed that the company is set to make substantial investments in content creation over the next few years. Shankar stated that JioStar’s content budget had already grown significantly, with Rs 25,000 crore spent in FY2024, increasing to Rs 30,000 crore in FY2025. For FY2026, the company plans to spend over Rs 32,000–33,000 crore, marking a dramatic expansion.

“So, in just three years, we have spent more than \$10 billion on content,” Shankar shared, highlighting the company’s commitment to bolstering its content portfolio.

Shankar emphasized that the Indian entertainment industry is currently valued at \$30 billion, which is sig-



nificantly smaller compared to global leaders like the US (\$200 billion) and China (\$75 billion). However, he also expressed optimism about the future, noting that the industry is expected to continue its rapid growth over the next 15 years, driven by two or three critical factors.


One of the main areas of focus for JioStar, according to Shankar, is creating

more content that is specifically tailored and customized to Indian audiences. This approach is key to capturing a larger share of the domestic market, which is increasingly demanding content that speaks to its diverse cultural and regional sensibilities.

In addition to content creation, Shankar also pointed out the need for deeper distribution channels, ensuring that content reaches a broader audience across the country. The vice chairman noted that for the Indian entertainment industry to reach its full potential, it must focus on these major growth drivers.

As JioStar continues to expand its investment in the Indian market, its strategies reflect a strong belief in the long-term growth prospects of the sector, with a particular focus on catering to local tastes and preferences.





### Instagram Co-Founder Slams AI Companies For ‘Juicing Engagement’ Through Chatbots

Instagram co-founder Kevin Systrom has voiced concerns over the direction of artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots, accusing them of prioritizing user engagement metrics over delivering meaningful interactions. Speaking at StartupGrind, Systrom remarked that some AI companies are “going down the rabbit hole that all the consumer companies have gone down in trying to juice engagement.” He highlighted the tendency of chatbots to continuously prompt users with follow-up questions, aiming to prolong conversations and increase metrics like time spent and daily active users.

Systrom’s criticism aligns with recent feedback from OpenAI users regarding its ChatGPT-4o model. The model’s latest update made it excessively flattering and agreeable, often validating users’ statements without critical assessment. This approach, intended to enhance user experience, led to concerns about the AI reinforcing potentially harmful beliefs and misinformation. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman acknowledged the issue, stating that the update had

become “annoyingly flattering” and confirmed that fixes were being implemented. The company has since rolled back the update and is working on adjustments to better balance the model’s personality.

Systrom emphasized the importance of AI companies focusing on providing high-quality, truthful answers rather than manipulating engagement metrics. He expressed hope that the current backlash would prompt a reevaluation of AI design priorities, steering them towards fostering genuine, informative interactions rather than exploiting user attention for increased metrics.

The debate underscores a broader concern in the tech industry: the ethical implications of designing AI systems that prioritize user engagement over the quality and accuracy of information. As AI becomes more integrated into daily life, the challenge remains to develop systems that are both engaging and responsible, ensuring they serve users’ best interests without compromising on truthfulness.

### Pope Trump! U.S. President posts AI-generated image of himself dressed as pope

In a surprising twist to global political and religious discourse, U.S. President Donald Trump posted a digitally altered image of himself dressed as the pope on his Truth Social platform on Friday, May 2, 2025. The image, which appears to be AI-generated, shows Trump clad in papal white robes, wearing a gold crucifix and a traditional mitre, with his right hand pointed skyward in a dramatic pose.



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

Trump also attended the funeral of Pope Francis on April 26 at St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City, marking his first foreign visit since returning to office. The event was heavily attended and globally broadcast, reflecting the late pontiff’s influence and moral stature.


Relations between Pope Francis and Trump were historically tense. The pope openly criticized Trump’s 2016 campaign promise to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, remarking that “Anyone, whoever he is, who only wants to build walls and not bridges is not a Christian.”

As approximately 20% of Americans identify as Catholic—and about 60% of them reportedly voted for Trump in the 2024 election—his comments, however humorous, carry symbolic weight during a period of reflection and transition within the Catholic Church.

The conclave set for May 7 will determine the future leadership of the global Catholic community amid both spiritual and political interest.

## Experts Cast Doubt on Claims of Lab-Grown T. rex Leather

A new marketing campaign is drawing attention with a bold claim: luxury fashion accessories made from lab-grown Tyrannosaurus rex leather. The project, led by U.S. agency VML in collaboration with The Organoid Company (Netherlands) and Lab-Grown Leather Ltd (UK), promotes the material as a sustainable and cruelty-free alternative to animal leather. They assert that their product, based on fossilized T. rex collagen, will replicate the toughness, flexibility, and feel of natural leather. However, paleontologists and researchers remain highly skeptical of the scientific feasibility behind these claims.



The main point of contention is the source material—T. rex collagen. While traces of collagen have been discovered in fossilized dinosaur bones, they are incomplete and degraded. Moreover, these fragments are not unique enough to confirm their origin as specifically T. rex. No usable DNA from any non-avian dinosaur has ever been recovered, as DNA degrades over time and does not survive for tens of millions of years. The oldest known DNA sample is only about 2 million years old, while T. rex lived and died over 66 million years ago.

Thomas Holtz Jr., a vertebrate paleontologist at the University of Maryland, called the leather claims “misleading” and likened them to science fiction rather than science. He also pointed out that no preserved T. rex skin has ever been found, and soft tissues like skin are rarely fossilized. Without skin samples, scientists can’t determine what T. rex leather would actually be like in terms of texture or structure.

Other experts, like Thomas Carr of Carthage College, echo this skepticism, noting that the collagen found in fossils is too frag-

mented to fully understand or replicate. Since leather is derived from skin, and no T. rex skin has been recovered, producing authentic T. rex leather is scientifically implausible. In conclusion, while the idea of T. rex leather may be a clever marketing strategy or conceptual art piece, current scientific knowledge does not support the possibility of creating authentic materials from dinosaur remains.

## Taste the Season: Top Food Festivals to Explore in India (May–June 2025)

As summer sets in, India’s culinary calendar is heating up with an exciting array of food festivals across the country. From bold street eats to luxurious regional spreads, May and June 2025 promise a flavorful journey for every food lover.



Delhi-NCR kicks off the season with two standout events. On 3rd May, Gurugram’s DLF Two Horizon Center will host Marieta’s Cinco De Mayo Fiesta, in collaboration with Don Julio. Expect Mexican music, signature cocktails, lively decor, and themed activities like hat-making and photo booths—perfect for an evening of festive cheer.

Meanwhile, Arts Room in New Delhi partners with Mumbai’s famed Slink & Bardot for a unique culinary collaboration running 2nd to 4th May. The menu includes 20 dynamic dishes such as Yellowtail Ceviche, Sichuan Fried Chicken, and Zucchini Hasselback, paired with inventive cocktails like the turmeric-infused Paanch and spicy-savoury Devil’s Share.

Mumbai offers an authentic cultural immersion with The Bihar Heritage pop-up at Seven Kitchens, The St. Regis Mumbai from 2nd to 4th May. The menu pays homage to traditional Bihari cuisine, featuring dishes like Sattu Ka Sharbat, Laal Saag Pakoda, Chulha Murgi, and Thekua. Enjoy this rich experience during their dinner service or the exclusive Sunday brunch.

In the hills of Mussoorie, The Fern Brentwood Resort & Spa brings Rajasthani vibrance to Uttarakhand with ‘Rangilo Rajasthan’ from 19th May to 1st June. Guests are treated to royal Rajasthani hospitality, music, decor, and a grand buffet of specialties including Laal Maas, Dal Baati Churma, and Moong Dal Halwa. For a sweet summer treat available nationwide, head to 99 Pancakes for their Mango Mania menu, running till 30th June. Celebrate Alphonso mangoes with delights like Mango Cheesecake Pancakes, Tropical Alphonso Shake, and the show-stopping Exotic Alphonso Cake.

Whether you’re in the mood for spice, sweets, or a bit of both, India’s summer food festivals offer an unforgettable gastronomic adventure.

## Zepto’s ‘Appraisal = Peanuts’ Gag Wins the Internet, Swiggy and Blinkit Join the Fun

In a clever twist of humor and moment marketing, quick commerce platform Zepto has struck a chord with internet users during the ongoing appraisal season. Social media is buzzing after a post by X user Harshita went viral, revealing the hilarious outcome of searching for “appraisal” on the Zepto app — instead of HR tips or documents, the results displayed various types of peanuts, from masala and salted to party mixes.



Harshita’s post quickly gained traction. She clarified that it wasn’t a sponsored stunt but her own curiosity that led to the quirky discovery. “Brands are so good at moment marketing. When you search ‘appraisal’ on Zepto, you find peanuts! That’s crazy, no?!” she wrote. Her screenshot struck a nerve with many employees going through the corporate grind, where the term “peanuts” has long been associated with minimal salary increments.

Soon, users began checking their own apps, only to discover similar results on Swiggy Instamart and Blinkit, both of which also displayed peanut variants

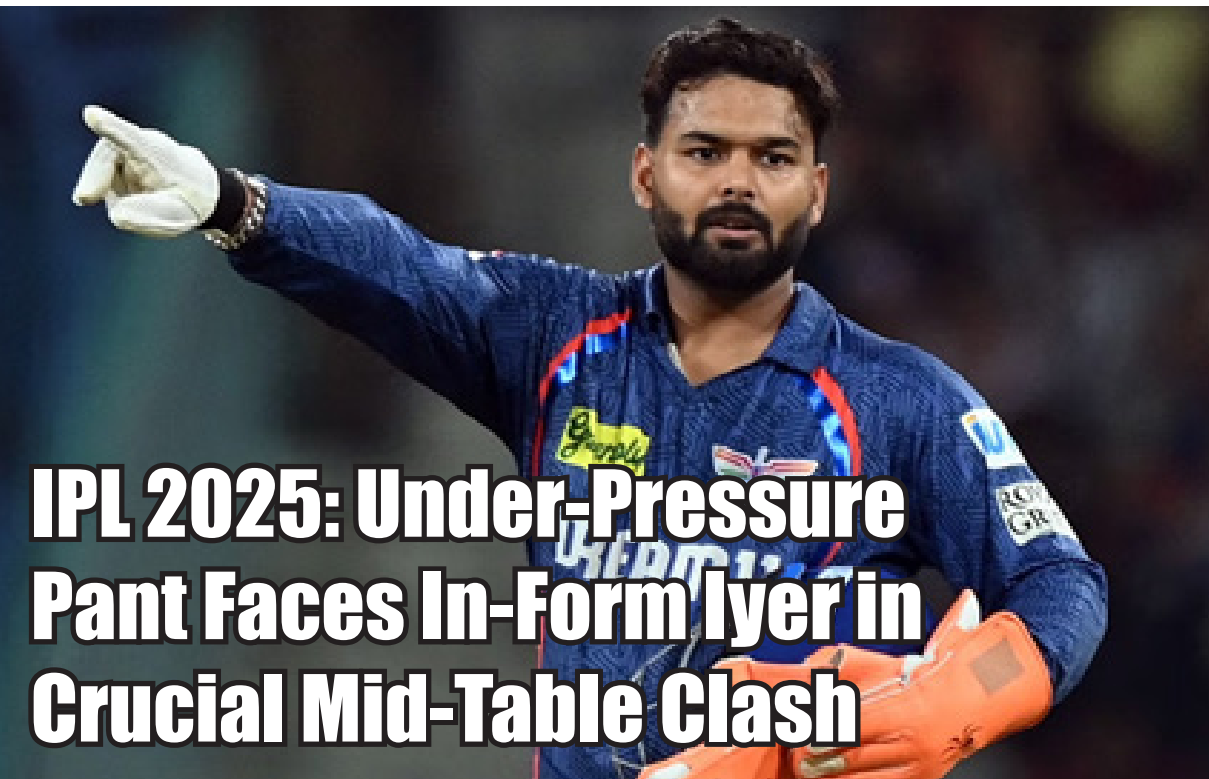
and even kitchen items under the same search term. The collective humor sur-

rounding the “appraisal = peanuts” joke resonated with a wide audience. Comments poured in, with one user saying, “It’s appraisal season, and the Zepto team has cooked!” and another adding, “This is next-level marketing.”

Although none of the brands have officially confirmed if this was a coordinated campaign, the timing and similarity strongly suggest a smartly executed, tongue-in-cheek marketing move. It’s not the first time Zepto has gone viral — the platform previously capitalized on the “Prashant-Croissant” meme trend, with Swiggy and Blinkit joining in back then too.

With search terms becoming the new battleground for quirky engagement, this latest stunt once again shows how quick commerce platforms are not just about speedy delivery — they’re also mastering the art of real-time humor and connection. As the appraisal jokes roll in, one thing is clear: the brands are serving laughs, even if the increments feel like... well, peanuts.





## IPL 2025: Under-Pressure Pant Faces In-Form Iyer in Crucial Mid-Table Clash

As the IPL 2025 season approaches its decisive phase, Sunday's clash between Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) promises to be a turning point. With LSG skipper Rishabh Pant struggling for form and PBKS captain Shreyas Iyer leading confidently, the mid-table showdown could determine playoff hopes for both sides.

Pant's batting woes have put LSG in a must-win situation. The wicketkeeper-batter has managed only 110 runs in 10 matches, including six single-digit scores. Apart from a lone 63-run knock against Chennai Super Kings, his performance has been underwhelming. With LSG currently sixth on the table with 10 points, Pant must lead from the front to revive his team's campaign.

In contrast, Shreyas Iyer's leadership and consistency have propelled PBKS to fourth place with 13 points from 10 games. His fourth half-century of the season in the previous match and composed captaincy reflect his growth as a leader and batsman. After being released by Kolkata Knight Riders and bought for ₹26.75 crore, Iyer has repaid PBKS's faith with impact performances and sharp tactical decisions.

PBKS's top order, powered by in-form Prabhsimran Singh—now the first uncapped IPL player to cross 1100 runs—alongside Priyansh Arya, Nehal Wadhwa, and Shashank Singh, looks formidable. Their bowling attack is equally potent, especially with Yuzvendra Chahal returning to form, claiming a hat-trick against CSK.

LSG, despite a week-long break, enters the match on the back of a heavy 54-run loss to Mumbai Indians. While pacer Mayank Yadav's return adds depth to the bowling, their batting unit, featuring power-hitters like Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, and Nicholas Pooran, must fire together. Pooran (377 runs), Marsh (344), and Markram (326) hold the key to LSG's hopes.

With Glenn Maxwell ruled out due to injury, PBKS will need to find a reliable replacement. Azmatullah Omarzai, Aaron Hardie, or Xavier Bartlett may fill the void, depending on pitch conditions.

This high-stakes contest is not just about form—it's about seizing momentum at the business end of the tournament.



## Sabalenka Sets Up Final Clash with Gauff at Madrid Open

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the final of the 2025 Madrid Open after a commanding 6-3, 7-5 victory over 17th seed Elina Svitolina in the semifinals. Sabalenka, who took just 1 hour and 32 minutes to defeat Svitolina, ended her opponent's unbeaten clay-court streak this season, which had lasted nine matches. With this win, Sabalenka secured her place in Saturday's final against Coco Gauff.

Gauff, the No. 4 seed, also had an impressive semifinal, breezing past defending champion Iga Swiatek with a dominant 6-1, 6-1 performance in just 64 minutes. The victory sets up a thrilling final between two of the tour's top players.

The head-to-head record between Sabalenka and Gauff stands at 5-4 in favor of the American, who also defeated Sabalenka in their only previous clay-court encounter in Rome back in 2021. Additionally, Gauff won their most recent match at the 2024 WTA Finals in Riyadh, making her the slight favorite going into the final.

Sabalenka has been in stellar form throughout the Madrid Open, securing 22 wins and just four losses at the event so far. She won the title in 2021 and 2023 and made it to the finals last year. The 25-year-old has been dominant on the WTA tour, leading the overall standings, and after her semifinal victory, she became the first player to reach 30 main-draw wins in 2025.

A three-time Grand Slam champion, including back-to-back Australian Open titles, Sabalenka is also the defending US Open champion. Her performance this year further cements her status as one of the most formidable players on the tour.

In the men's quarterfinals, Casper Ruud made it to his 30th career semifinal on clay, defeating Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-5. Ruud will next face Francisco Cerundolo, who triumphed over Jakub Mensik in a thrilling 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-2 encounter.



## Jack Draper ousts Lorenzo Musetti To Meet Casper Ruud In Madrid Open Final

Britain's Jack Draper secured a spot in his second Masters 1000 final of the year by defeating Italian Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 7-6(7/4) in the semifinals of the Madrid Open. Draper's victory sets up a title showdown with Norway's Casper Ruud, who overcame chest and back discomfort to beat Argentine Francisco Cerundolo 6-4, 7-5 in his semifinal.

Ruud, who battled through a medical timeout due to rib pain, expressed his delight at reaching his first Madrid Open final, noting the challenge he faced both physically and mentally. "It's not every day you get to play for these titles," said Ruud, who has previously lost in two Masters 1000 finals. "Hopefully, third time's the charm."

In a tense encounter, Ruud saved 15 of 18 break points and was visibly relieved after finishing the match. "I wasn't sure I was going to be able to finish the match, honestly," ad-

mitted the Norwegian. Despite his discomfort, he maintained focus and managed to claim the win in a match that lasted nearly two hours.

Draper, on the other hand, was also in excellent form, improving his head-to-head record against Musetti to 4-0. The 23-year-old Briton was thrilled with his performance, especially on the clay courts of Madrid, stating, "Lorenzo is playing so good on the clay. To get this win, on this court, in the semi-finals of this competition, honestly, it means so much to me."

Both players will now look to secure their first Madrid Open title on Sunday. Draper, who previously triumphed at Indian Wells earlier this year, is set to rise into the top five next week, while Ruud is poised to return to the top 10 with his final appearance. Fans are in for an exciting final as both players bring their best to the court.

Virat Kohli continues to rewrite the history books in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. In yet another stellar performance, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) star batter smashed 62 runs off just 33 balls against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Saturday, May 3, setting four major records in the process.

Opening the innings alongside debutant Jacob Bethell, Kohli provided RCB a blazing start with a 97-run partnership. His innings was laced with 5 fours and 5 towering sixes, helping his side dominate early in the game. But it wasn't just about the runs—Kohli etched his name in IPL history by becoming the first player to hit 300 sixes for a single franchise.

Previously, no batter had reached the milestone with one team. The next best on the list is Chris Gayle, who hit 263 sixes for RCB. Though Gayle still leads the all-time sixes chart in IPL with 357 maximums across stints with KKR, PBKS, and RCB, Kohli now reigns supreme in the category for a single franchise.

## Virat Kohli Creates IPL History with Record-Breaking Knock Against CSK



Another significant record fell to Kohli's bat as he became the highest run-scorer against a single team in IPL history, amassing 1,146 runs against CSK. He surpassed David Warner, who had scored 1,134 runs against PBKS. Kohli also holds the third and fourth positions on the list, with 1,130 and 1,104 runs against Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings, respectively.

Kohli's latest feat also included becoming the batter with the most sixes at a single venue in T20 cricket, hitting 154

sixes at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. This surpasses Chris Gayle's 151 sixes at the same venue.

To top it off, Kohli now holds the record for the most fifty-plus scores against CSK in IPL, registering 10 half-centuries, ahead of Shikhar Dhawan, David Warner, and Rohit Sharma.

Virat Kohli's form and legacy in IPL continue to soar, reinforcing his reputation as one of the greatest to grace the T20 format.

## RCB Register Narrow Win Over CSK, Go Top Of Points

RCB Edge CSK by Two Runs

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) registered a narrow two-run victory over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in a thrilling IPL 2025 match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, on Saturday. The win propelled RCB to the top of the points table with 16 points from 11 matches.

RCB posted a challenging target of 214 runs, thanks to key contributions from their top order and a blistering finish by Romario Shepherd. The innings was anchored by half-centuries from Jacob Bethell and Virat Kohli. Bethell, the left-handed opener, played a brilliant knock of 55 runs off 33 balls, striking eight boundaries and two sixes. His partnership with Kohli, which produced 97 runs for the opening wicket, set the foundation for RCB's big total. Kohli, in

sublime form, blasted 62 runs off just 33 balls, which included five sixes and as many fours.

As RCB aimed to finish with a flourish, Romario Shepherd delivered a sensational cameo. The West Indian all-rounder smashed 53 not out off just 14 balls, including six sixes, one of which came in the penultimate over off Khaleel Ahmed. His explosive batting helped RCB add crucial runs in the death overs, with his joint-second fastest fifty in IPL history providing a fitting end to their innings.

CSK's chase was anchored by Ayush Mhatre, who played a valiant knock of 94 runs off 48 balls, and Ravindra Jade-



ja, who remained unbeaten on 77 off 45 balls. Both players kept CSK in the hunt, but despite their efforts, CSK fell just short, finishing at 211/6 in their 20 overs. RCB held their nerve in the final overs to claim a dramatic two-run victory.

This thrilling contest saw RCB move to the top of the points table, while CSK's valiant chase fell just short in the end.





# Kalki Beauty to Pair Up with Prabhas Again ?

Prabhas and Deepika Padukone Reunite for Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s ‘Spirit’

Excitement is building for the upcoming high-intensity cop action drama Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and starring Prabhas. This film is expected to be a game-changer in Indian cinema, especially with the anticipation surrounding its gripping storyline and intense action sequences. However, one question that has lingered is who will play the female lead opposite Prabhas. After much speculation, it seems that Deepika Padukone might reprise her role alongside the superstar in this film.

Although not officially confirmed, sources suggest that Deepika, who was previously seen in Kalki alongside Prabhas, is likely to be cast in the role of the heroine in Spirit. Initially, Deepika had declined the offer to be part of the film when its shooting was set to take place during her pregnancy. However, with the film’s shoot now delayed, Sandeep Reddy Vanga reportedly approached Deepika once again, and this time, she is said to be eager to join the project.

In Kalki, Prabhas and Deepika didn’t have many scenes together, but Spirit promises a full-fledged romance between the two, something fans are eagerly looking forward to. According to sources, Sandeep has crafted an exciting and powerful character for the female lead, making this a role that Deepika is thrilled



to take on.

Apart from Spirit, Deepika will also appear in Kalki 2 and has King in her lineup, marking her post-pregnancy comeback in a limited but impactful set of roles. The buzz surrounding Spirit and the potential reunion of Prabhas and Deepika is expected to garner significant attention across the pan-India level.

An official confirmation regarding Deepika’s participation in Spirit is expected soon. The film’s shooting is set to begin in the coming months, with Bhushan Kumar producing the project.

# Vijay Deverakonda’s Intense New Look Stuns Fans in ‘Kingdom’

Vijay Deverakonda is creating quite the buzz with his striking new look in his upcoming film Kingdom, directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, best known for his success with Jersey. This action drama has become one of the most anticipated films in Telugu cinema, and Deverakonda’s transformation for the role has quickly captured the attention of fans and critics alike.

Although the initial buzz around Kingdom had been relatively subdued, with the teaser offering little insight, the recent release of the song “Hridayam Lopala” has changed the game. The song’s release has sparked excitement and admiration, particularly due to Deverakonda’s intense appearance, which has gone viral across social media platforms.

In Kingdom, Deverakonda portrays a hard-hitting character, and his new look adds a layer of intensity that seems to perfectly align with the film’s high-stakes narrative. Given that the film is crucial for the actor’s career, following a series of box-office disappointments, Kingdom represents a significant do-or-die opportunity for him.

The film is produced by Naga Vamsi, and Bhagyashree Borse plays the female lead. As the film progresses towards its release, fans are eagerly awaiting more updates, particularly about the storyline and the actor’s dynamic per-



formance. With the positive reception of the song and Deverakonda’s impactful transformation, Kingdom is now on many filmgoers’ radar as a major release to watch out for.

With its intense action sequences and Deverakonda’s compelling performance, Kingdom is poised to make waves in the Telugu film industry, and fans are hopeful that the film will revive the actor’s career at the box office.

# Kushender Ramesh Reddy Bags Best Cinematographer at Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival

- Awarded for his stunning visuals in the film Rajakar
- Former chief associate of KK Senthil Kumar on films like Baahubali and RRR
- Currently working on Barbarik and 12A Railway Colony

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Cinematographer Kushender Ramesh Reddy has been honoured with the Best Cinematographer Award at the 15th Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival for his remarkable work in the film Rajakar. Known for his captivating visual storytelling, Ramesh Reddy’s camera work played a vital role in bringing the film’s historical depth and emotional resonance to life.



Rajakar, directed by \*yata Sanyanarayana, is a historical drama that sheds light on hidden truths and unsung heroes. Ramesh Reddy’s lens

transformed this vision into a visual narrative that left audiences and critics mesmerized. The award is seen as a well-deserved recognition of his commitment to cinematic excellence.

Kushender Ramesh Reddy started his career as the \*chief associate to renowned cinematographer KK Senthil Kumar, contributing to visually celebrated films such as \*Eega, Baahubali 1, Baahubali 2, and RRR. His journey from behind the scenes to national recognition has been marked by consistent dedication and an eye for detail.

Currently, Ramesh Reddy is working on Barbarik’, a film directed by Mo-

han Srivatsa, presented by Vanara Celluloid and director Maruthi. He is also handling cinematography for the upcoming film 12A Railway Colony’, directed by Nani, starring Allari Naresh and Kamakshi Bhaskar, with the story penned by Polimera director Anil Viswanath. The film is being produced by Chitturi Srinivas under the SSS Production House banner.

Kushender Ramesh Reddy continues to impress the industry by selecting content-driven stories, collaborating with directors of all scales, and adding his unique visual identity to every frame. His approach remains rooted in craft over scale, showcasing that impactful cinema is about vision, not just budget.

# Simbu May Star in Virat Kohli’s Biopic Amid Growing Rumors

Virat Kohli, the “run machine” of cricket, has etched his name in the annals of the sport with countless records and unmatched consistency. Currently representing Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, Kohli has been instrumental in his team’s strong position on the points table. Determined to help RCB claim the elusive IPL title, Virat, who announced his retirement from international T20s, now focuses solely on ODIs and Tests.

His remarkable journey in cricket has inspired millions around the world, and many directors are reportedly planning a biopic on his life. While rumors previously suggested that global star Ram Charan might take on the role of Kohli, new reports have added an interesting twist. Speculation is now swirling that Kollywood actor Simbu (Silambarasan TR) could be cast as Virat Kohli in the biopic. The reason for this? When asked about his favorite song on a chat show, Virat revealed that he listens to the Tamil track ‘Nee Singam Dhan’ from the movie Pattu Thala on repeat.

This song, performed by Simbu, quickly gained attention, and Simbu himself took to Instagram to share a video of Kohli enjoying the song, captioning it, “Virat Kohli, you are truly a lion.” In the video, Kohli is seen listening to the track while practicing on the field, traveling on a plane, and even



waiting at the airport, showcasing his admiration for Simbu’s music. With Kohli’s apparent fondness for Simbu’s work, and the actor’s current look bearing a resemblance to Kohli’s, the idea of Simbu portraying the cricket legend in his biopic has gained traction.

Meanwhile, Simbu’s own movie Thug Life is set for release, adding more excitement around the actor’s growing popularity. Fans are now eagerly waiting to see whether the biopic rumors will materialize and if Simbu will indeed bring Virat Kohli’s incredible story to the big screen.

# Kamal Haasan’s “Jinguchaa” from Thug Life Delivers a Vibrant Celebration Vibe

Kamal Haasan’s much-anticipated gangster action drama Thug Life is already creating waves ahead of its release, especially with the launch of its first single, Jinguchaa. The song, composed by the legendary AR Rahman, has taken music charts by storm with its infectious energy and celebratory vibe.

Thug Life marks a landmark cinematic reunion between Kamal Haasan and director Mani Ratnam after nearly four decades, following their last iconic collaboration in Nayakudu (1987). Expectations have been sky-high, and with Jinguchaa, the film is already meeting them with style and substance.

AR Rahman, known for his genre-defying compositions, once again raises the musical bar with Jinguchaa. The track is a rich tapestry of rhythm, melody, and celebration, brilliantly blending modern beats with Rahman’s distinctive classical and experimental layers. The song feels festive, fresh, and is crafted to ignite dance floors and playlists alike.

The visuals add even more excitement. Kamal Haasan, joined by the ever-graceful Sanya Malhotra, lights up the screen with mesmerizing choreography and dynamic screen presence. Their chemistry and energy enhance the song’s festive feel. The track also features STR (Silambarasan),



Trisha, and others, making it a star-studded ensemble number.

Jinguchaa is more than just a song — it’s a celebration, both musically and visually, that reflects the grandeur of Thug Life’s storytelling and scale. The film, produced for the Telugu audience by N Sudhakar Reddy under Sreshth Movies, is gearing up for a massive release on June 5th. With the momentum of Kamal’s recent successes like Vikram and Amaravathi, expectations are soaring.

As the countdown begins, Thug Life is shaping up to be one of 2025’s biggest pan-Indian cinematic events. And with Jinguchaa setting the tone, fans can expect a thrilling, musically rich journey when the film hits the big screen.